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**Communiqué of the Arab-Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs
(ARCP)
on the World Refugee Day**

June 20, 2024

At a time when the numbers of refugees and displaced persons are increasing every day, along with their suffering and the challenges they face, the representatives of the Member States of the Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs (ARCP) emphasize, on occasion of the World Refugee Day, the importance of safety and security for refugees, the consolidation of the principle of burden and responsibility sharing to support host and transit countries in providing protection and basic services, such as shelter, health and education; which constitutes one of the main guarantees for stability of states, particularly in view of the aggravated refugee conditions in the world in general and in the Arab region in particular; thus undermining any development endeavors in spite of all the pertinent global, regional and national plans. They commend, in this context, the initiatives of the Kingdom of Bahrain, as outlined in the Declaration issued by the 33rd Arab Summit on May 16, 2024 on providing educational services to those affected by conflicts in the region, who have been deprived of their right to formal education as a result of the security and political situation and the repercussions of displacement, asylum and migration, and improving healthcare for those affected by conflicts in the region.

They also commend the Communiqué of the Arab leaders at Bahrain Summit on the aggression against the Gaza Strip, condemn the ongoing Israeli aggression against the Strip which more than 70% of its population are refugees, and the acts of bombing, killing, destruction that the Palestinian people have been subjected to since October 2023, including the targeting of essential facilities, i.e. hospitals, schools, religious institutions, humanitarian and international organizations, particularly the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). They reject practices aimed at displacing Palestinians and emphasize that such actions violate international conventions, treaties, and norms and amount to committing numerous international crimes, including genocide, in full view of the world, which remains silent in the face of all this bloodshed. They recall the Resolutions of the Council of the League of Arab States and relevant UN resolutions, which include the rejection of ethnic cleansing and

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forced displacement of the Palestinian people. They also reject any attempts to escalate the situation at the expense of Arab states, particularly the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, considering this as a red line, rejected attempts to liquidate the Palestinian cause, and a threat to Arab national security. In this regard, they emphasize the importance of the international community assuming its responsibility to stop this aggression and enforce the measures approved by the International Court of Justice to protect civilian lives, uphold their fundamental rights, ensure the delivery of humanitarian aid and safeguard those involved in its distribution. They call for adherence to international law and humanitarian law, urging the avoidance of political calculations and double standards when addressing international crises.

They also reaffirm the need to consider the particularity of Palestinian refugees, the world's oldest group of refugees since 1948, who during the Nakba and until now have been subjected to ethnic cleansing and many forced displacement situations as a result of successive events in the Arab region, emphasizing their unconditional rights. These rights include their right to self-determination, return to their homeland and homes from which they were displaced, and compensation according to the United Nations General Assembly Resolution no. 194 of 1948, and the international mandate granted to UNRWA pursuant to its founding resolution issued by the United Nations General Assembly no. 302 of 1949. They also emphasize that Israel, as the occupying Power, is legally, politically and morally responsible for the emergence and continuation of the Palestinian refugee problem. They reject any actions by any party to abolish the right of return and reject attempts to resettle, liquidate or replace UNRWA. This is especially important in light of the genocidal war and famine in the Gaza Strip, where UNRWA plays a vital role as a lifeline for millions of refugees. They also reject any attempts to redefine the Palestinian refugee and its legal status. They urge the international community to continue providing the necessary and sustained support to UNRWA to fulfill its mandate and responsibilities. This support is crucial to prevent the collapse of UNRWA services until the suffering of refugees is alleviated and they can exercise their individual and collective rights. This includes the right to return to their homes from which they were displaced, and to receive reparations for the damage caused. In this context, they commend Arab efforts, the role of countries hosting Palestinian refugees, and the activities of UNRWA in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Lebanese Republic, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

On this day, the representatives of Member States in the ARCP recall that, one year after the outbreak of the crisis in Sudan, which resulted in a large number of Sudanese refugees and displaced persons, fleeing the country and displacement of refugees hosted by Sudan to neighboring countries, there are over 1.8 million refugees and returnees, along with 6.8 million internally displaced people, according to the most recent estimates. These influxes have significantly increased the pressure on host countries, and the situation has been exacerbated by the lack of funding for humanitarian agencies, hindering their ability to effectively respond to crises.

They also stress on what was stated in the Resolutions adopted by the 33rd Session of the Arab Summit in Bahrain, emphasizing the importance of supporting Arab States neighboring the Syrian Arab Republic

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and other Arab States hosting Syrian refugees and displaced persons, and the importance of providing resources allocated to support early recovery programs by international community, and to support national and international response plans to address the Syrian refugee crisis, in preparation for their voluntary, dignified and safe return to their country.

On this occasion, they highlight the need, now more than ever, to address the root causes of asylum and displacement. It is essential to intensify and increase international efforts aimed at preventing and resolving conflicts, maintaining international peace and security, and working to consolidate cooperation between political, humanitarian and development actors in the field of peace. They emphasize the importance of applying the rules of international law and international humanitarian law, taking into account the principles of human rights and refugees, without double standards, exceptions or selectivity.

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