



*ASSECAA 20th Anniversary :
Celebrating Two Decades of
Parliamentary Partnership*

2004 - 2024

Association of Senates,
Shoora and Equivalent Councils in
Africa and the Arab World (ASSECAA)

Introduction

The commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the establishment of the Association of Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World (ASSECAA) represents a significantly historical milestone, providing an opportunity to reflect upon the role it has played in pursuing its goals. It is also a crucial moment to acknowledge ASSECAA's contributions to forging Afro-Arab relations, its efforts in tackling various political, economic, social, and cultural challenges, and its effective engagement in Arab and African parliamentary activities, as well as those of regional and international organizations. The aim is to create favorable conditions for achieving the aspirations of Arab and African peoples towards stability, development, and the establishment of global peace and security. Further, this celebration marks an occasion to assess the challenges and obstacles to the promotion of Afro-Arab cooperation, and thus seek innovative and effective solutions to overcome them. It also offers an opportunity to shape ASSECAA's future visions and conceptions pertaining to its ambitions for achieving further accomplishments in a way that serves the interests of the nations and peoples of both regions.

Background to ASSECAA's Establishment

The idea of establishing ASSECAA was born when several heads of Arab and African Senates, Shoora and equivalent councils convened in the French capital, Paris, on March 14, 2000. This meeting took place on the sidelines of a gathering of heads of world Senates hosted by the French Senate at that time. The concept rapidly crystallized and became deeply rooted into the minds of those leaders, as they recognized its validity, significance and potential future impact on Afro-Arab relations. Subsequently, arrangements were made to hold a consultative meeting in the Mauritanian capital, Nouakchott, from February 21-23, 2000, during which the key features of the new parliamentary entity were deliberated upon. The heads of the councils/ senates involved then concurred on convening another meeting in the Moroccan capital, Rabat, on June 6-7, 2002, during which convictions in the importance of establishing the new parliamentary entity further solidified. During the years 2002 - 2004, the Shoora Council of the Republic of Yemen continued its efforts and communications with the Arab and African legislative councils/ senates, to consolidate the idea of establishing the Association entity and to gain consensus among such chambers to officially announce it. Indeed, the heads of councils/ senates from the Arab and African regions assembled in Sana'a, Capital of the Republic of Yemen, for ASSECAA's constituent conference that took place from April 25 - 27, 2004.

It was during this event that the establishment of an entity, called the Association of Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World (ASSECAA), was officially declared, with its General Secretariat headquartered in Sana'a. Concurrently, the Secretary-General of ASSECAA was elected, along with two Assistant Secretaries-General- one representing Arab affairs and the other in charge of African affairs.

Objectives of ASSECAA

ASSECAA has outlined for itself the following aims and objectives :

- I) To encourage, support and strengthen parliamentary bicameral systems in and outside the African and Arab regions.
- II) To encourage, support and strengthen cooperation in economic, political, social and cultural spheres between the African and Arab regions.
- III) To regularly organize meetings and dialogues among Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in the member states and to undertake joint actions to advance cooperation and exchange expertise.
- IV) To coordinate the efforts of Senates and Equivalent Councils in regional and international conferences and organizations.
- V) To contribute in the parliamentary activities of Arabs, African and international Unions and effectively participate in the dialogues originating from them.
- VI) To deliberate upon issues of common interest within national and international spheres and to make appropriate recommendation and adopt practical resolutions concerning them.
- VII) To resolutely engage women in efforts to deepen awareness of democratic values and concepts.
- VIII) To engage in the encouragement and enhancement of the roles of civil society organizations and protecting human rights.
- IX) To constitute a formidable bridge of cooperation for Africa and the Arab World to enable the region to harness its potentials to benefit from the world-wide conscious trend towards regional groupings.

