

**Tenth Meeting of the Arab Regional Consultative Process
on Migration and Refugee Affairs (ARCP)**

Monday, 27 May 2024

Excellencies,

Esteemed participants,

Dear Colleagues,

- It is my honor and pleasure to participate to this edition of the Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs that comes at a very timely moment for many reasons.
- We thank our esteemed colleagues from the Refugees, Expatriates and Migration Affairs Department of the League of Arab States for their kind invitation to this event and for their continuous work in placing migrants and displaced population at the center of the policy agendas of the region.
- Continued conflicts and political instability, natural disasters, climate change and environmental degradation, as well as the inequalities, interlinked with development and socio-economic challenges have had a significant impact on human mobility across countries within and beyond the Arab region.

- We continue seeing the violence, repeated displacement and increased human sufferings in the region, and the needs for us to enhance humanitarian assistance through more bilateral, regional and international cooperation is at its highest.
- Our young people continue leaving their home in search of a better future, often pressured by the unemployment rates which remain high and the limited livelihood opportunities.
- This comes to show that the work of the ARCP to strengthen inter-governmental cooperation and promote a common understanding about the status of migration and its future is becoming ever more critical.

Excellencies,

- [As already highlighted by the Opening Remarks by Enas,] This year is especially important for all of us, who work on migration, as we are having the quadrennial review process of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.
- Last review was conducted online due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so we are particularly delighted to hold the regional review for the first time in person, with the presence of the Secretary General of the League, at the Headquarters of the League of Arab States, in fact, in this room, from 3 to 4 July.

- I will let my colleague, Misato Yuasa, also from Our Regional Office based here in Cairo, to share further details on the preparation towards the Regional Review Conference, but I would like first to bring a few areas of opportunities that need to be made more visible ahead of our discussion today.
- First, this round, can be the first Regional Review process that the Ministers, Ambassadors and senior government officials from across the Arab region can come together in one place to discuss about the progress, challenges and opportunities since the adoption of the Global Compact for Migration in 2018.
- Second, this is the Second Regional Review Conference that was decided to build onto the key priority areas identified during the First Conference in 2021 through a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach in the spirit of the Global Compact for Migration. This provides us with a chance to have more tailored and contextualized discussions for the region, and to ensure continuities between the two rounds of regional reviews.
- Last but not least, the Progress Declaration of the International Migration Review Forum held in New York in 2022 requested the President of the General Assembly to hold a plenary meeting of the General Assembly in the second half of 2024 in order to

consider the outcomes of the regional reviews, to be presented by the Coordinator of the Network.

- IOM will stand ready to support Arab States and Stakeholders in reflecting on the progresses made thus far, linking the evidence and promising practices to conducive migration policy and long-term development planning – in recognition of the important role that migrants can play to accelerate sustainable development in all countries of destination, transit and origin if they are included, empowered and their rights are upheld.
- The Coordinator of the United Nations Network on Migration will also report on the linkages between the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration and the 2030 Agenda during the high-level political forum on sustainable development in New York, which will be held right after the Regional Review Conference in the Arab region.
- In its capacity of Coordinator and Co-secretariat of the UN Network on Migration in the Arab region, IOM remains available to also convene the adequate expertise and enhance system-wide support with other UN agencies through the 16 National UN Networks on Migration established in the region.
- We will be counting on your contribution to the Regional Review process as one of the most active Regional Consultative

Processes in the region, and also for you to flag this upcoming opportunity to your capital and other relevant ministries to have a prominent role in the Conference, to highlight the progress and good practices your country can showcase widely to your peers in the region.

Esteemed participants,

- I will conclude my remarks by emphasizing how it is now, the time for coordinated action to respond to the humanitarian crises, mitigate the increasing risks of displacement and harness enormous potentials of migration that can benefit us all.
- I sincerely thank you for all of your presence, and I wish you very fruitful and productive discussions for the next two days.