



The General Secretariat
Social Sector
Refugees, Expatriates
& Migration Affairs Dept.

The General Secretariat of the League of Arab States'
Declaration on the Occasion of
International Migrant's Day
2020

On the 18th of December of every year, the world celebrates the achievements made by migrants all over the world, shedding light on the great and remarkable role they play in developing their communities and their economic and social contributions to both countries of origin and destination.

This year, the celebration of the International Migrant's Day comes after almost a year since the outbreak of Covid-19 Pandemic, which among the precautionary measures to contain it was putting human mobility on hold thus contradicting with the nature of our contemporary world that is characterized by openness and connectedness. This crisis had major repercussions and negative impact on migrants, as it resulted in layoffs for numbers of workers and many migrants lost their main source of income, which exposed them to hard situations being unable to meet their needs. The growing of the phenomenon of xenophobia, discrimination, and racism was also witnessed since the emergence of the pandemic. The Covid-19 epidemic has also had repercussions on countries of origin, especially developing ones, due to the decline in remittances that represent a vital element in supporting the economy of many of them.

The General Secretariat of the League of Arab States avails this opportunity to reiterate the importance of including migrants in the response policies and plans to confront this pandemic, as well as the need to continue cooperation and coordination between states, international and regional organizations to protect them and ensure the provision of needed care. It also expresses its thanks to its Member States for the precautionary measures they have taken to protect migrants residing their territories and meet the needs of their citizens residing abroad, protecting them from the pandemic and its multiple impacts. As the global pandemic is continuing, H.E. Ambassador Dr. Haifa Abu Ghazaleh, Assistant Secretary General Head of Social Affairs sector, emphasizes the necessity to be guided by the relevant global strategies, and to work on implementing their goals and principles in order to protect migrants and mitigate the impact of the crisis on them.



H.E. Dr. Abu Ghazaleh specified that the world celebrates the international migrant's day this year while the countries are globally participating in conducting the first regional review of implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, which its adoption in December 2018 marked a historic step forward to mobilize international efforts and cooperation for better migration governance. The compact included a road map for countries to benefit from the linkage between migration and development.

Realizing the importance of this compact, and based on the keen interest of the League of Arab League States in the active and effective participation of its Member States in the Arab Regional review, the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States has provided technical support to its Member States, in partnership with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and in cooperation with other relevant United Nations agencies to guide them towards preparing comprehensive national reviews that aligns with the content of the compact. The General Secretariat also prepares, in cooperation with its partners, a regional report that includes the efforts of Arab countries in implementing the compact. The report will be launched during the Regional Review of the Global Compact on Safe, orderly and regular Migration in the Arab Region to be held in the first quarter of 2021, and then submitted to the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) in 2022.

In continuation of the General Secretariat of the Arab League's role in unifying the Arab position and presenting it in the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), and considering that the GFMD is one of the most important global platforms that contributes significantly in promoting direct dialogue among all the stockholders concerned with migration and development issues, the General Secretariat convened an extraordinary session via video conference on 11th November 2020, with the participation of the Arab Regional Consultative process on Migration and Refugee affairs (ARCP) focal points, to prepare for the Thirteenth Global Forum on Migration and Development to be held in the United Arab Emirates during the period from 10 to 26 January 2021 addressing "the Future of Human mobility: Innovative Partnerships for Sustainable Development". This Extraordinary session endorsed the contribution of the (ARCP) concerning the topics of the forum.

The League of Arab State takes this opportunity, to extend its appreciation and gratitude to all migrants for their numerous contributions and the great role they play in developing their countries of origin or the countries they migrated to. It also appreciates the efforts they are putting to face all the challenges and difficult exceptional conditions the world is going through, that directly affects their livelihoods and their economic status.