



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

**The General Secretariat of the League of Arab States'
Declaration on the Occasion of
"Arab Expatriate's Day"
2019**

The League of Arab States celebrates the Arab Expatriate's Day on the 4th of December of every year, in recognition of the role of the Arab expatriates living abroad in developing their countries of origin and their host countries, appreciating their efforts to maintain the national identity, and familiarizing the new generations of their culture and their countries' of origin heritage. The League of Arab States sheds the light on the most prominent achievements by the Arab Expatriates in different areas of life and on all levels; political, economic, social and cultural.

In this occasion, and based on the great interest given by the League of Arab States to expatriate and migration issues, and recognizing the important and effective role played by Arab expatriates in their homeland and in host countries, H.E. Ambassador Dr. Haifaa Abu Ghazaleh- Assistant Secretary General, Head of Social Affairs Sector, stated that the League of Arab States renews its full support for Arab expatriates in their host communities, and acknowledges its responsibility towards establishing channels of communication with the Arab migrants abroad, the Arab migrants and their homeland, and also between the migrants themselves in ways to benefit development in the Arab region and that of the migrants.

In light of the efforts exerted and the individual initiatives put forward by skilled Arab expatriates to advance development, through the transfer of knowledge and expertise; money transfer and investment; and participation in trade. The League of Arab States commends these efforts, emphasizing their role on achieving development and progress in various fields, and stressing the indirect impact of expatriates and migrants on development, through correcting the distorted image of Arabs, and acting as ambassadors of their countries to improve this image, thus reaching successful results in economic cooperation and investment.

In light of the events the Arab region has lately witnessed, which accelerated migration and asylum rates, the League of Arab states commends the prominent role of the Arab expatriates in alleviating the refugees crisis and assisting them in accessing information and services.

Recognizing the positive role of migrants and expatriates in promoting development in the Arab region, the League of Arab States shall continue to work in order to harness the benefits of migration as a source of sustainable development, through communicating with expatriate communities, building partnerships, coordinating between member states and with international and regional organizations in the field of migration, to achieve the optimum utilization of benefits that expatriates and migrants bring to their countries of origin or destination. The League of Arab States also emphasizes the important role of expatriates, particularly at this stage, as the crises and the unprecedented situations in some countries of the region require collective efforts and solidarity among all their people, whether at home or abroad, for the reconstruction of their homeland.

Coinciding with the first anniversary of the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, which includes among its objectives the creation of conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries, the League of Arab States emphasizes its participation in the follow-up and review processes of the compact at the regional level, and cooperating with partners in providing every support to its Member States, to raise awareness and build capacities of the officials in relevant bodies and encourage them to implement this Compact. It would also continue to work with Member States to include migration in 2030 Sustainable Development plans . In this context and in conjunction with the celebration of the Arab Expatriate's Day, the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States (Refugees, Expatriates and Migration Affairs Department), in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), is convening the "Regional Conference on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration: Implementation and policy implications for the Arab Region", on December 3–4, 2019 in Cairo.

On this day.... the League of Arab States salutes, with respect and appreciation, all Arab communities abroad striving to benefit their countries of origin and promote development in different fields. It calls upon them to hold events highlighting their cultural and civilizational heritage and affirm their cohesion, unity and pride in their Arab origins and roots.