



***Social Affairs Sector
Population Policies,
Expatriates and
Migration Department***

**Statement of
The First Meeting of Arab Regional Consultation Process on Migration
concerning
Victims of Irregular Migration across the Mediterranean**

The Participants in the First Meeting of Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration, convened at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States on 27 and 28 April 2015, emphasizing the right to freedom of mobility, they express their regret over the tragic events that claimed the lives of a large number of irregular migrants across the Mediterranean, urge the international community, in particular the European Union, to seek a comprehensive solution to the problem through facilitation of regular migration, endorsement of a development policy that addresses the root causes of irregular migration and not to settle with the security perspective solely, and to exert more efforts to protect these vulnerable groups of migrants.

They also draw the attention to the fact that migration across the Mediterranean is often a mixed migration that encompasses irregular and forced migrants, children and women, which makes it necessary to take into account the different circumstances of these groups.

Participants emphasize the need to provide the necessary support for life-saving operations of irregular migrants across the Mediterranean, to provide appropriate shelters, and take into account human rights principles when undertaking return procedures to their countries of origin.

Participating States also seize this occasion to reaffirm the importance of the respect for international human rights instruments, in particular those concerning the refugees who are forced to flee across the Mediterranean to Europe to escape from the difficult living conditions in their countries of origin.