



Extraordinary Meeting of the Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration (ARCP)
*in preparation for the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the UN General Assembly on Addressing
Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants*

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**Session 3: International action and cooperation on refugees and migrants
and issues related to displacement: the way ahead**

Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me take the opportunity in this session to address 3 areas of focus to promote international cooperation on refugees, migrants and displacement issues:

1. Reinforcing existing cooperation mechanisms and fora for dialogue on migration
2. Bridging the humanitarian – development divide
3. Striking a “grand bargain” between donors and humanitarian actors

1. Reinforcing existing cooperation mechanisms and fora for dialogue on migration

By its very nature, migration requires international cooperation. It also requires the engagement of multiple stakeholders – countries of origin, transit and destination of migrants; international and civil society organizations; private sector employers, recruiters and service providers; social partners; migrants themselves and their organizations.

Important strides have been made in bilateral, regional and global cooperation on migration, and these require reinforcement and further development:

- Bilateral and regional labour mobility and economic integration efforts, , facilitate planned and managed migration and need to be deepened and strengthened;
- Regional Consultative Processes on Migration (RCPs) – like the Arab RCP here or the Abu Dhabi Dialogue in which some of you are involved – and inter-regional fora – such as the Rabat Process or the AU Horn of Africa Initiative on Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants – foster critical dialogue and cooperation on the full range of migration challenges and warrant reinforcement;

- Global migration dialogue through the annual Global Forum on Migration and Development, IOM's regular International Dialogue on Migration, and the periodic General Assembly High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, all form important parts of the migration governance architecture and should be strengthened. Morocco will co-host the Global Forum on Migration and Development next year – the first time the forum will take place in the Arab region.
- Tomorrow you will hear more about the Migrants in countries in Crisis (MICIC) initiative, a State-led, multi-stakeholder initiative, that just launched its final guidelines. Some of you may have been involved in the MENA consultations that contributed to the formulation of the guidelines.

These are just a few examples of the constructive engagement and outcomes of such fora. Arab States have much to add to these discussions and we look forward to seeing greater engagement from the region.

2. Planning across institutional divides and between humanitarian and development actors.

This item is especially critical in the Arab region. Ridden by multiple, protracted crises, and large-scale displacement, strains on infrastructure, job markets and services have been inevitable. Some countries have even seen hard-won development gains reversed.

Nonetheless, Arab societies and communities have demonstrated a remarkable resilience in the face of these challenges.

These crises require political solutions, not humanitarian band-aids. However, more can be done to apply innovative measures to alleviate the negative consequences of crises for displaced populations, affected communities and host countries.

Wherever possible, synergies between development and humanitarian response should be encouraged to bring stability back to crisis areas. Development and humanitarian actors must work together in creating common response plans, including strengthening the joint work in disaster preparedness and strengthening resilience to reduce forced migration.

Furthermore, Governments, Donors and Policy Partners need to become less siloed in their structures, planning and funding. As the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development clearly showed, migrants are strong contributors to development, and their close association with recovery planning may only benefit efforts to bridge the gap between humanitarian and development action.

Central to the transformation process is our ability to address the humanitarian – development nexus and early investment in fostering resilience.

This means working together much more purposefully– from preparedness and prevention, through emergency response and on to the progressive resolution of displacement situations.

We should pursue a continuum of actions and a common purpose uniting humanitarian and developmental specialists, as well as peacekeepers, peace-builders and human rights and

environmental actors. There is no one point in time, no one day on which a response transitions from emergency assistance to recovery, or from recovery to development, but rather over-lapping and complimentary actions contributing to the shared outcomes. At the World Humanitarian Summit's MENA consultations, participants stated that "Development interventions should come at an early stage and include support to the local economy and making investments in basic services and infrastructure that benefit both the displaced and their hosts."

IOM, with its broad and unique mandate, has invested in developing a comprehensive approach; and now we need to be more forthcoming in presenting this vision, bridging across the humanitarian and development dimensions.

3. Striking a "grand bargain" between donors and humanitarian actors

Effective partnerships strengthen the overall response to humanitarian crises, protracted crises and large movements of refugees and migrants. Sharing and leveraging our joint knowledge, resources and assets expands on coverage; helps overcome obstacles to reaching people in need; and builds resilience. Partnerships capitalise on our respective strengths and composition comparative advantages.

International humanitarian donors are critical stakeholders in this regard. We would like to recognize the generosity of a number of Arab States as humanitarian donors, whose approach is steeped in the culture, traditions and values of Islamic giving.

In the context of the World Humanitarian Summit and the High Level Panel Report on Humanitarian Financing, main donor governments and representatives of the humanitarian system have been discussing a new approach to humanitarian donorship.

This would involve, for example, scaling up cash-based assistance to displaced populations and more support to national first responders. Donors, on the other hand, would consider more unearmarked funds, and more predictable and long-term funding.

A series of reforms are underway in the humanitarian system, and IOM is doing its part, with the recent adoption of the IOM principles for humanitarian action and a series of related institutional policies and mechanisms. With a combination of greater efficiency and flexibility, and above all accountability to affected populations, the humanitarian system will be capable of delivering more, and better, for populations in need.

Conclusion

There has been considerable progress in recent years in recognizing migration and migrants, their needs, rights and capacities, in multilateral processes and frameworks including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the World Humanitarian Summit. In adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UN Member States agreed that States must work to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration, recognizing that, if governed well, migration benefits migrants and society. It is time to work together to give effect to these commitments.