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الجامعة العربية

Date: 31st October 2010

Your Excellency,

In preparation for the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) 2010 in Mexico, and in order to maximize the benefit that might be derived from the Arab countries participation in the GFMD, the Population Policies and Migration Department-League of Arab States (PPMD/LAS) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in collaboration with the Manpower and Migration Ministry in Egypt and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), in joint efforts with some remarkable Arab experts in the field of international migration, prepared "The Regional Arab document on migration and development to GFMD 2010". The document addresses and covers all the issues to be discussed during the GFMD Mexico 2010 under the theme of "**Partnerships for migration and human development: shared prosperity – shared responsibility.**"

In this framework, we are pleased to submit "The Regional Arab document on migration and development to GFMD 2010" attached for your kind reference. We would highly appreciate if Your Excellency could recommend publishing this document on the GFMD website as the Arab Regional Contribution to the GFMD, Mexico 2010.

Please accept, Excellency, assurances of my highest consideration.

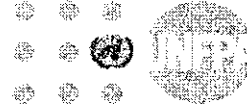
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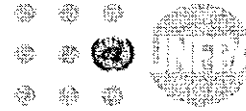


Arab Regional Contribution to GFMD 2010

In preparation for the GFMD Mexico 2010, the League of Arab States members (22 countries) agreed on the following recommendations related to the main themes of the GFMD as a regional contribution to highlight the Arab governments views in light of the migration priorities.

Renewing our commitment on the following agreed upon recommendations:

1. Considering the international initiative to organize the GFMD is a positive step which will facilitate the exchange of information and experiences and promoting networking and partnerships, that would pave the way for an international agreement to maximize the benefit of the migration, for both receiving and sending countries as well as migrants and their families to deal with negative impacts of migration.
2. Valuing and recognizing the Arab economic summit in Kuwait 2009 recommendations in regard of facilitating intra regional and international mobility, and ensure migrants rights and supporting skilled migration strategies for development.
3. Valuing and recognizing of the participation of representatives from the Arab region in past and future GFMDs, in addition to encouraging Arab countries to increase their participation.
4. Working with the LAS and donors to facilitate financial support to poorer countries in order to ensure their participation in the GFMD.
5. Emphasizing the subject of Palestinian forced migration and working to secure an international condemnation of this forced migration.
6. Reemphasizing the recommendation from the 3rd GFMD to designate Arabic as an official language of the GFMD, and working to secure the requirements of this designation.
7. Intensifying and solidifying comprehensive international cooperation and partnerships to face the challenges to migration and migrants presented by the global financial crisis.
8. Encouraging countries receiving Arab experts and professionals to facilitate and support the participation of these talents in development programs in their countries of origin, especially in the fields of scientific research and innovations.
9. Appealing to migrant labor receiving countries to exclude the topic of migration from political forums such as elections and referendums in order to depoliticize the issue and protect migrants from xenophobia, racism, and discrimination in their host countries.
10. Valuing the GCC countries' important efforts in dealing with the negativities of migrant influxes, such as the effects on the demographic structure, while simultaneously preserving the rights of these migrants.
11. Encouraging Arab civil society organizations dealing with irregular migration issues to increase their participation in the GFMD.
12. Valuing and recognizing the Ragusa Declaration on youth, migration and development of the Euro Arab youth conference 2010, which emphasizing that young people are in the front line of migration and are among the groups most vulnerable to its risks, as students, as migrant workers, as forced migrants, asylum seekers or refugees or as children of migrants often growing up separated from their parents. Young people are also directly concerned as children of migrants in host societies, often exposed to greater levels of discrimination, exclusion and abuse.
13. And acknowledging that young people, in particular young women and minors, are often in more vulnerable positions related to trafficking in human beings, resulting in exposure to forced labour and modern forms of slavery. Their human rights are often denied and violated and their legal situation makes the exercise of their rights a mirage. This concerns and affects migrants in European countries as much as in Arab countries, whether they are perceived as hosting or transit countries.



Recommendations on developing migration policies and development policies in the Arab countries:

1. We condemn the resolutions and the inhumane procedures on deporting migrants and stripping the citizens of foreign descents from their nationalities obtained in the country of residence, and we call the international community to denounce such procedure that would feed the hatred and discrimination within the community and stand against the cultures and nations rapprochement.
2. Encouraging Arab countries and the LAS to strengthen programs and policies aimed at utilizing and connecting with Arab skilled workers abroad to complement national/regional development efforts.
3. Supporting the establishment of an Arab regional center for research and training on migration within the context of the LAS.
4. Encouraging Arab countries and the LAS to build partnerships among countries of origin transit and destination to facilitate more comprehensive, balanced policies on migration and development, and a greater willingness to share responsibility.
5. Identify Joint approaches among all players, including the diaspora, to better understand and address the development-related causes and effects of irregular migration and the circumstances of the irregular migrants and their families.
6. Identify key strategies for maximizing the benefit of human development of migrants in the context of cross-border labor mobility in order to benefit from and contribute to broader development efforts in the societies of their countries of destination and origin.
7. Work towards understanding the developmental effect of migration to gender relations and family formation, community development and poverty reduction; as well as how to factor them into coherent policy making.
8. Strengthen the cooperation and partnerships among the Arab governments, and between governments and non-governmental experts in the region, to inform and reinforce policy and institutional coherence on migration and development and to develop more evidence-based policies.
9. Bringing together the Arab states and LAS to address and to support greater policy coherence both to a development of comprehensive approach to causes and effects of migration on development and how to assess the specific impacts of migration on the economic and social development of host and origin countries.
10. Encouraging greater policy coherence by Arab governments and other actors in the context of climate change and its impact on migration and development. In addition, support of formation of partnerships between LAS countries in order to share already existing knowledge on the subject, including National Adaptation Plans for Action (NAPAs) on climate change and related effects on migration and development.
11. Revision of activities and progress made by the Arab regional and inter-regional processes and fora in linking migration and development concerns more productively. Identifying how regional consultative processes (RCPs) and inter-regional fora can best incorporate the migration and development nexus in their agendas, how these activities can be relevant for the GFMD and how conclusions reached at the GFMD meeting can also feed into the Arab regional and inter-regional processes.
12. Develop partnerships between the Arab League Member States to effectively manage labor migration for the benefit of both sending and receiving countries.
13. Strengthen the cooperation between the sending and receiving countries to develop innovative strategies to reduce the irregular migration in favor of the regular migration.
14. Work towards strengthening partnership strategy between sending and receiving countries to assist the integration and reintegration of mobile populations to best benefit their families and host communities.