



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

**Communiqué of the Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs  
(ARCP)  
on the World Refugee Day  
20/6/2022**

In a world where crises are increasing rapidly, leading to further flows of refugees leaving their countries instead of finding radical solutions to the existing crises, and at a time when the COVID-19 pandemic continues to cause major health risks and affects economic conditions around the world, the Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs (ARCP) commemorates the "World Refugee Day". The Member States' representatives refer to the special nature of the region, which has been suffering from crises since the beginning of the last decade and is facing major challenges, resulting from the large and long-term flows of refugees and displaced persons, whereas the region hosts nearly half of the total refugees worldwide, which places high pressure and burdens on the economic, social and health systems in the countries hosting refugees and displaced persons, particularly Lebanon, which has one of the most severe global economic and financial crisis, and more than third of its population are refugees and displaced persons. In this regard, the representatives reject the racist media discourse that affected the refugees from Arab countries; renounce any form of discrimination and intolerance; and call for confronting seriously the phenomenon of hostility and discrimination against foreigners.

They call on the international community to assume its responsibilities and implement the principle of joint responsibility and burden-sharing to eliminate pressures on host countries. They also emphasized the importance of not only provide funding programs, but also work to address the root causes that led to asylum and displacement, in conformity with international conventions and charters, as well as the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR); particularly, the first objective "ease pressures on host countries"; and the fourth objective "support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity", in addition to strengthening the resettlement programs for refugees hosted by Arab States as one of the durable solutions to the refugee crisis.

They also commend the efforts of Arab States that have continued to provide medical care and vaccines to refugees alongside their citizens and included them among the priority care groups. The representatives also appreciate the efforts exerted by the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States (LAS) in coordination and cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

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(UNHCR) to support the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), the most recent of which is the Regional Consultations for the Global Compact on Refugees in the Arab region in November 2021, in preparation for the first High-Level Officials Meeting that was convened in December, in addition to informing and updating countries of the latest developments in this regard.

They highlighted the repeated suffering of refugees and displaced persons every year in the winter, due to the harsh weather, snow and rain fall, where the camps are severely damaged, and roads are closed, which shall hinder the delivery of humanitarian aids/ assistance thereto and the movement of those who are affected, in addition to the risk of flooding after weather improvement because of the melting snows, in addition to the violent push-backs of asylum seekers at the borders of some States, the increase of xenophobic rhetoric, especially refugees, and the use of the refugee issue as a significant leverage over the electoral campaigns.

In this context, they stress that while being aware of the challenges posed by mixed movements of refugees and migrants, this cannot justify responses that are inconsistent with international law and also negate the obligations of states. They call upon all international parties to respect their obligations under international law and international treaties and charters, particularly international human rights law, the 1951 Refugee Convention and the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), and to ensure that refugees' vulnerabilities are not exploited to achieve political purposes, avoid the loss of life, and seek to facilitate humanitarian actors' access to refugees' camps and provide them with the necessary assistance.

They seize this opportunity to emphasize the inalienable right of Palestinian refugees to return, compensation and property restitution, maintain the definition of a Palestinian refugee, including their descendants, and ensure the provision of means of protection and care for migrants, refugees and displaced persons, including the Palestinian refugees who were displaced from their homes in 1948 and those displaced in 1967 in light of the social, economic and political repercussions. The representatives also reaffirm the UN mandate of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) pursuant to its founding resolution issued by the United Nations General Assembly No. 302 of 1949, and the importance of working to maintain the expected and sustainable political and financial support of the Agency until a just solution to the question of Palestinian refugees is achieved based on the international legitimacy resolutions, particularly Resolutions 194 and 237, and the importance of mobilizing support for the decision to renew UNRWA's mandate, to be taken in the 77<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly as well as mobilizing support for its budget for 2022. They also affirmed the need to confront and respond to the unjustified and increasing attacks on UNRWA in the context of continuous attempts to undermine its mandate and stop support for it, in addition to disregarding the occupation and its practices.