



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

**The General Secretariat of the League of Arab States’
Statement on the occasion of the “World Refugee Day”
20/06/2020**

Since the year 2000, the world celebrates the World Refugee Day on 20th June of each year, shedding light on the suffering of these people and the problems they face; raising awareness of their rights and issues; and discussing the means of providing them with the various forms of support.

The celebration of the World Refugee Day this year witnesses exceptional circumstances due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, which caused grave concern over this unprecedented pandemic and its impact on refugees and their host communities, especially that over 80% of the refugees around the world live in low and middle income countries, many of which are suffering from Poor health, water and sanitation systems and need urgent support. The Arab region alone hosts nearly half of the refugees worldwide (including 5.4 million Palestinian refugees in the UNRWA fields of operation).

Given that refugees are among the most vulnerable groups to this pandemic, as they are more susceptible to diseases and epidemics due to their living conditions inside the overcrowded camps that suffer water shortage and inadequate sanitation system. The General Secretariat of the League of Arab States considers the World Refugee Day this year an important moment for the entire world to show support for this vulnerable group and to affirm commitment to the principle of international solidarity, co-responsibility and burden-sharing by various actors in the international community, through confronting the repercussions of the pandemic on refugees and reducing the burden on the host countries and communities.

The General Secretariat of the league of Arab States also calls for intensifying cooperation between all concerned parties at the various national, regional and international levels to ensure the provision of the necessary care for refugees and displaced persons, as well as the economic and social support thereof, emphasizing that it’s important that the redeployment of financial resources to combat the Corona pandemic should not affect the humanitarian response to the displacement crises and refugee needs.

The General Secretariat of the League of Arab States seizes this occasion to renew its call upon the international community to continue providing the necessary support to UNRWA so as to carry out its full responsibilities towards the Palestinian refugees; rejecting any attempts to end or eliminate its mandate; and emphasizing the right of the Palestinian refugees to return to their homeland pursuant to the United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. 194 of 1948.

The General Secretariat of the League of Arab States also affirms the importance of considering the refugees' rights a vital component within the efforts exerted to confront the Corona virus and the necessity to refrain from taking any measures that may have negative impact on them.