



Distr.  
LIMITED  
E/ESCWA/SDD/2013/WG.5/Report  
1 August 2013  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

**Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)**

## **REPORT**

### **REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE ARAB REGION IN PREPARATION FOR THE SECOND HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT CAIRO, 4-5 JUNE 2013**

#### **Summary**

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the League of Arab States jointly organized the Regional Consultative Meeting on Migration and Development in the Arab region, in preparation for the Second High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development at the League of Arab States Headquarters in Cairo from 4-5 June, 2013.

The meeting covered the following themes:

- (a) Setting the scene: the Second High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development;
- (b) Overview of migration and development challenges in the Arab region;
- (c) Protecting the human rights of migrants and improving conditions for migrant workers;
- (d) The potential roles for expatriate communities in development planning and practice;
- (e) Supporting mutual development goals through international and regional labour mobility;
- (f) Partnerships and cooperation on international migration at the regional and global levels.

## CONTENTS

	<i>Paragraph</i>	<i>Page</i>
Introduction .....	1-5	3
<i>Chapter</i>		
<b>I. ISSUES CONSIDERED</b> .....	6-70	3
A. Setting the scene: The Second High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.....	7-18	4
B. Overview of migration and development challenges in the Arab region .....	19-34	6
C. Protecting human rights of migrants and improving conditions for migrant workers .....	35-42	9
D. The potential roles for expatriate communities in development planning and practice.....	43-50	11
E. Supporting mutual development goals through international and regional labour mobility .....	51-58	12
F. Partnerships and cooperation on international migration at the regional global levels.....	59-69	13
G. Outcome document drafting .....	70	15
<b>II. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING</b> .....	71-80	16
A. Venue and date of the meeting .....	71	16
B. Opening of the meeting .....	72-80	16
<b>ANNEXES</b>		
I. List of participants.....		18
II. Regional consultative meeting on International Migration and Development in the Arab region .....		26

## **Introduction**

1. The Population and Social Development Section of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the Migration and Arab Expatriates Department of the League of Arab States and the Middle East and North African Regional Office of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) jointly organized the Regional Consultative Meeting on Migration and Development in the Arab Region in preparation for the Second High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development at the League of Arab States Headquarters in Cairo from 4-5 June, 2013.
2. The meeting was held within the framework of the preparations for the Second High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. This reflected the mandate given to the regional commissions in General Assembly Resolutions A/RES/65/170 and A/RES/67/219 “to organize discussions to examine regional aspects of international migration and development and to provide inputs, in accordance with their respective mandates, to the preparatory process of the high-level dialogue”. The Meeting was attended by 15 countries from the region.<sup>1</sup>
3. In line with the mandate it was given by these resolutions, the objective of the meeting was to prepare Arab countries to maximize the benefits of their participation in the Second High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development by:
  - (a) Taking stock of progress in relation to migration and development in the Arab region since 2006, with particular focus on the High-Level Dialogue roundtable themes;
  - (b) Assisting representatives in the development of a common understanding of the next steps to be taken to maximize the contributions of migration to development in the Arab region and to minimize the potential negative impacts for destination and origin countries, as well as for migrants themselves and their families.
4. The sessions of the meeting therefore covered the following themes:
  - (a) Setting the scene: the Second High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development;
  - (b) Overview of migration and development challenges in the Arab region;
  - (c) Protecting the human rights of migrants and improving conditions for migrant workers;
  - (d) The potential roles for expatriate communities in development planning and practice;
  - (e) Supporting mutual development goals through international and regional labour mobility;
  - (f) Partnerships and cooperation on international migration at the regional and global levels.
5. An outcome statement was prepared by a drafting committee, and was discussed and adopted during the final session of the meeting. This document is attached as annex II.

## **I. ISSUES CONSIDERED**

6. The meeting agenda consisted of seven sessions. Expert presentations were given during each session to provide background details on the situation in Arab countries in relation to the different themes and to facilitate discussion.

---

<sup>1</sup> Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, State of Palestine, the Sudan, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. In addition, the Government of Sweden, in its capacity as chair of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, was also represented.

A. SETTING THE SCENE: THE SECOND HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON INTERNATIONAL  
MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

7. The session was chaired by Ms. Enas El Fergany, Director, Migration and Arab Expatriates Department, League of Arab States.

8. Ms. Francesca Perucci, Chief, Demographic Analysis Branch, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA), gave a presentation on “International migration and development: the High-Level Dialogue and moving towards the new development agenda”. She noted that the United Nations system had undertaken intensive preparations for the second High-Level Dialogue in terms of identifying recommendations for the next steps of work in relation to migration. The Chief Executive’s Board and the Policy Committee of the United Nations had both recommended facilitating migration, recognizing it as an inherent part of the development process, building capacity and improving data related to migration, building on existing international cooperation on migration issues, and protecting the rights of migrants. Meanwhile, the 46<sup>th</sup> Commission on Population and Development had also focused on international migration, with member States adopting a resolution that stressed the rights of migrants; migration’s role as an intrinsic part of development and globalization; and the need for concrete measures to enhance the development benefits of migration, address the vulnerabilities of migrants, improve cooperation and coherence, and strengthen national capacities for the production and use of migration data.

9. Ms. Perucci provided data showing the increasing number of migrants in the world overall, and in particular between countries of the Global South. She showed that the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council were the fastest-growing destination countries of migrants in the region, with the number of migrants projected to have doubled from just under 9 million in 1990 to over 20 million in 2015. Migration was also an important driver of overall population growth in the GCC countries.