ASSECAA's Rotating Chairmanship:



H.E. Ali Yahya Abdullah, former Speaker of the Council of States of Sudan , Chairman of ASSECAA(2009)



Late H.E. Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani, former Speaker of Shoora Council, Republic of Yemen , former Chairman of ASSECAA from (2004-2008)



Madam Rose Francis Rogombe, former President of the Senate of Gabon, former chairmanship of ASSECAA(2011)



Dr. Mohammed Cheikh Baidallah, Former Speaker of the House of Counselors of Morocco, Chairman of ASSECAA (2010)



H.E. Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh, president of shoura council of Bahrain, Chairman of ASSECAA (2013)



***H.E. Gabriel Ntisezerana, Former President of the Senate of Burundi
Former Chairman of ASSECAA (2012)***



***H.E. Yalew Abate, Former Speaker of the House of Federation of Ethiopia,
former Chairman of ASSECAA (2015).***



***H.E. Kassa Teklebrhan Gebrehiwot, Former Speaker of House of Federation of Ethiopia,
Former Chairman of ASSECAA (2014)***



***H.E. Abdelhakim Benchemach, Former Speaker of the House of Counselors of the Kingdom of Morocco,
former Chairman of ASSECAA (2017-2021)***



***H.E. Dr. Omar Sueliman Adam Wanis,
Former Speaker of Council of States of Sudan,
Chairman of ASSECAA (From March 30, 2016 to September 21, 2017)***



***H.E. Naam Miyara, The Speaker of the House of Counselors of the Kingdom of Morocco,
Current Chairman of ASSECAA***

ASSECAA General Secretariat's Management



*H.E. Abdulwasie Yusuf Ali
Secretary General
The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia*



*H.E. Egwim Nkemjika
Assistant Secretary General for
Finance & Admin.
The Federal Republic of Nigeria*



*H.E. Mohammed M. Al-Tayeb
Assistant Secretary General for
Political and Cultural Affairs
Republic of Yemen*

ASSECAA General Secretariat 's Employees



Jean Paul Rwinginga
Sectional Head on Peace and conflict Resolution and women parliamentarians



Abdul Fattah Al-Mosbahi
Director of Democracy and Human Rights, Networks of ASSECAA on Food Security and Researches



Rehab Ishaq
Finance Director



Anwar Al-Shoaybi
Director of Cultural and Social Affairs (office in charge)



Mariam Al-Zubair
bilingual secretary



Yasmien Al-Eryani
bilingual secretary



Ameen Al-Oqaidah
Librarian and Information Techonlogy Officer



Mohammed Abdo
support Staff



Rawad Alasbhi
Support Staff

ASSECCA Member Councils

- Arab Countries

1. Council of the Nation of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
2. Shoora Council of the Kingdom of Bahrain
3. House of Dignitaries of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
4. Senate of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania
5. House of Councillors of the Kingdom of Morocco
6. Shoora Council of the State of Qatar
7. Shoora Council of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
8. Shoora Council of the Republic of Yemen
9. High Council of the State of Libya

- African Countries

1. Senate of the Republic of Burundi
2. Senate of the Democratic Republic of Congo
3. House of Federation of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
4. The Senate of the Republic of Gabon
5. National Council of Namibia
6. Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
7. Council of States of the Democratic Republic of Sudan
8. National Council of Provinces of Republic of South Africa
9. Senate of the Kingdom of Eswatini
10. Senate of the Kingdom of Lesotho
11. Senate of the Republic of Zimbabwe
12. Senate of the Republic of Cameroon
13. Senate of the Republic of Botswana
14. Senate of the Republic of Congo
15. Senate of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
16. Senate of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea
17. Senate of the Republic of Madagascar

ASSECAA Activities Since its Creation

Since its inception, ASSECAA has organized numerous activities with the aim of achieving its goals. Below is a brief summary of the events ASSECAA has so far undertaken:

1. ASSECAA Conferences & Council Meetings

These meetings provide a vast and veritable platform for discussions and the adoption of positions on various issues of interest to the Association. During such events, ASSECAA's Council approves the General Secretariat's budget based on the annual action plan as well as the reports presented by the General Secretariat on the activities carried out in the previous year and the programs proposed for the upcoming year. Up to now, ASSECAA has held 11 conferences and 12 council meetings. Those events took place in Rabat (2009, 2017, 2022), Sana'a (2004, 2005, 2007), Khartoum (2008, 2016), Libreville (2011), Bujumbura (2013), Addis Ababa (2014), and Manama (2013).





