



General Secretariat
Social Sector
Refugees, Expatriates, and
Migration Affairs Dept.

Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs (ARCP)
Statement on the occasion of
The World Refugee Day
20/6/2018

Member States' representatives in the Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs (ARCP), on the occasion of the World Refugee Day, that comes as millions of refugees continue to suffer, affirm the following:

- The importance of recognizing the principle of the full responsibility of the international community towards refugees and their host countries and communities, within the framework of the principle of shared responsibility and burden-sharing by various actors of the international community.
- The necessity of taking into consideration the specific situation of the Arab countries hosting refugees, especially those that bear the brunt of the refugee crisis, which began in the 1940s as a result of the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian and Arab territories, and resulted in economic challenges, social tensions, demographic changes and security and political unrest. Special support is required to enable these countries to deal properly with the large number of refugees.
- Affirming the importance of the commitment of international donors to provide long-term development assistance to support the economy and national development plans of refugee hosting countries, which would benefit refugees as well as host countries and communities, thereby helping to achieve social stability.
- Commending the continuous efforts made by Arab countries and their contributions since the escalation of the refugee crisis in 2011, whether by hosting the largest number of refugees or by providing funds for humanitarian assistance through various donor conferences.
- Reaffirming on what has been included in resolution no. 735 issued by Jerusalem Summit held in Dhahran, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 15 April 2018, on “economic and social burdens as a result of hosting Syrian refugees and their impact on Arab hosting countries”, and calling on international actors to respect the international commitments that have been made and turning them into tangible support for refugees, especially Syrians.
- Stressing the need to develop a comprehensive approach to the refugee crisis, that addresses its root causes, and is based on finding peaceful solutions to the crises in some countries in the region, to create necessary conditions for safe and dignified return of refugees to their home

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countries. In this regard, the participants welcomed the convening of the Second Brussels Conference on Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region held on 24 and 25 April 2018, during which the international community's political, humanitarian and financial commitment was renewed and strengthened to support the Syrian people, neighboring countries and communities most affected by the conflict.

- Calling the international community to continue providing the necessary support for The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) so that it can continue bearing its full responsibility towards them, and reaffirm the Palestinian refugees' rights to return to their homes under the United Nations General Assembly resolution no. 194 for the year 1948. Calling upon the international community to pressure Israel to abide by respecting the international law, stop aggression, siege, ethnic cleansing, and racial discrimination that aim to continue displacing the Palestinians from their homelands.
- To take into account the specific situation of Palestinian refugees since 1948, who have been subjected, more than once, to forced displacement as a result of the events the region has witnessed.

The participants express their hope that the Global pact contract on Refugees (GCR) will be adopted in a way that respects the specificity of the different regions, and reflects the challenges facing the Arab countries hosting large numbers of refugees.