10. Ms. Perucci then outlined the main theme of the forthcoming High-Level Dialogue as being to identify “concrete measures to strengthen coherence and cooperation at all levels, with a view to enhancing the benefits of international migration for migrants and countries alike and its important links to development, while reducing its negative implications”. She discussed the preparatory activities which would include a panel discussion with member states focusing on the overall theme of the Dialogue, followed by informal interactive hearings with civil society and the private sector. A Secretary-General Report on International Migration and Development was also to be drafted.

11. She noted that the High-Level Dialogue itself would consist of 4 round tables, focusing on:

(a) International migration and sustainable development and priorities for the post-2015 development agenda;

(b) Respect for and protection of the human rights of all migrants and prevent and combat the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons and to ensure orderly, regular and safe migration;

(c) Strengthening partnerships and cooperation mechanisms to effectively integrate migration into development policies and promote coherence at all levels;

(d) International and regional labour mobility and its impact on development.

12. She also noted that some potential outcomes of the High-Level Dialogue could include an accountability framework in relation to international migration and development, incorporating civil society and the private sector; the identification of concrete measures to improve the benefits of international migration for development; and recommendations on how international migration could be mainstreamed into the post-2015 development agenda.

13. In relation to the latter, she noted that a strong consensus on the role of international migration in improving human development outcomes was essential as part of recognizing migration as a strong force for development in any new agenda. She discussed the thematic consultations which had already taken place, notably the Global Thematic Consultation on Population Dynamics in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which had resulted in the Dhaka Declaration.<sup>2</sup> This had discussed a number of issues relating to international migration, such as the need to protect migrants' rights, including their rights to social protection, through national measures and international cooperation, and the need to integrate migration into development and climate change adaptation strategies. She also noted that migration was being considered as part of the Sustainable Development Goals.

14. Ms. Karoline Popp, Migration Policy Officer, International Organization for Migration, made a presentation entitled "Overview of the Global Migration Group and the role of the International Organization for Migration in the global debate on international migration and development". She noted that IOM was the leading global agency on international migration, which worked with States and migrants to improve governance and protect migrants, and to facilitate orderly and humane management of international migration. She outlined the growth of IOM since 2006, noting that the number of member States had increased from 120 to 149 during this period, while its number of projects almost doubled. She also noted how IOM contributed to the global policy debate on international migration through policy dialogue, research and participation in mechanisms such as the Global Forum on Migration and Development, the United Nations Task Team on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, and the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.

15. Ms. Popp then moved on to discuss the role of the Global Migration Group (GMG), which she noted had expanded to include 16 member agencies and which aims to promote the wider application of all relevant international and regional instruments and norms relating to migration, and to encourage the adoption of more coherent, comprehensive and better-coordinated approaches to the issue of international migration. She showed that this group had become a meeting place where agencies could coordinate their work, develop areas of common interest, and forge consensus on the key issues of the global migration debate. She mentioned the role of the regional commissions as the current chair of the GMG and informed the meeting that IOM would be taking up this role in the second half of 2013. She also highlighted the successes of the GMG in producing the "Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning: A Handbook for Policy-Makers and Practitioners" and in coordinating a system-wide process on gathering recommendations for the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.

16. Finally, Ms. Popp discussed how the work of IOM cut across the themes of the roundtables of the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, and laid out a high-road scenario through which governance arrangements would enable migration to contribute to development. She noted that such a scenario would involve:

(a) In relation to roundtable 1:<sup>3</sup> the understanding that migration is relevant to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and to peace and security;

(b) In relation to roundtable 2:<sup>4</sup> a rights-based and gender-sensitive approach to migration that ensures access by all migrants to their human and labour rights;

---

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.iom.int/files/live/sites/iom/files/What-We-Do/docs/Dhaka-Declaration.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> On assessing the effects of international migration on sustainable development and identifying relevant priorities in view of the preparations of the post-2015 development framework.

<sup>4</sup> On measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of all migrants, with particular reference to women and children, to prevent and combat the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons, and to ensure orderly, regular and safe migration.

(c) In relation to roundtable 3:<sup>5</sup> cooperation with all partners while recognizing the sovereign prerogative of States to determine the entry and stay of non-nationals in their territories, within the limits set by their international legal obligations;

(d) In relation to roundtable 4:<sup>6</sup> labour mobility schemes which aim to enhance the positive contribution of labour mobility to growth and development in countries of origin and destination and to the human development and well-being of migrants themselves.

17. Ambassador Eva Åkerman-Börje, Chair of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, Swedish Government Offices, then gave a presentation on “Unlocking the potential of migration for inclusive development – the road ahead”. She briefly introduced the purpose of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), mentioning that it was not an international organization, but an informal, state-led, non-binding platform for dialogue on migration and development. She stated that she saw the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development as an opportunity to deepen the engagement between different stakeholders and the constructive approach that had emerged as part of the GFMD, and bring it into more formal fora, as well as a means of formally recognizing the importance of the GFMD in building trust between countries and sending a message to the Global Migration Group to increase its responsiveness to Governments. She noted the commitment of the Government of Sweden to positive, constructive and future-oriented dialogue.

18. Ambassador Åkerman-Börje also noted the importance of integrating migration into the post-2015 development agenda, and that this was a priority of the Government of Sweden. This is because migration is one of the oldest poverty reduction strategies, and one of the most direct and effective ways for individuals to improve their situations. However, the impacts of migration extend beyond migrants themselves, as they send remittances, encourage trade and investment and transfer their skills across countries. Migration is therefore a critical enabler of development and should be recognized as such, and managed so that its positive impacts may be increased and its negative effects reduced. Migration could be integrated into future development goals as an enabler of other development goals as well as in the form of migration-specific goals; such an integration, she argued, would send a strong signal to development actors to take migration into account in their analysis, planning, monitoring and evaluation, as well as enhancing policy and institutional coherence by enhancing coordination. Despite this, she noted that the High-Level Panel report on the post-2015 development agenda had not made many references to international migration. Ms. Åkerman-Börje concluded by calling on the Arab Governments to participate in all the relevant processes related to migration and development.

