



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

Unofficial Translation

G06110-01/10(24/05)/02-D(13349)

**Document of the Tenth Meeting of
the Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs (ARCP)
on
The Second Regional Review Conference of
the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in the Arab Region**

In the framework of the implementation of the 2024 – 2025 Work Plan of the Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs (ARCP), the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States (LAS), (Social Affairs Sector, Refugees, Expatriates and Migration Affairs Department), organized the Tenth Meeting of the ARCP at its headquarters in Cairo on May 27-28, 2024. . The meeting focused on developments related to the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), with the aim of preparing for effective participation in the Second Regional Review Conference of the (GCM) in the Arab Region. This conference will be jointly organized by LAS, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), in partnership with the United Nations Regional Network on Migration in the Arab Region on July 3-4, 2024, and will discuss the key messages that emerged from the First Regional Review Conference of the GCM in the Arab Region, which was held via video conference on February 24-25, 2021. During the Tenth ARCP meeting, it was agreed to submit this document to the Regional Review Conference mentioned earlier.

As this meeting takes place at a time when the Palestinian people in Gaza are still subjected to all forms of violations of their rights, including the commission of numerous war crimes against humanity, including genocide, the participants in the meeting reiterated their condemnation of the recent ongoing Israeli aggression against Gaza since October 2023. They also reject Israeli practices aimed at displacing Palestinians from their land, imposing a siege on them, depriving them of their fundamental rights, particularly the right to life, and targeting the workers of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for

.....
**The Arab-Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs
(ARCP)**

Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and its buildings. They also reaffirm the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes from which they were displaced and to receive compensation, in accordance with United Nations General Assembly Resolution no. 194 of 1948, and the international mandate given to UNRWA by United Nations General Assembly Resolution no. 302 of 1949. They affirm their rejection of any attempts at resettlement, the liquidation of UNRWA, or the so-called redefinition of the Palestinian refugee and his legal status. They also urge the international community to continue to provide the necessary, expected, and sustained support to UNRWA to carry out its mandate and assume its full responsibilities, and to avoid the collapse of its services, until the suffering of the refugees is alleviated and they are able to fulfill their individual and collective rights, particularly the right to return to their homes from which they were displaced and receive reparations.

With regard to the themes of the Second Regional Review Conference of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in the Arab Region, and given that the review of the progress achieved in the implementation of the GCM is a State-led process, the following points were agreed upon:

➤ **I. Expanding Regular Migration Pathways and Reducing Irregular Migration:**

1. Emphasizing that expanding regular migration pathways and providing opportunities for safe, orderly and regular migration shall reduce the drivers of irregular migration.
2. Calling for the facilitation of regular mobility by simplifying procedures for obtaining entry and residence visas for various purposes (education, scientific research, culture, training, etc.), in accordance with relevant international conventions and treaties, pursuant to national laws and legislation.
3. Emphasizing the need to combine policies that determine the means of combating irregular migration with development approaches that address the root causes driving the outflow of this type of migration by emphasizing the link between migration and development, as the security perspective is not enough to address the root causes of the problem.
4. Highlighting the importance of strengthening cooperation between countries of origin, transit, and destination in order to manage and regulate migration in an appropriate manner that ensures the benefit of all parties, and to develop effective plans and policies to address the challenges associated with irregular migration.

5. Working to support combating irregular migration, smuggling of migrants, trafficking in human beings, and the prevention of criminal networks by raising awareness of the risks, enacting and activating the necessary laws and regulations, and encouraging countries to accede to the relevant conventions.

➤ **II. Ensuring That Migrants Have the Right to Access Basic Services:**

1. Working to implement the necessary measures to ensure migrants' access to health and education services in accordance with national laws and regulations.
2. Ensuring migrants have proof of legal identity, facilitating access to personal documents (such as passports and visas), and simplify birth registration procedures, by providing adequate and accessible consular services to citizens residing abroad, in accordance with objective 4 of the GCM.
3. Emphasizing the importance of providing services and a multi-sectoral response to the most vulnerable groups of migrants, and emphasizing the importance of providing an adequate response to address violence against women and children.
4. Pointing out that the Arab region is one of the regions threatened by climate change, stressing the importance for various parties in the region to develop programs that promote flexibility, adaptability and resilience to natural disasters, and to take the necessary measures to facilitate access to basic services for displaced and migrants due to climate change.
5. Commending Arab Member States for their efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic to provide health services and vaccines to migrants, along with their citizens, and to include them among the most vulnerable groups, in accordance with international charters and agreements and global plans, particularly the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the 2030 Sustainable Development Plan which emphasizes leaving no one behind.

