



General Secretariat  
Social Affairs Sector  
Refugees, Expatriates and  
Migration Affairs  
Department



Unofficial Translation

**Statement of the Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration  
and Refugee Affairs (ARCP) on  
The 2025 High Level Official's Meeting**

In the preparation for effective Arab participation in the Second High-Level Officials Meeting, to be held in Geneva from 15 to 17 December 2025, the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States (LAS), Social Affairs Sector, Refugees, Expatriates and Migration Affairs Department, designated the eleventh meeting of the Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs (ARCP), which was held at LAS headquarters on 14–15 May 2025, to discuss the latest developments regarding the follow-up and review process of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) at both global and regional levels, as well as the Arab region's pledges. This was done with the participation of representatives from Arab Member States and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

After listening to the opening speeches and the presentations delivered during the meeting by the General Secretariat and the UNHCR and the UNRWA, as well as the interventions from Arab Member States, the following points were emphasized and affirmed:

1. Congratulating the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for its role as a co-organizer of the Second Global Refugee Forum (Geneva, December 2023), and affirming LAS' keenness to encourage and support Member States to take leadership initiatives in events related to the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) at both regional and global levels, as this issue remains one of the top priorities for the Arab region.
2. Commending the level of Arab participation in the Second Refugee Forum and the vital role played by Arab countries, whether through financial pledges or political and economic initiatives, with the participation of high-level delegations from all Arab Member States and LAS General Secretariat.
3. Affirming the keenness of Member States to continue their effective participation in the GCR follow-up and review activities at regional and global levels, with high-level representation. In this regard, LAS Member States are taking the necessary national-level measures to ensure the highest possible level of participation in the High-Level Officials Meeting (Geneva, 2025), and

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to showcase their efforts and national priorities regarding the GCR implementation, as well as the progress in fulfilling the pledges made during the First Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in 2019 and the Second Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in 2023.

4. Pointing out that the priorities of the 2025 High-Level Officials Meeting (HLOM), (which include: expanding support for refugees and countries hosting them; moving forward in the implementation of pledges made as part of the Global Refugee Forums including through the multi-stakeholder pledge framework; and directing efforts to the areas in need of further support), are fully aligned with the priorities and vision of the Arab region in dealing with refugee issues.
5. Looking forward to ending the prolonged suffering of Syrian refugees in the near future by accelerating recovery and reconstruction efforts, thus contributing to creating favorable conditions for the voluntary, dignified, and safe return of Syrian refugees. Emphasis was placed on the importance of supporting Arab countries neighboring Syria, as well as other Arab countries hosting Syrian refugees and displaced persons, and assisting them in bearing the burden of this displacement. It was further emphasized that the international community must provide dedicated resources to support early recovery programs, and to support both national and UN response plans to comprehensively address the Syrian refugee crisis, in preparation for their voluntary, dignified, and safe return to their country, in accordance with the resolutions issued by LAS Council, the latest of which is Resolution No. 9098 dated 23 April 2025.
6. Highlighting the situation in Sudan, which is currently witnessing the worst displacement crisis in the world, according to the UNHCR. Sudan has become the country producing the largest number of refugees in Africa, with around 13 million people forced to flee their homes, including 4 million who have crossed borders into neighboring Arab countries (mainly Egypt, followed by Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, and Mauritania), in addition to Sudanese who have arrived in Europe, whose numbers increased by 38% in the first two months of 2025 compared to the previous year. This situation is occurring amid an unprecedented deterioration in the level of funding directed to refugees and humanitarian organizations that provide various forms of support to them. In this context, emphasis was placed on the fact that the recent global reductions in aid pose a threat to essential humanitarian programs and warn of a major humanitarian disaster that the world will pay for over decades. Therefore, efforts must be made to intensify humanitarian and developmental support to meet the needs of refugees and host communities.
7. Given the ongoing crisis in the Republic of Yemen, which is suffering from the most severe internal displacement waves in the world, where more than 4.56 million people have been internally displaced, including 80% of women and children, with approximately 1.7 million living in inhumane conditions, and it is expected that their number will exceed 5.1 million by the end of 2025. Yemen is also considered a country of transit and destination for refugees and asylum seekers coming from the Horn of Africa to neighboring countries, hosting more than 95,000 refugees and asylum seekers, which poses an increasing challenge to the legitimate government in light of escalating economic and health burdens and limited infrastructure and scarce resources. Based on this, the Republic of Yemen calls upon fellow Member States and international partners and donors to provide the necessary support to alleviate the suffering of millions affected and to enhance the capacity of the Yemeni government to fulfill its pledges to refugees and host communities.