## B. OVERVIEW OF MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES IN THE ARAB REGION

19. The session was chaired by Mr. Mohamed Khachani, General Secretary of the Moroccan Association for Studies and Research on Migration, Université Mohammed V, Morocco.

20. Mr. Ibrahim Awad, Director of the Center of Migration and Refugee Studies at the American University in Cairo, made a presentation on “Migration and Development Challenges in the Arab Region”. He noted that migration was primarily driven by workers, who globally make up around 50 per cent of migrants. This reflected the fact that migration is a crucial part of the economy and plays a major role in economic development. He discussed how migrants could contribute to both their countries of origin and destination in the region through sharing their financial, human and social capital.

---

<sup>5</sup> On strengthening partnerships and cooperation on international migration and mechanisms to effectively integrate migration into development policies and promoting coherence at all levels.

<sup>6</sup> On international and regional labour mobility and its impact on development.

21. Mr. Awad demonstrated the importance of the financial capital migrants send back to their countries of origin. He noted that Arab countries such as Egypt, Morocco and Jordan were among the ten countries in the receiving the largest amount of money in remittances from their nationals abroad in 2010. He noted that between 2010 and 2012, the amount of money sent to Egypt had increased, supporting the idea that remittances were counter-cyclical. He also discussed the importance of remittances to the gross domestic product (GDP) of Arab countries: in 2009, Lebanon and Jordan were among the ten countries in the world where remittances made up the highest proportion of GDP, accounting for 22 per cent of the GDP of Lebanon. He also highlighted that many Arab countries were among the most important sources of remittances, noting that Saudi Arabia and Lebanon were important source countries for remittances. He outlined how remittances were often beneficial to countries of origin as they helped alleviate poverty, and that in Egypt they had helped with the balance of payments and activated economic activities. However, he also discussed the potential negative impacts of remittances, such as their role in increasing exchanging rates and inflation, and potentially promoting labour market exit.

22. Mr. Awad then discussed the human and social capital aspects of migration. He presented the different skill profiles of migrants from Arab countries, noting that migrants from the Maghreb countries were predominantly low-skilled, although many highly skilled migrants from those countries were also present in migration flows. He also emphasized the importance of highly skilled migration from Lebanon. He discussed the potential effects of migration on migrants' skills, noting that migrants returning to Egypt showed improvements in their skills after migration, which translated into a wage premium upon their return. He addressed the possibility of their being a brain drain from the Arab region, noting that the phenomenon of highly skilled emigration could be problematic, but could also encourage young people to pursue higher education. The risk of brain drain could be mitigated through the engagement of transnational communities of highly skilled emigrants to assist with the development of their countries of origin. He also noted that there was currently a lack of data on emigration; improving data collection would be beneficial to fully understanding its effects.

23. Mr. Awad concluded by noting that practical, concrete measures could be implemented to improve the development benefits of migration. Among these, he mentioned lowering the cost of sending remittances; tax exemptions to encourage sending remittances; and the need for research on the potential negative effects of remittances. He also highlighted the importance of ensuring the portability of social benefits for migrants, and the need for a system of mutual recognition of skills and qualifications between countries of origin and destination.

24. The floor was given to countries to make statements.

25. The representative of Lebanon commended the meeting, noting that it was very useful as a preparation for the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. He mentioned that migration was now not only for work, but also for investment, and that this represented a means for migrants to assist countries of destination in their development. He also cautioned against placing too much of a burden on migrants, noting that migration could not drive development alone, but only support it. He turned to the situation of Lebanon, and noted that Lebanese emigration was a longstanding phenomenon which was increasingly highly skilled; the problems this posed were to some extent offset by short-term returns by skilled Lebanese emigrants. Emigration had assisted Lebanon's progress in a range of fields including economic, social and cultural development, yielding expertise, social change, new attitudes and support in times of crisis. He stressed the importance of ensuring that Lebanon created an enabling environment for its sons and daughters abroad, and noted the importance of dialogue with diaspora communities, involving skilled migrants in policy-making procedures, enhancing the role of Lebanese consulates abroad and encouraging procedures to ensure the protection of human rights.

26. The representative of Tunisia talked about the complex nature of migration and its impact on a wide range of areas including security, development, rights and cultural exchange. He focused on the need to correct the image of migrants to ensure that it reflected reality, rather than prejudices. He also stressed the

fact that the improvement of the situation of human beings lay at the heart of development, and that the human rights of migrants are an essential consideration. He went on to discuss the situation of migration in Tunisia, where an estimated 10 per cent of the population lives outside the country, of whom 85 per cent are in Europe and 5 per cent are in the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council and Libya. He outlined the changing trends in migration, noting that migration to Europe had shifted from being primarily labour migration to reflect family reunification trends, while North America was the main destination for university graduates. The economic impact of migration on Tunisia was important, with remittances making up 4.2 per cent of the GDP, 90 per cent of the returns from tourism coming from visiting Tunisian emigrants, and businesses run by emigrants employing 48,000 people in Tunisia. Finally, he discussed the measures taken by the Tunisian Government to maximize the benefits of migration, such as establishing a centre for migration studies, incentivizing banks to promote the investment of remittances, and creating a council for expatriates so that they could have their say in policy processes. He concluded by emphasizing the importance of strategies with long-term goals and short- and medium-term objectives and indicators as a means of ensuring success in linking migration and development.