2. Retreats

Retreats bring together leaders and representatives of member councils along with a select group of thinkers, scholars, experts, and political analysts who provide intellectual insights into priority issues at the core of the parliamentary diplomacy embraced by the Association. Until now, ASSECAA has organized ten Retreats in Nigeria (2006), Jordan (2007, 2014), Mauritania (2008), Ethiopia (2011, 2016, 2017), Burundi (2013, 2022), and the Kingdom of Eswatini (2023).





3. Meetings of Chambers of Commerce and Industry

These meetings are dedicated to enhancing economic cooperation between Arab and African countries by encouraging investments in order to improve infrastructure and enhance services. The goal is to establish a genuine investment renaissance across various sectors, including agriculture, industry, services, tourism, among others- thus laying the foundation for a future economic, touristic, and investment integration among these nations. In this context, four meetings of chambers of commerce and industry have been held. The first took place in Cape Town, South Africa (2008), the second in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain (2010), the third in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco (2012), and the fourth in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (2015).

Additionally, the Afro-Arab Parliamentary Economic Forum was organized in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco in 2018. During this event, numerous topics related to regional cooperation on trade and investment were discussed, along with the issue of exploring promising economic opportunities in both regions.





4. Meetings of Committee on Peace and Conflict Resolution

This committee represents one of the most instrumental mechanisms that contribute to ASSECAA's efforts at conflict resolution and peacebuilding through parliamentary diplomacy adopted by member councils. Since its creation, the committee has held three meetings in Abuja (2007), Bujumbura (2009), and Addis Ababa (2013). These events were primarily focused on addressing significant political issues and conflicts that threaten peace and stability in war-torn African and Arab countries. These included the conflicts in Somalia, Darfur, the Great Lakes region- especially the simmering conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), in addition to maritime piracy, and resolving disputes through political settlements. Also, the experience of the Republic of Yemen pertaining to the country's political settlement as well that of Ethiopia in terms of federalism and conflict management were among the issues addressed at such events. Besides, an International Conference on National Reconciliation was organized in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco in 2019. During that conference, regional and international experiences in national reconciliation were reviewed, resulting in significant decisions and recommendations in this regard.





5. Women Empowerment

In pursuit of its goal to empower women politically, economically, and socially, ASSECAA has organized seven meetings of women parliamentarians in Africa and the Arab World, including in Abuja (2009), Khartoum (2010, 2012, 2014), Cairo (2015), and Rabat (2018, 2024). Further, the establishment of the Parliamentary Network for Women Parliamentarians was announced during a meeting of women parliamentarians in Africa and the Arab world, held on the sidelines of the parliamentary Conference on South-South Cooperation that took place in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, in February 2024. This event was held by ASSECAA in collaboration with the House of Councillors of the Kingdom of Morocco and the South-South Parliamentary Dialogue Forum, which was founded in Rabat in March 2022. During that meeting, the network's Rules of Procedure were approved, with members of the network's executive bureau elected. The network held its first virtual meeting on May 2, 2024.





