

Draft constituent charter of the Parliamentary Network for Food Security in Africa and the Arab World Considerations

- Keen to implement the resolutions in the final communiqué adopted by the Association of Senate, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World (ASSECAA) during the Afro-Arab Parliamentary Economic Forum: For building an integrated model for regional cooperation, which was held at the headquarters of the House of Counselors in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, on 25 and 26 April 2018, in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in particular, the resolution on the establishment of a parliamentary network for food security in Africa and the Arab world;
- In line with the intention expressed by participants in the Rabat Forum to highlight through the Parliamentary Network for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa and the Arab World, the nature of food security issues faced by African and Arab countries, and to present proposals that would contribute to paving the way for joint parliamentary action undertaken by governments and other relevant sectors to support and encourage investments for the purpose of supporting and ensuring the sustainability, abundance and quality of food production;
- Taking into account that scientific studies and research have shown that in the next 50 years, the world will see a sharp decrease in food production necessary to meet the growing needs of its population, and that the rate of food production is not commensurate to the population growth;
- Considering that there are many obstacles to achieving the desired growth in terms of food production, especially those associated with drought, water scarcity, floods, soil erosion, desertification and the spread of diseases and epidemics resulting from climate change;
- Considering that these obstacles affect the stability of millions of citizens around the world, especially in the countries of the Southern Hemisphere, particularly in the Africa and the Arab world;
- Guided by the commitments made by the Speakers and Representatives of the Parliaments at the Global Parliamentary Summit Against Hunger and Malnutrition in Madrid, Spain, on 29-30 October 2018, reaffirming

the right to adequate, safe, sufficient, nutritious food and freedom from hungers and the acknowledged need for specific legislative and policy measures to ensure the enjoyment of those rights;

In order to contribute to the global efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular, the second goal on eradicating hunger by 2030, providing improved food security and nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture, Member Councils of the Association of Senates, Shoora and Equivalents Councils in Africa and Arab world hereby adopt the following constituent elements of the parliamentary network on food security and nutrition in the form of a draft charter :

I- Objectives

Article 1

The network aims to:

Encourage the exchange of information, experience, discussion, dialogue and consultation on strategic issues related to food security and nutrition .in the African and Arab regions

Activate and strengthen the role of parliamentarians in exploring ways and means of promoting Afro-Arab economic cooperation from a strategic, participatory and integrated perspective, based on strengthening economic, trade and humanitarian relations between Africa and the Arab .world

Make concerted efforts to find appropriate solutions through in-depth studies of the nature of food-related problems and directing various .economic sectors towards investing in food security and nutrition

Promote investment in sustainable food systems with high productivity utilizing available and potential technology to boost productivity and .increase incomes of farmers in the African and Arab countries

II- Nature and Composition

Article 2

The Parliamentary Network for Food Security in Africa and the Arab World is a forum for consultation and exchange of

information and experiences on strategies related to food security and nutrition, as well as a space for awareness raising and submitting relevant studies and proposals

Article 3

The Network consists of representatives of senates, shoora and equivalent councils in Africa and Arab world. The network's membership is open to national parliaments, and regional unions in Africa and Arab world. National parliaments and unions at the international level can gain an observer status after an application is presented to the executive bureau.

Article 4

Gender shall be taken into account when the network's organs are set up.

III-functions and powers

Article 5

Through its discussions and proposals, the Network shall engage in addressing the issues related to food security and nutrition and works to explore ways of engagement and representation in the relevant global parliamentary effort.

Article 6

The Network shall submit its proposals, requests and various perspectives to parliamentary organizations for the purpose of seeking guidance on its tasks according to its internal laws and regulations, as permitted by the constitutional provisions on its work, and those of national, regional and governmental bodies in Africa and the Arab world, as well as various international organizations and relevant United Nations bodies.

The Network will engage with existing food security networks and international bodies working on food security to ensure policies and international efforts remain consistent and complementary; as well as generate technical and institutional support to strengthen the Network.

IV: Meetings

Article 7

The network shall hold rotational annual meetings in Africa and Arab world. The meetings' venue and date shall be determined based on a proposal from the executive bureau.

Article 8

The Network President is responsible for managing the deliberations and discussions of the network's meetings and represents the network at the regional and international associations of parliamentary networks for food security as well as relevant regional and international organizations .

Article 9

The agenda of the annual meetings shall be endorsed by a proportional majority, on the basis of a draft previously prepared by the Executive Bureau of the Network.

V-Executive Bureau

Article 10

The Executive Bureau of the Parliamentary Network for Food Security consists of :

President of the Network

Vice President

Two Rapporteurs

Secretary

Article 11

The Executive Bureau shall be elected during the Network's annual meeting. The Bureau shall elect from among its members a president, deputy president, two rapporteurs and a secretary.

Article 12

The term of office of the President and members of the Executive Bureau is two years renewable for one term. The responsibilities are periodically rotated between representatives of the Arab and African groups.

Article 13

If an Executive Bureau member is unable to attend a meeting, the National Council to which he/she belongs shall appoint another member as replacement.

Article 14

In the case of a vacancy in the post of President, the Vice-President shall replace the President until a new President is elected.

Article 15

The Executive Bureau, with the assistance of the General Secretariat of the Association of Senate, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and Arab World, shall:

- Prepare and disseminate draft agendas of the network meetings-
- Choose from among the topics on the agenda of the Conference those on which the Network will report
- Ensure the normal functioning of the network and follow upon the implementation of the decisions taken by it

VI. Network Finance

Article 16

Organization and Participation Costs

- The parliament hosting the meeting of the network or the meeting of the executive office shall ensure the material conditions of the organization;
- On the proposal of the Executive Bureau, the network's member parliaments can be requested, when and if needed, to make financial

contributions to cover the costs of organizing any of the Executive Office activities or meetings;

- The host parliament shall bear the costs of accommodation and local transport for each participant;
- National Councils shall cover their representatives' travel costs, except if the host parliament considers - for practical reasons or by way of in-kind treatment - the possibility of securing such costs.

Article 17: Languages

The Network adopts the following working languages; Arabic, French, English.

The Host Parliament shall ensure the translation of official documents and interpretation during the network's meetings.