27. The representative of Algeria provided participants with an overview of changes in migration in Algeria, which had moved from being a country of origin for migrants in the 1960's and 1970's on the basis of labour agreements with countries of destination, until the Government had taken the decision to discourage migration to Europe. He noted that 70 per cent of Algerian migrants were in France, and that the skill levels of migrants were increasing. He noted the activities that the Government of Algeria had undertaken to integrate migrants into development, such as seminars and conferences, and the consultations the Government had organized on the human rights of migrants. He concluded by noting that the Governments of countries of the North had restricted migration from the countries of the global South to highly skilled migrants, exacerbating brain drain from these countries.

28. The representative of the Sudan noted the difficulty of developing a common Arab position on migration and development, given the lack of clarity in many countries as to their objectives on migration and development. He noted the lack of data on remittances and how the Sudan could benefit from migration especially in a global context where migrant countries of destination had more control over the process of migration than countries of origin. He also mentioned that the link between highly skilled emigration in the Sudan and development was a negative one, with the health sector suffering from the lack of qualified personnel who instead were working in the United Kingdom and Ireland, and posed the question of how to balance brain drain concerns and the potential benefits such migration could bring. He also mentioned some achievements of the Government of the Sudan in relation to migration, such as its cooperation with the International Labour Organization, its status as one of the few Arab countries to have participated in the migration profile exercise, and its establishment of the Sudanese Centre for Migration and Development Studies.

29. The representative of Iraq focused on the impact of restrictive migration policies on migrants' rights, particularly those of European countries. He stressed the need for Arab cooperation on a normative and legal framework for Arab migration, and to facilitate migrants' ability to invest capital and access finance within the Arab region. He also emphasized the importance of creating an environment which promoted both the voluntary return of Iraqi migrants to their country of origin and the investment of Iraqi expatriates in the Iraqi economy.

30. The representative of Palestine described the specific characteristic of Palestinian migration, namely forced migration as a result of occupation. He described how the creation of Israel and its policies of occupation had led to the flight of Palestinians from the country, leading to more than half of Palestinians being located abroad. He emphasized that development in Palestine required the return of Palestinians and underscored the importance of implementing United Nations General Assembly Resolution 194 on the return of Palestinian refugees. He noted that the contributions of the Palestinian diaspora strengthened the steadfastness of Palestinians and that migration was also improving the skills of the population, but that any attempt to mainstream migration into development strategies was thwarted by the occupying power.

31. The representative of Yemen highlighted the difficulty of reintegrating returning Yemeni migrants into their countries of origin, particularly in the context of the difficult period that the country was currently facing. He also raised the issue of Yemen's role as a country of transit for migrants and refugees from the Horn of Africa, and the associated risks of smuggling and trafficking of human beings. He called for health issues related to migration to be addressed, alongside restrictive legislation that prevented migrants from being involved in development activities.

32. The representative of Morocco focused his intervention on noting the differences between the situation in 2006 and 2013 in relation to migration and development. He stressed that the international context was more developed in terms of the discussions on migration and development as a result of the trust-building activities of the GFMD. As a result, he hoped to see a second step taken, towards a framework on the way forward for migration and development, which would be more than consultative but less than binding. He suggested setting an action plan for the coming years which would continue with consultations, but also focus directly on facilitating migration. He also suggested that it was essential to integrate migration in the post-2015 development agenda, with a particular focus on expanding legal migration opportunities through organizing the migration industry and ensuring that countries of destination protected migrants' rights.

33. The representative of Jordan discussed the need to include conflict as a driver of migration in the Arab region in general, and to Jordan in particular. He noted that Jordan had opened its territories to refugees from Palestine, Iraq and most recently the Syrian Arab Republic, and that this had created difficulties for Jordan in terms of providing services and employment.

34. Further discussions also focused on the need to include the environmental angle of migration in line with the pillars of sustainable development; the need for the GFMD to include Arabic as an official language; the role of the global economic crisis in increasing the difficulties faced by migrants; the need to increase productivity to promote retention of highly skilled citizens; and the future of remittances in the context of second and third generation migrant communities in countries of destination.

#### C. PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS AND IMPROVING CONDITIONS FOR MIGRANT WORKERS

35. The session was chaired by Mr. Ayman Zohry, Adjunct Professor, Centre for Migration and Refugee Studies, American University in Cairo.

36. Ms. Pia Oberoi, Migration Adviser, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), made a presentation on "Migrants' rights within the new dynamics of the Arab region: principles, practices, approaches, and challenges". She outlined the thematic priorities of OHCHR in relation to international migration, then went on to discuss recent developments in the Arab region in relation to migration and human rights, highlighting some positive trends, particularly the potential for increased attention to migrants' rights in the context of transitions to more democratic forms of governance. She noted, however, that concerns remained, such as the lack of access of certain categories of migrants, such as migrant domestic workers, to justice systems.

37. Ms. Oberoi emphasized that human rights are fundamental throughout the migration process, as migrants are human beings with inherent rights. She noted that the rights of migrants were enshrined in human rights conventions that had been voluntarily ratified by States, giving them legal forms and creating obligations on States to uphold these standards. She noted that the International Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of their Families was a part of this family of conventions, but that migrants also have rights under other human rights conventions, which operate under general principles of universality and non-discrimination. She suggested that a human rights focus provided States with a practical guide to implementing activities which focused on reducing vulnerability and promoting empowerment. She noted that the International Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of their Families provided a framework for dealing with migration flows. She re-emphasized that sound migration management should

not focus solely on tightening borders; indeed, she argued that this was bound to fail, and that it was more important to focus on reducing the vulnerability of migrants and bringing them under the protection of the law, in recognition of the fact they were not commodities, but human beings with inalienable rights. She also stressed the importance of including migrants in discussions of their situations and considering migrants rights as both a cross-cutting and specific issue.