6. Parliamentary Cooperation & Exchange of Experiences:

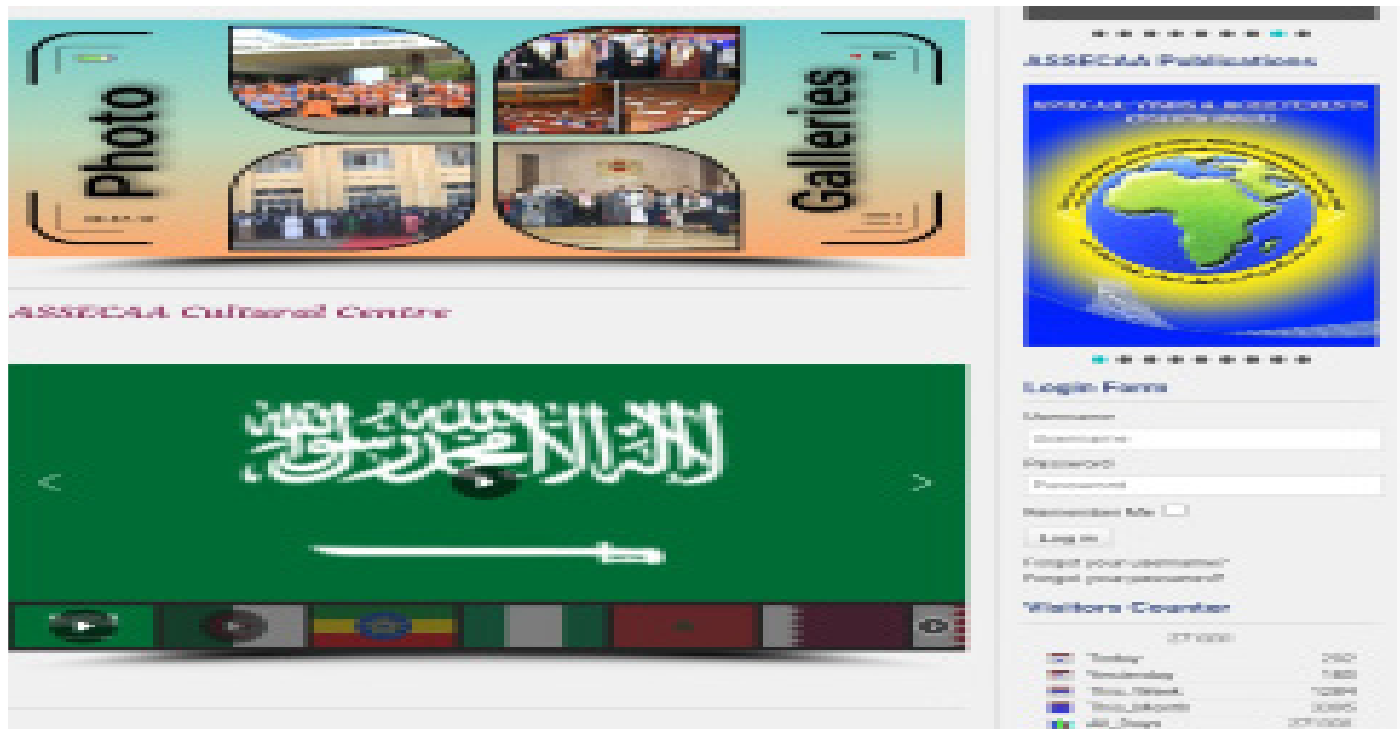
In 2005, ASSECAA's Council approved the inclusion of a program within the Association's activities aimed at training administrative heads in member councils. The program also involved organizing visits for council members themselves, with the objective of benefiting from the experiences and expertise of member parliaments, fostering a shared mindset, and facilitating an understanding of the democratic environment in each member country. To this end, the General Secretariat had proposed a program that had been implemented since 2006, with delegations from member countries extensively engaging in reciprocal visits between their respective councils. However, this program has encountered a recent hiatus, necessitating a renewed commitment to its activation and implementation by member states, given its importance in enhancing and developing cooperative relationships among the member councils. There is also a need to execute a training program for the administrative heads of member councils so as to facilitate the process of sharing experiences and knowledge among them in a manner that enhances their administrative capacities.

7. Parliamentary Cultural Cooperation:

ASSECAA, in its pursuit of enhancing cultural cooperation between Arab and African nations, has proposed to the Council that member states nominate groups of students to participate in a cultural exchange program. The proposal includes the selection of universities in either region where students would be awarded scholarships for their studies, along with the determination of their specific areas of specialization. Additionally, the proposal provides for regulating scholarships, hosting arrangements, and the responsibilities of each party involved. Despite the significance of this proposal, it is still awaiting a positive response from member countries.

