



Kingdom of Morocco
Parliament
House of Counselors

**Final communiqué from the International Seminar on National
Reconciliations
House of Councilors , Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco
17-18 January, 2019**

Under the auspices of the House of councilors of Morocco and in partnership with the Association of Senates, Shooras and Equivalent Council in Africa and the Arab World (ASSECAA) and the National Council of human rights of Morocco, the international seminar on national reconciliations that led to the achievement of peace ,security and stability was organized at the headquarters of House of councilors of Morocco from 17-18 January ,2019.

Delegates from the following member and non-member countries attended the seminar:

House of Councilors of Morocco;

Shooras Council of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia;

Council of the Nation of the Democratic Republic of Algeria;

Senate of the Republic of Burundi;

House of Dignitaries of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan;

Senate of the Kingdom of Lesotho;

Shooras Council of the State of Qatar;

Shooras Council of the Kingdom of Bahrain;

Council of States of the Republic of Sudan;

National Council of the Republic of Burkina Faso;

Higher Council of the State of Libya;

Senate of the Republic of Ghana;

National Council of the Republic of Ivory Coast;

Legislative Council of the State of Palestine.



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The seminar was also attended by representatives of the following regional and international parliamentary organizations and unions:

Arab Parliamentary Union;

Regional Office of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO);

Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS);

Arab Parliament;

African Parliamentary Union;

Pan African Parliament;

Parliament of Latin America and the Caribbean;

Latin American Political Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

H.E Abdelhakim Benchamach, Speaker of the House of Councilors of Morocco, Chairman of ASSECAA, delivered an inaugural address in which he welcomed the heads and members of delegates , as well as the representatives of local, regional and international organizations and bodies. He also expressed his thanks and appreciation to them for responding to the invitation to this important event. He gave special thanks to the National Council for Human Rights in the Kingdom of Morocco , the main partner in the organization of this important international seminar. He pointed out that the organization of this event does not come only within the framework of the implementation of schedule of activities of the Association but also as a basis for keeping up with the transformations in the Arab and African regions. He stressed that transitional justice is considered as an alternative to all means of resolving past conflicts on the one hand and as an attempt to address the challenges related to regional geopolitical changes and the consequences of the waves of the protests that have changed the map of political systems in some Arab and African countries. He pointed out the experience of Morocco in terms of national reconciliation and transitional justice, which was manifested in the establishment of the Equity and Reconciliation Commission on 7 January 2004



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and had the full blessing and support of King Mohammad VI. He highlighted that such an experience played an important role in building a modern democratic society in which the Moroccan people exercise all their rights and assume their responsibilities freely.

Other speeches were delivered by heads and members of the participating delegations and representatives of regional and international parliamentary bodies and organizations, which reviewed the experiences of transitional justice and national reconciliation that led to the achievement of security, political and social stability in many regions of the world, especially in Africa and the Arab world.

The meeting extensively deliberated upon the following main topics:

- National reconciliation from the perspective of transitional justice
- Comparative experiences
- Reconciliation experiences: results and challenges

The role of parliaments in promoting reconciliation paths

- The role of national institutions in reconciliation paths and guarantees of non-repetition.

The seminar was further enriched by interventions and several presentations by experts from several countries, who reviewed their experiences in the field of transitional justice and national reconciliation.

The presentations were centered on the experiences of Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Libya, Sudan, El Salvador, Rwanda, South Africa, Bahrain, Latin America and other countries that experienced conflicts, disputes and political transformations in which transitional justice and national reconciliation have been the only way out of these crises and conflicts, which ultimately led to the achievement of security, stability, economic and social development in those countries.

Before the conclusion of the first day of the seminar , a meeting for the heads of delegations of Senates, Shoora and equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab world was held during which the Parliamentary Network for Food



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Security and Nutrition in Africa and the Arab World was officially launched .The network aims to encourage the exchange of information, experiences, discussions, dialogue and consultations on the strategic issues on food security and nutrition in the Arab and African regions, as well as to promote investment in food security, sustainable development and high-productivity food systems using available technologies to increase productivity and incomes of farmers in Arab and African countries. Moreover, it is aimed at activating and strengthening the role of parliamentarians in exploring ways and means of promoting Afro-Arab economic cooperation from a strategic, participatory and complementary perspective based on strengthening economic, trade and humanitarian relations between Africa and the Arab world.

During the meeting, the constituent charter of the Parliamentary Network for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa and the Arab World was adopted as a basic document of the seminar.

After two days of extensive and fruitful deliberations, interventions and discussions of participating delegates, the seminar came up with the following resolutions and recommendations:

- 1- The participants expressed their great satisfaction with the implementation of the Association's schedule of activities, which was approved during its 10th conference and 11th council meeting of the Association, held in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco from 20-21 September 2017.
- 2-The participants expressed their satisfaction with the great success achieved by the Association in terms of extending and strengthening bridges of cooperation, coordination and communication with regional and international parliamentary organizations and bodies.
- 3-The Participants welcomed the application and desire of Libya, Kenya and the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire to join the Association and urge the General Secretariat of the Association to continue to make further efforts to encourage more Arab and African countries to join the Association.
- 4-The participants unanimously approved the charter of the Parliamentary Network for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa and the Arab World and



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considered it as a basic document of the seminar and resolved that Morocco will take over the chairmanship of the Network , recalling the essence of the initiative of adapting African agriculture to climate change , known as the " Triple A initiative " , which was launched by His Majesty King Mohammad VI in the COP 22 climate change summit as an initiative that constitutes a tangible and unprecedented response to the common challenges of climate change.

5-The representatives of the member councils of the Association of Senates, Shoora and equivalent councils in Africa and the Arab world welcomed the hosting by the State of Qatar of the meetings of the General Assembly at the 140th Session of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and its associated meetings in Doha from 6-10 April 2019.

6-The Participants urge member countries of the Association to host ASSECAA's upcoming meetings and conferences, in particular the next ASSECAA's conference.

7-At the conclusion of the seminar sessions, the participants addressed a vote of thanks to His Majesty, King Mohammad VI , in which they expressed their immense gratitude to him for his kind sponsorship of this meeting and for the generous hospitality and warm reception accorded to delegates during their stay in the kingdom of Morocco . The participants also expressed their utmost appreciation and profound thankfulness to the House of Councilors as well as the government and people of Morocco for the warm reception accorded delegates and the genuine efforts they have made in preparing for and organizing this very significant event.

General Secretariat of ASSECAA
Rabat - Kingdom of Morocco
18 January 2019