

Afro-Arab Parliamentary Network on Food Security

Charter

Acronyms and Abbreviations:

Network: the Afro-Arab Parliamentary Network on Food Security

ASSECAA: the Association of Senates, Shura and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World

Conference: Conference of the Association of Senates, Shura and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World

Preamble

- Considering that over the next 50 years, the world will experience a serious shortage of food products much needed to meet the requirements of its population;
- Taking into account that studies and scientific researches have shown that the increase in food production is not in line with the global population growth rate;
- Bearing in mind that there are also many obstacles to achieving the growth in food production, namely drought, water scarcity, floods, soil erosion, silting desertification, the prevalence of diseases and epidemics, which inevitably result from climate change;
- Considering that the obstacles raised have an impact on the productivity and stability of millions of people around the world, particularly in Africa and the Arab world;
- 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, 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 an Afro-Arab Parliamentary Network on Food Security, under the supervision of ASSECAA;

- Considering the will expressed by the participants in the Rabat Forum to highlight, through the Afro- Arab Parliamentary Network on Food Security, the nature of the problem of food insecurity faced by African and Arab countries and to put forward proposals that will help pave the way for joint actions by governments, parliaments and different sectors to support and encourage sustainable investments in food production;

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

Chapter I: Objectives

Article 1: The Network aims to:

1. promote the exchange of information, experiences, debates, dialogue and consultation on strategic issues related to food security in African and Arab regions;
2. emphasize the role of parliamentarians in exploring ways to strengthen Afro-Arab economic cooperation in a strategic, participatory and integrated perspective, based on strengthening economic, trade and human ties between Africa and the Arab world;
3. Make concerted efforts to find appropriate solutions through in-depth studies of the nature of food-related problems and to guide the various economic sectors towards investment in food security.

Chapter II: Nature and Composition of the Parliamentary Network on Food Security in Africa and the Arab World

Article 1: The Parliamentary Network on Food Security in Africa and the Arab World is a forum for consultation, exchange of information and experiences on strategies related to food security, as well as a platform for arousing awareness and promoting actions and activities in this area.

It is also an instrument of information and consultation for parliaments.

Article 2: The Network is composed of all sections of ASSECAA. Each section is represented by a designed coordinator.

Chapter III: Attributions

Article 3: The Network participates through its debates, proposals and exchanges of information, to the reflection conducted within ASSECAA on issues of food security.

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

In this perspective, the Network adopts reports for opinions which are sent to ASSECAA. These reports concern the texts presented by the Conference Committee.

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 at the meetings.

Article 6: The agenda of meetings is adopted by a simple majority, on the basis of a draft previously prepared by the steering committee.

Chapter V: Steering Committee

Article 7: The Network Steering Committee consists of four members:

- 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 2 regions (African and Arab regions) on the section's proposal and must reach the General Secretariat of ASSECAA one month before the meeting of the Network.

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

Article 9: If a member of the committee is unable to attend a meeting, the concerned section 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 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 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.