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8. Affirming that the issue of Palestinian refugees constitutes one of the fundamental pillars of the Palestinian cause, and that achieving a just and lasting peace requires enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable rights, foremost among them the right of return and self-determination. Reaffirming the absolute commitment to the right of Palestinian refugees and their descendants to return to their homes and lands from which they were displaced, in accordance with international legitimacy resolutions, especially United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. 194 of 1948, and affirming the legal, political, and moral responsibility of Israel (the occupying power) for the creation and continuation of the Palestinian refugee problem.
9. Categorical rejection of any form of displacement, deportation, or resettlement, and condemnation of turning the Gaza Strip into a famine zone, whether directly or indirectly, or any act or practice that would result in demographic or geographic change in the Gaza Strip, considering such actions as manifestations of genocide and gross violations of international law and international humanitarian law, and calling on the international community to take immediate action under international humanitarian law. Strongly condemning the systematic and widespread Israeli crimes against refugee camps in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip.
10. Affirming that the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) represents a vital lifeline for Palestinian refugees. This requires ensuring the continued support and full and sustainable funding of its life-saving programs and operations, enabling it to fulfill its role. Calling on all countries that have frozen their funding to the agency to resume it, and warning that stopping UNRWA's work in its five areas of operations will deprive approximately 6 million Palestinian refugees of essential life-sustaining services, in line with the resolution issued by LAS Council No. 9091 dated 23 April 2025. Emphasizing the content of the Cairo Declaration issued by the Extraordinary Arab Summit, "Palestine Summit", held in Cairo on 4 March 2025, which condemned the two laws passed by the Israeli Knesset in October 2024 to ban UNRWA. Reaffirming the categorical rejection of any alternative mechanism to deliver aid without the consent of UN organizations and coordination with the Government of the State of Palestine. Commending, in this context, the plea made by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi in support of UNRWA at the conclusion of the Second Global Refugee Forum, and his affirmation that what is already a massive displacement crisis in Gaza must not turn into yet another refugee crisis.

Welcoming, in this context, the hearings held by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) regarding the presence and activities of UN organizations and agencies, especially UNRWA, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem. Affirming that this step contributes to reinforcing the principles of international law and protecting the humanitarian institutions operating in the occupied territory.

11. Stressing the need to address the root causes of forced and protracted displacement, including mass population displacement, and to implement durable solutions for refugee and displacement crises and facilitate access to such solutions, including through fair international burden and responsibility sharing, and providing support to host communities. All of this should be in accordance with the principles of the GCR and the implementation measures of the Pact for the Future, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2024.

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12. Pointing out that the decision by some countries in recent months to stop or reduce funding to humanitarian organizations and UN agencies (such as the UNHCR and UNRWA) has had a significant and negative impact on the conditions of refugees and displaced persons in general, particularly in the Arab region, which is witnessing large flows of refugees and displaced persons and hosts nearly half of the world's refugee population. This leads to a severe shortage in basic aid, negatively affecting protection programs and psychosocial support, in addition to adding pressure on host countries, especially those with limited resources, and increasing social tensions within those countries.
13. Noting that the Arab region is one of the regions directly affected by the significant threats of climate change and natural disasters, and emphasizing the importance of various parties working in the region to work on developing preparedness programs and flexible, resilient response systems capable of adapting and coping with natural disasters. Also emphasizing the need to take necessary measures to facilitate access to basic services for those displaced by climate change.
14. Calling for enhancing the synergy between humanitarian and development interventions in order to achieve a comprehensive and sustainable response to address the situations of refugees and displaced persons. This includes developing innovative methods for financing refugee and displacement needs, strengthening the resilience of host communities, and empowering them in a way that achieves integration between crisis response and sustainable development, ensuring that no one is left behind, in line with the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
15. Appreciating the role of LAS General Secretariat (Refugees, Expatriates and Migration Affairs Department), as the technical secretariat of the Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs (ARCP), in building the capacity of officials in Member States and keeping them continuously informed of developments concerning the GCR and its implementation at both regional and global levels through information notes and documentary files it prepares. Also valuing its role in providing opportunities for sharing experiences and best practices among countries in this field, integrating the topic into the ARCP work plans every two years, and consistently discussing it during regular ARCP meetings, in addition to its continuous participation in all relevant regional and international forums, and to presenting the efforts and priorities of the Arab region in this field. Finally, expressing gratitude to the UNHCR for providing technical support to the ARCP and to Member States in all matters related to the GCR.