8. Establishment of Afro-Arab Cultural Center on ASSECAA Website

ASSECAA has had, and continues to have, ambitions to establish a cultural village. However, due to the significant financial costs associated with such a project, ASSECAA has instead created an Afro-Arab cultural center on its own website. The center provides valuable information on intellectual, cultural, and scholarly activities specific to member countries. The purpose is to bridge cultural relations between these nations and contribute to cultural enrichment and interaction.



9. Democracy & Human Rights

To fulfill its commitment to promoting the principles of democracy and human rights in member states, the Association's General Secretariat celebrated "ASSECAA Day on Democracy and Human Rights" on May 7, 2012, in Sana'a. The event showcased various experiences pertaining to democratic practices and human rights, and was attended by prominent figures and senior officials from member countries. Moreover, other events celebrating ASSECAA Day were organized as follows:

- ASSECAA Day on Culture, Sana'a, Yemen, 2013.
- ASSECAA Day on Security, Peace, and Good Governance, Sana'a, Yemen, 2014.
- Celebration of ASSECAA Day, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, May 4, 2017.
- Celebration of ASSECAA Day via Video Conference, May 2024.

10. International Participation and Relations with Similar Organizations

As the most prominent regional parliamentary association bringing together Africa and the Arab world, ASSECAA is keen on active participation in international forums to influence decision-making processes in the region. In this regard, the Association participates as an observer in the meetings of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), which take place biannually. It also positively contributes to discussions on various issues raised at such meetings.

Furthermore, ASSECAA has established close working relationships and partnerships with numerous regional and international organizations, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UN Women, and the South-South Parliamentary Dialogue Forum, which was declared in Rabat in March 2022. Besides, ASSECAA engages the following organizations in its events:

- **Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union**
- **Arab Parliament**
- **African Parliamentary Union**
- **Pan-African Parliament**
- **Shoora Council of the Arab Maghreb Union**
- **Organization of Islamic Cooperation**
- **League of Arab States**
- **Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)**
- **Parliaments and parliamentary unions in Central and Latin America**
- **Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean**
- **Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe**
- **European Parliament**

Role of ASSECAA in promoting scientific research among member countries

In order to encourage scientific research, ASSECAA has organized scientific research competitions among students from universities in member countries. The most important of these contests were held in Yemen between Sana'a University, Lebanese University, and the University of Science and Technology. The first celebration to honor outstanding students, who proved merit in the conduct of studies and scientific research was held at Sana'a University College of Agriculture Hall in 2013. Another event was organized at the Gamal Abdel Nasser Hall at the College of Arts, Sana'a University, in 2014. The winners were honored and awarded valuable prizes.

In 2017, the General Secretariat of the Association organized "ASSECAA Cup for Excellence" in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa. Student researchers from several Ethiopian universities participated in that competition.





11. Expansion of ASSECAA Membership:

Since its foundation, ASSECAA has been striving to expand its membership by attracting more bicameral chambers from Africa and the Arab World. It has so far made significant efforts in this regard and has succeeded in recent years in getting several Arab and African countries to join in. These included Libya, Ivory Coast, Equatorial Guinea, Lesotho, and Madagascar. Currently, ASSECAA continues to make further efforts to bring in more bi-cameral chambers and/ or equivalent councils that have recently formed.

12. Creation of New ASSECAA Website

In recent years, the General Secretariat of ASSECAA has created a new website as a replacement for the previous one. The new website has a modern design that aligns with current technological and digital advancements. It has been updated with data and its capacity has been increased to ensure smooth flow of information as well as easy access to a variety of data and documents from all ASSECAA's activities.



13.ASSECAA Publications

Since its inception, ASSECAA has issued a lot of reports and documents from its various activities in the three official languages: Arabic, English, and French. It has also released four editions of its annual compendium "Vision and Achievements"- also in the three languages. These editions provide detailed coverage of all ASSECAA's activities and programs, including through work- papers presented during those events. It has as well published several brochures featuring its various activities. One of ASSECAA's notable publications is the "Parliamentarians Handbook," which provides a detailed explanation of parliamentary mechanisms and principles. All these publications are available on ASSECAA's website, which can be accessed at: www.assecaa.org

ASSECAA Parliamentary Networks :

1) Parliamentary Network for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa and the Arab World(PNFSNAA)

The Parliamentary Network for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa and Arab world (PNFSNAA) was established, within the framework of ASSECAA , in accordance with the resolutions and recommendations of the " Afro-Arab Parliamentary Economic Forum " which was organized by ASSECAA and the House of Councilors of Morocco in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, on 25 and 26 April 2018.