➤ **III. Protecting and Empowering Migrant Workers and Operationalizing Their Role in The Sustainable Development Process in Countries of Origin and Destination:**

1. It is important to view migration as a benefit to both countries of origin and destination. Migration solves the lack of absorption of the labor force in the local labor market in countries of origin, and addresses the skills shortages in destination countries. It is crucial to consider the sustainable development goals in the countries of origin and prevent brain drain until desired development is achieved.
2. Strengthening cooperation between countries of origin and destination is essential to achieve a balance in migration policies, by establishing labor market systems in destination countries, conducting regular

studies on the labor markets needs in these countries, defining required skills, and developing joint mechanisms for recognizing the migrant skills and qualifications, and declare available job opportunities so that countries of origin can develop appropriate education and training policies.

3. Developing circular migration programs through bilateral agreements between States is important to protect the interests of migrant workers, as well as the countries of origin and destination.
4. Considering the possibility of establishing unified service points or developing digital applications/platforms in cooperation between countries of origin and destination to provide pre-employment training and qualification services, recognize certificates and academic equivalences, facilitate travel arrangements, and search for job opportunities, in accordance with national laws and the international obligations of each country.
5. Calling for the reduction of labor recruitment fees and the regulation of the activities of employment agencies abroad to ensure the conclusion of legal and documented employment contracts and the provision of appropriate working conditions for migrants, in accordance with the principles of fair employment and in conformity with national laws and regulations.

➤ **IV. Respect the Human Rights of All Migrants, Especially the Most Vulnerable:**

1. Emphasizing that considering human rights and respecting the human dignity of migrants in policy development is essential for achieving social cohesion and enhancing the contributions of migrants.
2. Highlighting the importance of educating migrants about their rights and obligations towards the destination and transit countries, and the need for migrants to respect the systems, laws, customs and traditions of these countries, while also acknowledging the burdens that may exceed the capacity of transit countries.
3. Addressing all forms of racial discrimination, combating xenophobia and Islamophobia, and protecting migrants from racist practices, through community awareness campaigns utilizing traditional media, social media, and digital platforms.
4. Giving special attention to vulnerable groups of migrants (women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, victims of human trafficking and violence against women), developing programs to support these groups in a manner that recognizes the fragility of their situations, providing them with the necessary protection and assistance, in accordance with national laws and regulations, and creating appropriate responses to the specific needs of these migrants.

➤ **V. Strengthening National, Bilateral, Regional and International Cooperation:**

1. Highlighting the positive impact of cooperation in the field of migration on improving the performance of migration systems, as continuous discussion of the issue at various national, bilateral, regional and international levels, with the aim of exchanging experiences, identifying best practices, learning from mistakes and addressing challenges, will lead to the establishment of systems capable of adapting to needs and newly emerged realities.
2. Emphasizing the importance of cooperation and coordination between various governmental agencies and institutions involved in migration at the national level, in line with the whole-of-government approach, with a view to developing coherent national policies and strategies for achieving integration and avoiding duplication of efforts.
3. Emphasizing the importance of continued cooperation between the LAS and international and regional organizations working in the Arab region, with a view to coordinating efforts, avoiding duplication, and providing the necessary technical support to Member States, in accordance with objective 23 of the GCM.
4. Commending the role of the ARCP in raising awareness among Member States regarding the GCM and its review process at regional and international levels, and in discussing the issue continuously during its regular meetings, in addition to its keenness to actively participate in relevant regional and international forums. Emphasizing the need to continue the ARCP efforts to prepare for Arab participation in global forums on international migration, and the importance of supporting and enhancing its role
5. Kindly requesting the United Nations Regional Network on Migration to upload documents and statements issued by the ARCP to relevant global forums, and to provide necessary support to the ARCP Secretariat (Social Affairs Sector, Refugees, Expatriates and Migration Affairs Department), to facilitate the proper delivery of these documents through official channels for correct submission.

➤ **VI. Providing Detailed, Timely and Available Data:**

1. Emphasizing the importance of providing detailed, timely data for effective migration governance. This data is crucial in helping decision-makers develop evidence-based policies.
2. Highlighting the challenges of gathering migration data, particularly in the Arab region, which has faced numerous obstacles and crises over the past decade.

- 3. Emphasizing the importance of providing the required technical and material support to enhance the institutional capacities of countries in a way that enables them to collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data, which serves as the foundation for evidence-based policies, in line with objective 1 of the GCM.
- 4. Investing in improving our understanding of migration and displacement induced by climate change is crucial. Collecting data that helps develop good policies based on accurate information and evidence is key in addressing this issue.