38. Mr. Ray Jureidini, Research Consultant at the Qatar Foundation, delivered a presentation focusing on “Practical Steps Towards Improving Migrant Worker Welfare”. He focused on an initiative being undertaken by the Qatar Foundation in an attempt to improve the conditions of migrant workers in construction companies contracted by the Qatar Foundation in the run-up to the 2022 football World Cup. He provided an overview of migration to Qatar, noting the predominance of married Asian males in the migrant population of Qatar. He then outlined the challenges that migration created for Qatar in terms of its infrastructure and international reputation, before considering the challenges faced by migrant workers themselves, such as poor living and working conditions, debt, health issues and restricted mobility.

39. Having identified these challenges, Mr. Jureidini described the response of the Qatar Foundation, which was to create an initiative which expanded from focusing on the housing conditions of migrant workers to becoming a holistic Migrant Workers’ Welfare Initiative, which dealt with the challenges of migration from a migrant’s recruitment to his return to his home country. He mentioned some of the activities the initiative had already undertaken, such as the Migrant Workers’ Welfare Charter, issued in October 2012, and the mandatory standards of Migrant Workers’ Welfare for Contractors and Subcontractors of the Qatar Foundation. He noted that the mandatory standards are very broad in their reach, covering recruitment, employment, accommodation, food, health and safety, and transportation, and that the standards would be enforced by the submission by contractors of welfare adherence plans, regular audits, and company reporting. In particular, he highlighted the issue of payments made by recruitment agencies to employing companies during the recruitment phase, noting that they were at the root of the debt bondage and forced labour problems many migrant workers suffered from. These fees should thus be considered a form of corruption which should be criminalized. He concluded that the charter and mandatory standards of the Qatar Foundation were living documents, which would be added to over time.

40. Mr. Donato Collucci, Immigration and Border Management Specialist at the IOM Regional Office in Cairo, made a presentation on “Addressing the challenges of human trafficking and smuggling and their impact on the region as a source, destination, and transit route”. He presented migration trends in the region before going on to focus on migrants’ vulnerabilities, with a particular focus on the vulnerabilities of migrants undertaking irregular migration through Eastern Africa, and those who were “stranded” in countries of transit, unable to move on to their desired countries of destination.

41. Mr. Collucci presented IOM’s approach to addressing these issues, in particular working with Governments to strengthen their capacities to control their borders, combat the transnational organized crime networks responsible for much of the trafficking and smuggling of migrants, to uphold migrants’ rights and to enhance dialogue and cooperation between countries of origin, destination and transit. He also presented the approach towards direct assistance of IOM, which includes upholding their rights through promoting international human rights standards, fighting xenophobia, providing durable solutions and humane alternatives to deportation, raising awareness on trafficking and ensuring evidence-based policy responses. He provided the specific example of the Migration Coordination Task Force for the Eastern African Migratory Route and North Africa (NOAH), which aims to engage Governments, civil society and local communities in understanding of the mixed migration flows of people in the region, and seeks to protect migrants through promoting the rule of law and dialogue and cooperation between countries.

42. The discussion focused on the need to ensure that human rights are at the core of migration policies. Interventions focused on the need to focus on specific categories of people such as migrant children, elderly migrants and families left behind, and their social and economic rights and the right to family reunification. Participants also discussed the impact of the economic crisis on migrants’ rights, and the need for non-

binding practical and binding legal measures to implement migrants' rights such as the adoption of best practice approaches and guiding principles and the ratification of international conventions, in particular the International Convention to Protect the Rights of Migrants Workers and Members of their Families. There was also a call for the implementation of an observatory to follow up on the rights of migrants in the region.

#### D. THE POTENTIAL ROLES FOR EXPATRIATE COMMUNITIES IN DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND PRACTICE

43. The session was chaired by Mr. Georges Naufal, Assistant Professor of Economics, American University in Sharjah.

44. Ms. Lorena Lando, Chief of Mission, IOM Tunisia, made a presentation on "Mainstreaming Migration into National Development Strategies". She defined the process of mainstreaming as a process for integrating migration issues in a balanced manner into the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in any sphere related to development and poverty reduction, and identified initiatives at the global level to promote this process. She then described the approach undertaken in Tunisia to mainstream migration into its national development strategy. She noted that it was important to identify the relevant actors, such as ministries and international organizations, as well as expatriate communities, and to involve them throughout the mainstreaming process. She noted that in Tunisia they had set up a working group led by the State Secretariat for Migration as a coordinator. This allowed each actor to bring their relevant expertise to the discussion and develop coordinated and coherent responses. The first step of the coordination group was to identify a national plan for migration, before going on to establish institutional mechanisms and processes to support the formulation of a national action plan and ensure its sustainability, before going on to strengthen the capacity of stakeholders to undertake situation analyses and policy formulation on migration and development. The initiative would therefore aim to evaluate the political, institutional and migratory trend situation of Tunisia in relation to migration and development, and consult with stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society, to develop the national action plan on migration and development. The initiative would also be responsible for approving this plan and ensuring its monitoring and evaluation.

45. Ms. Lando presented some findings from the project so far, stressing the importance of the lack of data as a constraint in policymaking; as such, a priority of the project would be to develop a migration observatory. She also noted the importance of networking with the diaspora through Tunisian missions abroad and during Tunisian migrants' annual holidays in Tunisia.