The network was officially launched during its foundational meeting in which its constituent charter was approved and resolved that Morocco will take over the chairmanship of the Network ; this was during the meeting held in Rabat, Morocco from 17-18 January ,2019 and organized by the House of Councilors of Morocco in partnership with ASSECAA and FAO. The formation of the Network's Executive Bureau was finalized and its members were elected at the Network's first meeting that took place on the sidelines of the global seminar held in Morocco under the slogan " Parliaments & Food Security Challenges " from October 30- November 1, 2019.

Objectives of the Network :

- 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, and benefiting from international experiences.
- 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.



Network Membership:

The Network consists of representatives of Senates, Shoora and equivalent councils in Africa and Arab world. Its membership is open to national parliaments and regional unions in Africa and the Arab world. In addition, national parliaments and unions at the international level can gain an observer status after an application is presented to the executive bureau.

Network's Executive Bureau:

Chairman of the Network

H.E. Naam Miyara, Speaker of the House of Councilors of Morocco , chairman of ASSECAA



Deputy-Chairman

Dr. Jihad Abdullah Al-Fadhil, Second Deputy Chairperson of the Shoora Council of the Kingdom of Bahrain



Rapporteur for African countries

Senator. Khoabane Theko, member of the Senate of Kingdom of Lesotho



Rapporteur for Arab countries

Dr. Bashir Al-Howsh, member of the High Council of State of Libya

Network's Secretariat : ASSECAA General Secretariat

Programs / Events organized by the Network

- Virtual Meeting of the Executive Office of the Network ; this meeting was held by the House of Councilors of Morocco and ASSECAA General Secretariat on 16 December, 2021 .
- Virtual meeting on the topic: “The impact of the COVID -19 pandemic on food security in the African and Arab regions” ;this meeting was organized by the House of Councilors of Morocco, and the General Secretariat of ASSECAA in partnership with FAO on 17 June 2020 via Video Conference.
- 1st Meeting of the Network & International Seminar on “Parliaments and Food Security Challenges” ; this meeting was organized by the House of Councilors of Morocco and the General Secretariat of ASSECAA in partnership with FAO on 30 October - 1 November 2019 , in Rabat, Morocco .



Activities in which the Network participated

- Second Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition, held in Chile, on 15-16 June 2023.
- High Level Dialogue on Nutrition, held in Maseru, kingdom of Lesotho on 23-24 March, 2023.
- Pre-Summit Meeting: Developments and challenges towards the Second Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition ; this meeting was organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) on 30 November, 2022.
- Regional seminar series on the contribution of development to the enjoyment of human rights; Arabic speaking countries regional seminar, organized by the United Nations on 8-9 November 2022, Beirut, Lebanon.
- Virtual meeting on "Parliamentary action on tackling gender inequality to achieve food security and improved nutrition for all" , organized by FAO together with the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) on 27 October 2022, within the framework of the preparatory events for the

Second Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition, which was held in 2023.

-Thematic session on "Parliamentary action to promote improved nutrition and affordable healthy diets for all" , organized by FAO and IISD on 28 September, 2022.

-In May 2022, the Network took part in the virtual coordinating meeting involving Mr. Jean Leonard Touadi, FAO's Special Coordinator for Parliamentary Networks, with a view to discussing the ways of engaging Arab parliaments and legislative assemblies in the global efforts at food security systems. At the meeting, H. E. Dr. Jihad Al-Fadhel, the Network's Deputy Chairman, was selected as a major partner in the preparatory events towards the Second Global Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition which was held in 2023.

-Virtual Parliamentary Dialogues: Food Security and Nutrition in the time of Covid-19 , jointly organized by FAO and AECID on 22 September 2021.

