



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

Unofficial Translation

**Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs
Statement on the occasion of
World Refugee Day
20/06/2019**

In light of the Asylum crisis and the suffering of millions of refugees and displaced persons, the Arab States continue to bear the greatest burden in hosting these refugees and displaced persons, and in contributing with the necessary funds for providing humanitarian assistance, which consequently resulted in the emergence of economic challenges, social tensions, demographic changes and security and political instability. In addition to the suffering of the region as a result of the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian and Arab territories, which entails compliance with the international instruments and laws and providing necessary support and assistance to the countries of the region to effectively deal with the large numbers of refugees in an orderly way.

On the occasion of celebrating the World Refugee Day, representatives of Member States, in the Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs (ARCP), reemphasize the importance of the principle of international solidarity with hosting and transit countries of refugees and displaced persons and the co-responsibility in sharing the burdens by various actors of the international community. They also affirm on the objectives *of the Global compact on Refugees*, and they express their hope that the compact contributes in improving the situation of refugees and displaced persons and to mitigate the burden imposed on the states, host communities and transit countries.

Believing in the importance of the international concerted efforts in dealing with the crisis of refugees and displaced persons; the representatives of the Member States urge the international community to bear its responsibilities to end the tragedy of refugees and displaced persons, develop all available means to address the root causes of the crisis, enhance long-term development assistance to support economy and national development plans in host countries, and to refrain from taking all the coercive unilateral measures, due to its adverse effects on the situation of refugees and displaced persons, and their human rights granted to them by international conventions and laws. They underline the importance of cooperation between governments of host countries, international and regional organizations, donor countries and other donors and various actors.

Valuing and affirming Beirut Declaration adopted by the Arab Economic and Social Development Summit held on 20th January 2019, stressing on "the need for all international donors, specialized organizations, and Arab funds to unite and alleviate the suffering of refugees and displaced persons, and to ensure funding the implementation of development projects in their Arab hosting countries, which could support national development plans and contribute to the reduction of the economic, social and environmental consequences of this temporary hosting," reaffirming Resolution No. 54 issued by Beirut Summit on the economic and social burdens of hosting Syrian refugees and displaced persons and their impact on Arab hosting countries, supporting the General Secretariat efforts in implementing all relevant resolutions adopted by various Arab summits and the Council of the League of Arab States at all levels, highlighting Tunis Declaration issued by the 30th Ordinary Session of the Council of the League of Arab States at Summit Level convened on 31st March 2019, on increasing the collective international efforts to enhance the repatriation of refugees and displaced persons to their homeland, in consistence with relevant resolutions of international legitimacy, respecting the sovereignty of host countries and their laws in force; and continue providing the refugees and displaced persons with the necessary assistance.

Welcoming the outcomes of the Third Brussels Conference on Supporting the future of Syria and the region held during the period from 11th-13th March 2019, aiming to mobilize the international community to support the Syrian people and its neighbouring countries and to reach a political solution to the crisis in Syria.

Taking this opportunity to reaffirm the authorization provided to UNRWA, according to its founding Resolution by the United Nations General Assembly No. 302 of 1949 and not to violate its mandate or responsibility, and not to change or hand over its responsibilities to any other entity. They call upon the international community to continue providing the necessary support for UNRWA to carry out its full responsibility thereof; reject any attempt to end or eliminate UNRWA's role, through the systematic Israeli campaigns and its racist practices, the most recent of which was the "Jewish nation-state law", followed by the US decision to end funding the UNRWA, warn of its danger, emphasizing the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homeland, in conformity with the General Assembly Resolution No. 194 of 1948, and demand international communities to pressure Israel (the occupying power) to enforce the international law, and to stop policies of aggression, siege, ethnic cleansing, and racism that aim to continue displacing the Palestinians from their homelands, and emphasizing the need to take into consideration the specific situation of the Palestinian refugees since 1948, who have been subjected, more than once, to forced displacement as a result of the events occurring in the region.