



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

The Eleventh Global Forum on Migration and Development 2018 Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs (ARCP) Position Paper

In preparation for the Eleventh Global Forum on Migration and Development to be held in Marrakesh, kingdom of Morocco during the period from 5 to 7 December 2018, with an overarching theme: “Honoring international commitments to unlock the potential of all migrants for development” as a continuation of the discussions held at the Tenth Summit in Berlin in 2017 with joint chairmanship by Germany and Morocco, under the theme “Towards a Global Social Contract on Migration and Development”;

As the Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs (ARCP) gave particular attention to the Tenth GFMD, it also gives special concern to the Eleventh Summit Meeting as both rounds are co-chaired by the Kingdom of Morocco as the first Arab country to assume this mission;

And on the occasion of holding the Fourth Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs (ARCP) Meeting at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States on 7 and 8 May 2018, the Arab position towards the themes of the Eleventh GFMD was discussed during the second day of the meeting, where the Member States congratulated Morocco on the success of the previous round of the forum and wished her success in the upcoming one. It was agreed that the Member States shall adopt this position paper during their participation in the Eleventh GFMD (Marrakesh, 2018)¹.

Regarding the GFMD’s three themes, which are divided into two round tables for each theme, the topics to be addressed in the round tables were discussed and the participants agreed on the following:

First Theme: From vulnerability to resilience: recognizing migrant women and men as agents of development

Roundtable 1.1: Harnessing migrants’ existing capitals to build resilience:

1. The importance of coordination among the various governmental bodies and institutions working in the field of migration at the national level, with the aim of developing policies and strategies that aim to provide different types of support to migrants in vulnerable situations, such as developing awareness, assistance and protection programs, as when migrants arrive to countries of destination, they need access to information, training and support to identify their

¹ Taking into account the national legislations and laws regarding the conditions of entry, residence and others.

rights and duties and to access the basic services they need (e.g.: providing temporary housing, food, health care, education, job opportunities, etc.).

2. Develop programs that seek to reduce the vulnerability of migrants, in accordance with national legislations and laws, by harnessing their skills and capital (human, social, economic, cultural and other) to build their resilience. These programs work on reducing the vulnerability of migrants resulting from their personal characteristics (e.g. age and gender) or the conditions they have experienced (e.g. exposure to trafficking in persons or other forms of violence, as a result of asylum or separation from family, and stranded migrants), or as a result of their legal status (regular or irregular, and to give special attention to the situation of Palestinian refugees).
3. The importance of providing technical and human capacities that help to identify and meet the needs of vulnerable migrants, as well as to mobilize the necessary financial resources to achieve this.
4. To address all forms of racial discrimination, and combat the phenomenon of xenophobia and Islamophobia, in addition to protecting migrants from racist practices through community awareness campaigns using traditional media and social media, as well as by promoting dialogue between migrants and host communities, and enabling migrants to spread their own experiences.
5. The importance of promoting policies and programs that preserve diversity and cultural integration and work on the participation of all, in line with the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 and the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, as intercultural convergence is essential for peace, stability and development.
6. The importance of strengthening the efforts of civil society organizations established by expatriate communities to support migrants and help them integrate into host communities by providing them with technical and linguistic training, informing them with their rights and duties and making them familiar with the laws and regulations of host countries in order to respect them.

Roundtable 1.2: Migrants' engagement with public services: from basic access to co-production

1. Urge Governments to develop policies that harness the capacities of skilled migrants in the sectors that provide public services to migrants in accordance with the national laws and legislations of each country, in order to enhance the quality and satisfaction of migrants as beneficiaries of such services.
2. Develop common standards and mechanisms to recognize the skills and qualifications of migrants at all levels through cooperation between countries of origin and countries of destination.
3. Provide pathways for regular migration and legal entry to the countries of destination in accordance with national legislations and laws, to facilitate the access to services and participation in its production through: providing information on conditions of entry, residence, work and other information; increasing scholarships and technical and vocational training opportunities; increasing opportunities of circular, temporary and seasonal migration; facilitating the procedures of getting entry visas and residence for various purposes (education, scientific research, culture, training, etc.); and facilitating family reunification.

4. Non-discrimination between migrant women and men regarding their participation in public services in order to achieve equality for women in line with goal no.(5) of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, and to address this issue at all legal, political and practical levels.

Second Theme: Regional mobility to promote transferable learning and policy coherence:

Roundtable 2.1: South-South mobility: trends, patterns and transferable learning:

1. Refer to the Arab States' efforts in achieving integration among them on labor mobility since the 1957 Agreement on Economic Unity among Arab States, which included in its first article the freedom of movement of persons and capital; and the Arab Agreement No. 2 of 1967 on Mobility of Arab Labor which amended according to The Arab Agreement No. (4) of 1975, that included encouraging labor mobility among Arab countries and simplifying the procedures to limit their illegal movements. Also the Program of Action issued by the Arab Economic, Development and Social Summit held in Kuwait in 2009 included "Promoting the benefits of migration for development and Arab regional integration".
2. The importance of seeking to remove barriers that hinders regional mobility and finding ways to improve interregional migration to meet the needs of countries of destination and the skills available in the countries of origin, and to involve the private sector and trade unions in this process, consistent with national laws and legislations.
3. Promote cooperation between countries of origin and countries of destination to achieve balance between migration policies at the regional level through, inter alia, conducting periodic studies on the needs of labor markets in countries of destination, clearly identifying needed skills, establishing mechanisms for skills recognition, and announcing available job opportunities which allow countries of origin to develop appropriate education and training policies, and urge countries of destination to invest in this area.
4. Praise the cooperation between the League of Arab States and the African Union in the field of migration, which was consolidated by the Arab-African summits through the adoption of resolutions in this regard, in which the Africa-Arab Technical Coordination Committee on Migration was established.