46. Ms. Salwa Karam, Researcher, Lebanese Emigration Research Center, Notre Dame de Louaize University, made a presentation on "Experience in outreach to expatriate communities in Arab countries". She noted that there was a potential for migration to contribute to development through knowledge and skill transfers, though there were also potential losses due to brain drain. She also noted the risks associated with irregular migration. She suggested that it was important to focus on building feelings of citizenship among migrants and to consider ambitious projects to keep Arab citizens in the region. She also mentioned the importance of establishing an Arab labour market to promote circulation of workers between countries, mechanisms to channel remittances for country of origin development, and possibilities for migrants to integrate into countries of destination as potentially beneficial reforms.

47. Mohamed Khachani, General Secretary of the Moroccan Association for Studies and Research on Migration, Université Mohammed V, Morocco gave a presentation entitled "Reintegration of returnees: mitigating labour market challenges and supporting local development". Mr. Khachani reported on field work undertaken in Morocco on the situation of return migrants. He noted that most returnees had a higher level of education than Moroccans who had not migrated. On average they had spent ten years abroad, mostly in traditional countries of destination such as France, Spain and Italy. He noted that there was a difference between those who had returned to retire and younger returnees, pointing to the impact of the economic crisis in Europe as having forced the return of younger Moroccan migrants. This had also affected their employment prospects in Morocco, with one third reporting difficulty in finding a job, despite the fact

that most had been able to improve their education or training while abroad. Although formal programmes of labour market reinsertion existed, very few migrants were aware of these programmes, suggesting a failure to reach out to returnees. Of those returnees who had been able to find work, he noted that most had moved from being employees in countries of destination to becoming employers. However, their skills did not always match the jobs they were able to find. He noted that most respondents reported an improvement in their living standards as a result of their migration, with most migrants having been able to save money from their time abroad and some having been able to benefit from portable social benefits upon their return.

48. Mr. Wael Al-Delaimy, President of the Society for the Advancement of Science and Technology in the Arab World (SASTA) gave a presentation on “The role of Arab expatriate civil society organizations in supporting development efforts in the Arab region: the experience of SASTA”. He described SASTA as a self-managed initiative which aimed to address the problem of lack of scientific research in the Arab region and the brain drain caused by the high level of emigration of Arab scientists through the voluntary engagement of highly skilled Arab expatriates in improving higher education, science and research in the Arab countries. He outlined SASTA’s methodology, which includes maintaining a database of highly skilled members of the diaspora; establishing partnerships with Arab institutions, training students and scientists; helping determine research priorities; and providing advice on and lobbying for the advancement of science in the Arab region.

49. Mr. Al-Delaimy mentioned some of SASTA’s achievements, notably the holding of the first Conference of Arab Expatriate Scientists in 2012 in partnership with the League of Arab States, and some research programmes that were underway in the medical field, investigating the effectiveness of traditional herbal remedies; in the field of information and communication technology improving health prevention and diagnostic technologies; and in the field of meeting alternative energy priority needs in the Arab region. He also noted that these initiatives were welcomed by the League of Arab States, before concluding with a presentation of future initiatives.

50. The discussions saw participants mention additional diaspora outreach initiatives such as the Live Lebanon project and the need to build regional synergies. It was recommended that countries of destination consider the development impacts of their highly skilled migration programmes, and that funding be ensured for migrant development initiatives, so as to maximize their potential to have a transformative impact.

#### E. SUPPORTING MUTUAL DEVELOPMENT GOALS THROUGH INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL LABOUR MOBILITY

51. The session was chaired by Mr. Mohamed Ali Al-Ramadhan, Programme Manager, Private Sector Development, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research.

52. Mr. Luca Fedi, Senior Administrator, International Labour Organization, Cairo, made a presentation on “Labour markets and labour migration in the MENA region”. Mr. Fedi provided an overview of the factors influencing migration to countries in the region, particularly those of the GCC, such as the small population base of these countries, the low level of labour force participation and the role of the *kafala* (sponsorship) system. He also noted that the countries of the Mashreq were major countries of destination for migrants as well as being countries of origin, while North African countries, Yemen and the Syrian Arab Republic were primarily countries of origin.

53. Mr. Fedi noted that migration to the GCC countries was a structural factor in the economies of these countries which was not even affected by the global economic crisis. By contrast, the economies of other Arab countries showed high levels of liquidity, likely to affect immigration, while the lack of social protection and inequalities present in those countries meant that emigration was likely to continue. Looking at the governance of this migration, Mr. Fedi stated the importance of concluding agreements between countries of origin and destination on migrant rights and including migrants in labour codes, with the ultimate aim of creating a regional labour market.

54. Mr. Mohamed Dito, Policy Consultant, Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA), Bahrain, delivered a presentation on “Reforming labour migration systems”. Following the example of Amartya Sen, Mr. Dito suggested that reforms needed to consider who would be affected by them, based on an ethical, person-centred framework that considered the impact of reform on the most disadvantaged people. In relation to migration, Mr. Dito identified migrants and workers of countries of destination as well as employers in countries of destination as people worthy of particular consideration within this framework. Mr. Dito suggested that reforms could be general or specific, focusing for example on workers as a whole or specific sub-sets, such as domestic workers or irregular migrants. He noted that reform also needed to engage different institutions and use varied tools to achieve its objectives across interrelated areas, and thus there was a need to understand the different actions needed to achieve success. Finally, reforms require detailed reasoning to show how they will reach their objectives.

