



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

**Statement issued by the Eighth Meeting of the Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs (ARCP)  
as a contribution to the First International Migration Review Forum (IMRF)  
New York, 17-20 May 2022**

**The official representatives of Arab States participating in the Eighth Meeting of the Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs (ARCP), organized by the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States (Refugees, Expatriates and Migration Affairs Department) via video conference on 10 March 2022, which aimed to prepare for active participation in the First International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) to be held in New York during the period of 17 - 20 May 2022,**

- Emphasizing the high importance of migration in the Arab region, which includes sending, receiving and transit countries, of which the number of migrants in 2020 was estimated at 32.8 million people, half of whom remained within the region, which hosts 41.4 million migrants and refugees,
- Keening to enhance the positive aspects of migration and reduce its negative repercussions on the development process in the Arab States,
- Emphasizing that migration issues and the conditions and rights of migrants have many political and security repercussions at the regional and international levels and are no longer limited to their effects on the economic, social and humanitarian conditions,
- Being aware of the current challenges, foremost of which is the COVID-19 pandemic, which has had significant impacts on all aspects of life, and particularly affected the most vulnerable groups, including refugees and displaced persons,
- Recognizing the importance of cooperation at the regional and international levels in the field of migration in the interest of the sending, receiving and transit countries, as well as the migrants themselves,
- Acknowledging that the performance of migration systems is improved by continuous discussion of this issue, exchange of expertise, learning from mistakes and addressing challenges so that these systems can be updated and deal with the new needs and realities,
- Recognizing the importance of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), leading to effective and humane migration management, and preparing societies to face existing and potential challenges, as well as its contribution to achieving sustainable development goals in accordance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

- Emphasizing the positive role of the ARCP in unifying the Arab position on issues raised on the international Level to be presented on global events, and the importance of supporting and enhancing its role as an important existing mechanism.

**Have emphasized the following:**

- The importance of implementing the objectives of the GCM in conformity with its guiding principles of emphasizing the sovereignty of countries in determining their priorities with regard to their own migration policies pursuant to the national laws of Member States and their obligations under international law and international treaties and conventions. Therefore, the implementation of the GCM is not a practical model that applies to all contexts, but differs according to the circumstances of each country, as well as migration situation in the Arab region, which includes countries of origin, transit and destination - as indicated above - leading to different priorities among these States depending on the nature and circumstances of each State,
- Implementing the goals and commitments contained in the GCM is the key to improve migration governance, addressing associated challenges, and enhancing the contributions of migrants to sustainable development,
- The need to depend on good elements of migration governance following a whole-of-government approach, based on coordination between the various government agencies working in the field of migration at the national level, with the aim of developing policy and evidence-based decision-making.
- Abidance by continued active participation in the review process of the GCM at the national, regional and international levels,
- Referring to the special challenges facing the Arab region after a decade of successive crises, which resulted in the exit of large flows of refugees and displaced persons residing in the region, which placed pressures and double burdens on the political, economic, social, health and security systems in these countries,
- Commending the efforts exerted by the Arab Member States to implement the GCM and the achievements despite the various challenges and difficulties they faced during this critical period as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly the efforts made to provide medical care services and vaccines to migrants and refugees alongside their citizens and include them among priority care groups, in conformity with its commitments to international charters and agreements and global plans, especially the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which stressed the importance of leaving no one behind,
- Commending the role of migrants on the front lines of responding to the crisis resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, from caring for the sick and the elderly to ensuring food supply during closures, as well as their role as a primary source of cash transfers and their contribution to the development process in source and destination countries, despite the challenges faced by Migrants during this pandemic, which has affected the livelihoods of millions of migrants and their families,
- Appreciating the role of the ARCP in raising the awareness of Member States and constantly informing them of developments regarding the GCM and reviewing it at the regional and international levels, and

discussing the issue continuously during the regular meetings of the ARCP, in addition to its keenness to actively participate in all relevant regional and international forums,

- Promoting the ARCP to continue its efforts aimed at strengthening the implementation of the GCM through: Promoting dialogue among the Member States; exchange of experiences and expertise; benefit from the best practices concerning development of practices, lessons learned and ongoing challenges; unify Arab visions and coordinate policies among the countries of the region in the field of migration, and encouraging cooperation among Member States to provide regular and safe channels for migration by promoting labor mobility mechanisms. Seeking to ensure effective participation of Member States in all relevant activities at the regional and global level,
- Emphasizing the importance of continued cooperation with international and regional organizations in the Arab region, with the aim of coordinating efforts, avoiding duplication of work and providing the necessary technical support to Member States, in conformity with Objective 23 of the GCM.