Roundtable 2.2: Regional mobility and policy coherence to support development²

1. Emphasize the importance of the ARCP's role in the following areas:
 - a. Harmonizing migration policies at the regional level and open new horizons for cooperation and partnership among Member States;
 - b. Strengthening the Arab Member States' position in negotiating migration issues on the regional and global levels;
 - c. Being an important platform for holding consultative sessions with regional and international parties and other RCPs in order to develop dialogue and promote understanding on topics of common concern in the field of migration, thus helping to

² Round table 2.2 is chaired by the Arab Republic of Egypt with Zambia and the Philippines.

- strengthen strategic cooperation with other parties in the formulation of programs and policies.
2. Commend the progress made by the Arab states reflecting their awareness of the impact of migration on development, through their participation in bilateral, regional and international dialogues, international cooperation in the field of international migration and formulation of policies and programs to activate the relation between migration and development, also through making some reforms in the labor market and migration systems at the national level. In this framework, participants emphasize that migrants from, to, and among the Arab countries contribute in economic and social development efforts. Accordingly, they emphasized the importance of the following:
 - a. Encouraging individual and collective initiatives undertaken by Arab migrants in order to benefit and assist their countries of origin and bring development and renaissance in various fields.
 - b. Praise the initiatives undertaken by states and international and regional organizations in the field of outreach to expatriate communities in order to promote development efforts in countries of origin and to establish advisory councils with a group of scientists residing abroad that provide scientific and technical consultations in all fields.
 - c. Encouraging countries of origin and countries of destination to provide frameworks and mechanisms for the transfer of knowledge through migrants.
 - d. The importance of providing periodically updated records for Arab skilled migrants among the countries of origin and countries of destination to facilitate its use when needed to contribute in the development of their countries of origin.
 - e. Strengthen the role of civil society organizations in encouraging migrants to develop their countries of origin.

Third Theme: Good migration governance for sustainable development

Roundtable 3.1: Aligning governance with contemporary drivers of migration

1. The importance of mainstreaming international migration, as one of the prime factors that motivate social and economic development, in development policies at national, regional and international levels, in line with the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and national development plans. Implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda will affect the drivers of migration in the Arab Countries - especially brain drain - which are often economic and social.
2. Urge governments to adopt national policies aimed at stopping brain drain and working to benefit from skilled migrants to contribute in supporting sustainable development efforts in countries of origin and transfer of technology and knowledge.
3. Call on countries of destination to coordinate with countries of origin on the acceptance of skilled migrants holding the nationality of their countries of origin to ensure that there are no work or financial obligations that hinder their movement to countries of destination.
4. The importance of building on good elements of migration governance based on developing national mechanisms for coordination between various governmental bodies and institutions working in the field of migration at the national level, in order to create coordination among ministries as well as between central and local governments, which facilitates developing coherent national policies and strategies in consultation with civil society organizations working to achieve complementarity and prevent duplication.

5. The importance of considering migration as a benefit to both countries of origin and destination; and a solution when the local labor market is unable to absorb the labor force in the countries of origin. In this context, there should be emphasis on the importance of the following:
 - a. Promote cooperation between the concerned countries of origin and countries of destination to manage migration in an appropriate manner;
 - b. Provide legal opportunities for mobility in accordance with human rights principles and preserve human dignity by simplifying procedures for obtaining visas and residence for various purposes.

Roundtable 3.2: Beyond Remittances: leveraging the development impact and promoting the transitional engagement of diaspora and migrants

1. Continue to include migration in national and local development plans in the Arab countries and to involve the Arab competencies and institutions abroad in the development process in the Arab world through the transfer of their expertise, and develop partnerships and communication networks between them and their counterparts in the Arab region and to help them to obtain better information about job opportunities and investment in the region, and take advantage of the means of communication and modern technology to achieve this.
2. Emphasize the importance of providing incentives to attract the remittances of migrants in development through:
 - a. Calling upon countries of origin and destination to take the required measures to facilitate remittances by taking action to decrease remittance fees, and work on increasing their flows through official channels; pursuant to the Addis Ababa Plan of Action issued by the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (UNGA Resolution 69 / 313 of the 69th session of 27 July 2015).
 - b. Encouraging countries of destination to consider tax exemptions on the money transferred to countries of origin;
 - c. Developing programs to attract migrants' remittances to the national economy of countries of origin, and raising awareness on how families of migrants spend the money;
 - d. Developing National programs in cooperation with the private sector to encourage investments of migrants in their countries of origin,
 - e. Calling upon countries of origin to consider diversification of the investment channels in the individual and community projects, provide incentives to maximize the use of remittances, and create appropriate conditions for maximizing the benefits of these remittances in advancing social and economic development efforts.
 - f. Directing remittances to profitable investments for the benefit of countries of origin's economies.
3. Emphasize the importance of remittances in promoting development, knowing that it is not the main source of development funding, and not an alternative for international development aid, since these remittances fluctuate and neither of them nor their impact on fighting poverty can be measured.