55. Mr. Dito then provided information on the reform initiatives undertaken by countries of the GCC such as the creation of the LMRA in Bahrain in 2006, which had replaced individual sponsors with a single sponsoring institution, and the introduction of the Wage Protection System for workers in the United Arab Emirates, as well as proposals for reform from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. He urged that the underlying principle of reform be to bring benefits to all parties in the migration process, including migrants, and with a special focus on the most vulnerable, but also including employers and workers in countries of destination, as part of broader development initiatives. Concerning the scope of those initiatives, he underscored the need to complement regional initiatives with action-oriented bilateral initiatives. He also recommended assessing the impact of reform on all parties through rigorous evaluation and clearer means of identifying specific groups and mechanisms to ensure that the full range of institutions and mechanisms were used.

56. Mr. Haidar Abchar, Assistant Director-General of the Arab Labour Organization (ALO), made a presentation on “Freedom of movement in the Arab region: challenges and opportunities in current political developments”. He noted that a number of labour mobility agreements existed; however, their implementation was weak, and the political events in certain Arab countries had further held back their implementation, given the prioritization of domestic security across the region.

57. Mr. Abchar called for the application of the decisions related to freedom of movement which had been made during the various Arab summits, and for further studies on labour markets in countries of origin and destination to provide information on matching supply and demand of labour and to advocate for greater regional mobility. Meanwhile, given the current critical situation in relation to employment in the Arab region, Mr. Abchar called on Governments to intensify their efforts in improving employment policies in order to address the youth unemployment at the heart of the protests in the Arab region.

58. The discussion touched on the effect of Israeli occupation on the freedom of movement of Palestinian workers; the need to ensure that immigration does not lead to an increase in national unemployment; the problem of corruption in the recruitment of migrant workers and the need to address this problem at the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development; and the role of the ALO in holding Governments to their commitments. Sub-regional approaches to regional mobility and expatriate engagement were discussed. A call for the creation of a regular forum to promote dialogue between countries of origin and destination in the Arab region garnered broad support, on the model of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue process between Arab countries of destination and Asian countries of origin. The question of reforming the *kafala* system was also raised, as it was noted that this system blocks the mobility of migrant workers and does damage to the image of countries of destination.

#### F. PARTNERSHIPS AND COOPERATION ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AT THE REGIONAL AND GLOBAL LEVELS

59. The session was chaired by Mr. Hassan Yousif, Population Affairs Officer at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

60. Ambassador Eva Åkerman-Börje, Chair of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, Swedish Government Offices, made a presentation on “The Global Forum on Migration and Development: lessons learned for the global debate on migration and development”. She described the work of the GFMD and highlighted its success in improving policies, programmes and practices on migration and development through the sharing of experiences and practices and its role in building trust in an area where cooperation has traditionally been difficult. She identified the voluntary and state-led nature of the Forum as a key to its success, as it allowed Governments to set its agenda and thus promoted a sense of ownership over the issues discussed. She described how the process of gathering interested states into government teams around particular topics allowed them to systematically interact and share experiences with each other as well as non-governmental stakeholders.

61. As a result of those processes, Ambassador Åkerman-Börje noted that States had engaged in constructive dialogue on issues such as labour migration, diaspora communities, remittances, strategies for addressing irregular migration and enabling legal migration, the mainstreaming of migration into national development strategies, means to improve migration data, and the governance and coordination of international migration. This has led to the sharing of legal frameworks and discussions which had gone beyond international rights conventions to include issues such as social protection.

62. Ambassador Åkerman-Börje cautioned that the advances of the Forum could not be taken for granted, especially given the GFMD’s intergovernmental but non-institutional structure, which meant that a constant engagement by all parties in the process was required to ensure its continuation. However, she noted that the current level of satisfaction with stakeholders in the Forum process was high, and that the nature of the Forum meant it was dynamic and evolving and had been able to adapt to tackle new subjects, such as the nexus between climate change and international migration. She concluded by introducing the theme of the Swedish chairmanship of the GFMD as “Unlocking the potential of migration for inclusive development”, which is comprised of three roundtables on policy coherence, migration for inclusive economic development and migration for inclusive social development. This choice was designed to enable a discussion on migration as an enabler for development in light of the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda. It also reflected the desire of the Swedish Government to deepen the development focus of the Forum; increase its dynamism and outreach to new stakeholders, particularly the private sector; and increase its sustainability.

63. Mr. William Gois, Regional Coordinator, Migrant Forum in Asia, delivered a presentation on “Civil society in global migration dialogue processes”. He emphasized that civil society was working for the inclusion of a strong rights-based agenda for migrant workers as an outcome of the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. He described the growing synergies in civil society organization on migration in parallel to ongoing global processes such as the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and GFMD since 2006, including the People’s Global Action on Migration, Development and Human Rights, and the World Social Forum on Migration. He noted the increased willingness to develop joint messages across civil society organizations and to engage. He noted that the key objectives of civil society were to bring the GFMD into the framework of the United Nations, in order for it to work on the basis of operationalizing existing norms and standards; and to move from migration ‘management’ towards migration ‘governance’, an approach which would emphasize transparency, accountability and redress for migrant workers within a framework of social justice. He stressed that migrants were at the centre of the discussion and that discussions on migrants should follow the principle of “nothing in our name without us”.

64. Mr. Gois outlined the action agenda that civil society was developing in preparation for the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development through its own series of regional consultations. The action agenda comprised seven points to be implemented over five years, including:

- (a) Regulating the migrant recruitment industry;
- (b) Addressing the needs of stranded migrants in distress;

- (c) Integrating migration into the post-2015 development agenda;
- (d) Developing mechanisms to guarantee the labour rights of migrant workers on an equal footing with national workers;
- (e) Formulating and implementing policies to address the specific situations of migrant women;
- (f) Promoting the exchange of good practice and implementation of national legislation;
- (g) Redefining the interaction of the international mechanism of migrants' rights protection;
- (h) Engaging diasporas and migrant associations.