-Virtual Parliamentary Dialogues on Food Security and Nutrition in times of COVID-19 , Sub-regional Dialogue 3, dedicated to Parliamentarians from Arab countries, organized by FAO and AECID on 1 April , 2021.

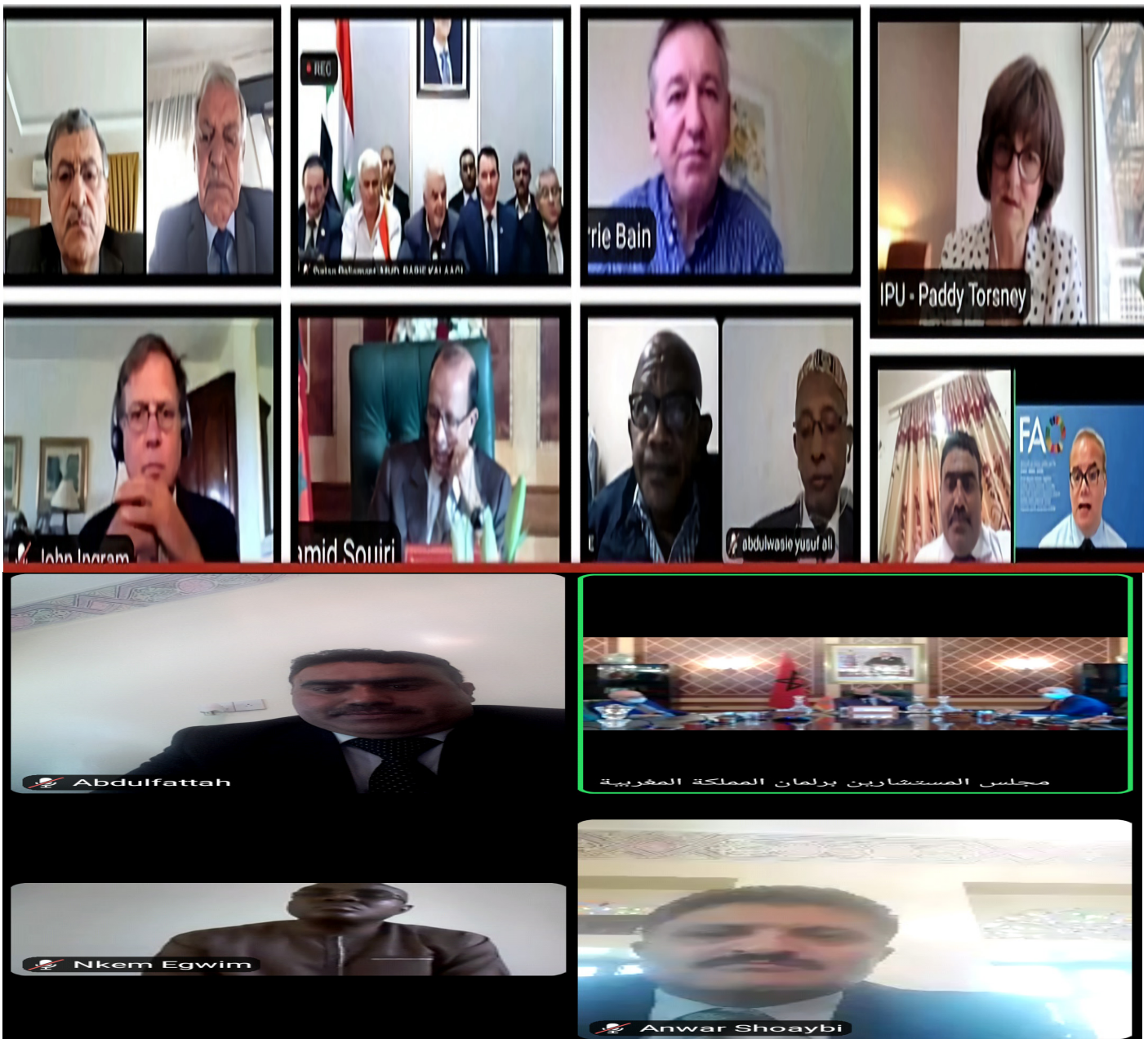
-Virtual Arab Regional Food Systems Dialogue, organized jointly by ESCWA, FAO, WFP, WHO, IFAD, and AOAD on 29 March 2021.

