

Parliamentary Network of businessmen and businesswomen in Africa and the Arab World.

Charter

Preamble

- Considering that the Arab and African regions abound with the financial resources necessary to achieve desired economic development in such a way that enables them to emulate multiple models in many parts of the world, especially in South-East Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe.;
- Considering that the African and the Arab countries stand out for their potential in terms of natural resources, underlining the need for forging partnerships that enable them to take full advantage of these potentials, especially as Afro-Arab cooperation is considered as one of the oldest experiences acquired through long decades of civilizational interaction between African and Arab nations;
- Bearing in mind that since the early 1970s, such relations have resulted in the establishment of Afro-Arab partnerships that reflect the two regions' keenness to enhance bilateral and multilateral cooperation and thus paving the way for setting up a number of Afro-Arab economic and financial institutions that aimed at laying the foundations for boosting cooperation and sustainable development, and achieving comprehensive and integrated development;
- Considering the final Declaration adopted by the Association of Senates, Shura and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World (ASSECAA) during the Afro-Arab Parliamentary and Economic Forum for building an integrated model for regional cooperation, held at the headquarters of the House of Councilors in Rabat on 25 and 26 April 2018, establishing a Parliamentary Network of businessmen and businesswomen in Africa and the Arab World, under the supervision of ASSECAA;

The participants in the Afro-Arab Parliamentary and Economic Forum for building an integrated model for regional cooperation propose the following Charter:

Chapter I: Objectives

Article 1: The Network aims to:

1. Establish a parliamentary and economic diplomacy to explore ways to enhance Afro-Arab economic cooperation in a strategic, participatory and integrated perspective based on the strengthening of economic, commercial and human ties between Africa and the Arab World ;
2. Promote economic partnerships to address development challenges in African and Arab countries;
3. Bringing together points of view of the different African and Arab actors with a view to defining tangible and concrete strategies for the establishment of effective partnerships between Africa and the Arab world.
4. Highlight successful experiences as well as the importance of economic and trade partnerships in achieving integration between Africa and the Arab world.
5. Explore and highlight the potentials and opportunities available for investment and development in both regions;
6. Work to create an enabling environment to facilitate trade, movement of funds between States, legal protection and necessary safeguards.

Chapter II: Composition

The Network is composed of the representatives of member councils of ASSECAA.

Chapter III: Attributions

Article 2: The Network participates through its debates, proposals and exchanges of information, in the reflection conducted within the ASSECAA on issues related to economic development.

Its contributions are particularly made in the context of its regular relations with ASSECAA and other financial and economic institutions.

Article 3: In this perspective, the Network adopts reports for opinions which are transmitted to ASSECAA and formulates the recommendations reflecting points of view of the economic actors, as well as the actions required by the African and Arab governments and parliaments to encourage business and economic partnerships for sustainable development.

Chapter IV: Meetings

Article 4: The Network holds an annual meeting at the ASSECAA Conference. If necessary, a second meeting can take place during the year.

Article 5: The President of the Network directs the debates of the meetings.

Article 6: The meeting's agenda is adopted by a simple majority, on the basis of a project previously established by the steering committee.

Chapter V: Steering Committee

Article 7: The Steering Committee of the Network is composed of four members:

- the President of the Network
- Vice-President of the Network
- two rapporteurs

The President's term is one year, renewable once. It ends at the end of the second Conference following the one of his election. The term of other members of the steering committee is one year, renewable once. Applications for the various positions are submitted by the regions (Arabic and African) on the sections' proposal and must reach the General Secretariat of ASSECAA one month before the meeting of the Network.

Article 8: The position of the President, the Vice-President and the two rapporteurs are held alternately by parliamentarians from different regions.

Article 9: If a member of the steering committee is unable to attend, the section concerned shall appoint another member of parliament as a substitute.

Article 10: In the event of a position vacancy of a member serving in the steering committee, the section he/she represents shall appoint another member to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term.

Article 11: In the event of incapacity of the President, the Vice-President shall be appointed as a substitute

Article 12: In the event of a position vacancy of the President, the Vice-President shall replace him / her until the appointment of the new President.

Article 13: The steering committee, assisted by the General Secretariat of ASSECAA shall:

- prepare draft agendas for the Network meetings;
- choose, among the subjects on the agenda of the Conference, those on which the Network will submit a report for opinion;
- ensure the smooth running of the Network and the follow-up of decisions taken by it;
- keep the records of its members.

Chapter VI: Miscellaneous Provisions

Article 14: The General Secretariat of ASSECAA provides the secretariat of the Network.

Chapter VII: Modalities for Charter revision

Article 15: The Network adopts and modifies its Charter in accordance with the rules of ASSECAA.