-Virtual event on "The role of parliamentarians in enhancing responsible investments in agriculture for the transition towards more sustainable food systems in Africa", organized jointly by FAO, IISD, EALA, Pan-African Parliament and ECOWAS Parliament on the 15 December 2020 .

-Global exchange meeting with parliamentarians : Developing the Modular Training Program on Public Policy Cycles for Family Farming , jointly organized by IFAD and FAO on 26-27 November 2020.

-Virtual consultative meeting on the draft Model Law on Food Security and Nutrition in Africa, Central, North and West Africa, co-organized by FAO and the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) on 17 November 2020.





Cooperation Protocols signed between the network and other organizations

- A Cooperation Protocol was signed between the Arab Parliament and the network.
- There is cooperation and coordination between the network and FAO.



2)Parliamentary Network for Women Parliamentarians in Africa and the Arab World

The establishment of the Parliamentary Network for Women Parliamentarians in Africa and the Arab World was based on the resolutions and recommendations from the 11th Conference of the Association of Senates, Shoora, and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World (ASSECAA) which was held in Rabat, the capital of the Kingdom of Morocco, from 3rd to 5th March 2022.



The network was officially launched , its rules of procedures was approved and the network's executive office was elected during the meeting of women parliamentarians held on February 16, 2024 at the headquarters of the House of Councilors of Morocco in Rabat, kingdom of Morocco.

The Parliamentary Network for Women Parliamentarians in Africa and the Arab World is an offshoot of the Association of Senates, Shoora, and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World. It serves as a platform for consultation and information and expertise sharing on issues related to woman's participation in parliamentary and political life, and formulation of economic, political and cultural development. Moreover, it provides a space for raising awareness and presenting relevant studies, proposals, and recommendations.



Network Objectives

- Encourage the exchange of experiences, information, discussions, parliamentary dialogue, and consultation on issues related to women's empowerment, through conducting studies and presenting best practices and lessons learned from policies and programs implemented by various countries.
- Empower women and enhance their role in society, as well as provide proposals and recommendations in this regard.
- Enhance and strengthen the role of women parliamentarians in exploring ways and means to promote cooperation in political, economic, social, and cultural fields in both the Arab and African regions.
- Urge parliaments in both regions to prioritize women's empowerment on their political and legislative agendas.
- Review existing policies, organizational and legal obstacles hindering women's empowerment.
- Foster dialogue and collaboration with parliaments, organizations, regional and international bodies, and relevant networks working on women's issues, and participate in relevant international forums to exchange knowledge.

Executive Bureau of the Network



Chairwoman of the network
H.E Dr. Jihad Al-Fadil , Deputy Speaker
of the Shoura Council of the Kingdom of
Bahrain



First Deputy Chairwoman
H.E Ms. Lindiwe Dlamini, President of
the Senate of the Kingdom of Eswatini



Second Deputy Chairwoman
H.E. Ms. Fatehah Khortal, Member of the
House of Councilors of Morocco



Rapporteur for the Arab world
H.E. Ms. Amal Essalabi
Member of the High Council of State of Libya



Rapporteur for African countries
H.E. Senator DIABY Makani
Vice-President of the Senate of the Republic of Côte
d'Ivoire, in charge of Education, Culture and Tourism

The network's executive office held its first virtual meeting on May 2, 2024, in which many important topics related to the network's tasks and work were discussed. In addition, opinions, proposals and experiences were exchanged on appropriate mechanisms to realize the network's objectives and tasks, and developing strategies aimed at promoting the network and highlighting it in the regional and international environment. The meeting also evaluated the state of women in the Arab and African countries. Moreover, it identified the future tasks and work of the network by developing plans and work programs and determining future steps required to achieve the network's objectives.

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