65. Mr. Gois noted that the civil society consultations were identifying good practices in these seven areas and developing recommendations.

66. Mr. Gois closed his presentation by mentioning the importance of accountability, as it brought in a rights-based, migrant-focused approach that had previously been lacking. He also noted that civil society's priority was shifting from projects to policies, and that it did not aim to pit migrants against national workers, but rather close gaps in the rights of migrant workers and work towards a world of human security and decent jobs at home.

67. Mr. Samir Farid, Chief Technical Adviser to the Mediterranean Household International Migration Survey (MED-HIMS), gave a presentation on "Regional cooperation for the improvement of migration data in the Arab region". He noted that data were essential for the planning and implementation of migration-related policies, including the demographic, socio-cultural and economic characteristics of migrants and those intending to migrate. He noted that data were also required on factors that control people's attitudes and practices which affect their decision to migrate. At the same time, information on the life circumstances and needs of youth is known to promote better understanding of social, cultural, legal, economic and psychological factors that affect their decision to migrate. However, such data were not generally available in the Arab region.

68. Mr. Farid went on to describe the response of the MED-HIMS project to this problem. He described how the MED-HIMS methodology was designed to deal with the main dimensions of international migration and mobility by the collection of representative multi-topic, multi-level, retrospective and comparative data on out-migration, return migration, forced migration and intention to migrate, and that its strength lay in the use of a common set of model questionnaires, manuals and tools covering the different phases of survey implementation. The programme, operating in Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, the Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia, would enable countries to develop national migration profiles, developing migration policies to address issues such as brain drain, remittance use. It would also assist with international cooperation between countries of destination to develop circular migration schemes. Mr. Farid noted that the survey had already been used in Palestine in 2010, that Egypt and Jordan would implement the survey in 2013, with other countries implementing it between 2014 and 2016.

69. Discussion focused on identifying the impacts of the GFMD on government action, and how it could be developed in the future.

#### G. OUTCOME DOCUMENT DRAFTING

70. The participants discussed and adopted the outcome document attached as annex II.

## II. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

### A. VENUE AND DATE OF THE MEETING

71. The Regional Consultative Meeting on Migration and Development in the Arab Region In preparation of the Second High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development was held at the League of Arab States Headquarters in Cairo from 4-5 June, 2013.

### B. OPENING OF THE MEETING

72. Ambassador Faeqa Al-Saleh, Assistant Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, welcomed the participants on behalf of the League and introduced the objective of the regional consultation, hoping that it would present an addition to the regional consultation efforts on migration. She underlined the importance of the consultation as enabling the countries of the region to contribute to the development of knowledge on the relationship between migration and development, and to the efforts exerted by Arab countries to maximize the benefits of international migration, which represent an entry point for more active participation on the part of Arab countries in specialized international dialogues and forums.

73. Ambassador Al-Saleh went on to describe areas of cooperation between the League and both ESCWA and IOM, and noted the establishment of a Thematic Working Group on International Migration and Development during the Regional Coordination Mechanism meeting held in Beirut on 15 March 2013. The Working Group will be led by the League of Arab States, ESCWA and IOM, and will include various United Nations entities. It was expected to start its work in the last quarter of 2013.

74. Ambassador Al-Saleh highlighted the need to link migration issues to development in the Arab region, to get to know the potential roles that the expatriate communities could play in development planning and implementation, and noted that the League of Arab States works to organize the participation of skilled Arab migrants in the development process in the Arab region and to disseminate related experiences for the benefit of the different Arab countries. To this end, the League held a Conference for Arab expatriate scientists titled “When Arab Minds Integrate” in December 2012, in cooperation with the Society for the Advancement of Science and Technology in the Arab World (SASTA). The Conference concluded with the launch of an Initiative of Arab Expatriate Scientists that was to include projects in the fields of biomedical and health sciences, information and communication technology and alternative sources of energy. The League also planned to hold a conference on skilled migrant health workers in coordination with IOM and WHO in the last quarter of 2013. Ambassador Al-Saleh closed by thanking ESCWA and IOM for their cooperation with the League of Arab States, and hoped that the consultation would result in an outcome document that presented a common vision for the Arab region that all stakeholders would have the will to implement.

75. Mr. Pasquale Lupoli, Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa at IOM, welcomed participants. He noted the uniqueness of the Arab region in terms of migration, with some of the most important countries of origin and destination for migrants in the world. He noted that the contributions these migrants made went beyond remittances to encompass social and economic contributions in countries of origin and destination, particularly during times of hardship like the one currently facing the region.

76. Mr. Lupoli highlighted a workshop IOM had organized with the League of Arab States, which brought together representatives of associations of Arab expatriate health professionals, and which had brought to light the extensive contribution Arab expatriates were making in support of their countries of origin. He described how IOM aimed to build on the work done by these communities to create new opportunities and to serve as a conduit between expatriates and the Governments of the region. He also noted the human rights challenges associated with migration in the region.

77. Mr. Lupoli went on to discuss the importance of the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development for IOM, explaining that IOM had been heavily involved in preparations for the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and would be ready to work with Governments to follow up on initiatives coming out of the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. He concluded by thanking the co-organizers of the meeting, the League of Arab States and ESCWA, noting that the event helped to cement the growing partnership between these organizations. He said he looked forward to cooperating more with them in the future.

78. Mr. Frederico Neto, Director of the Social Development Division of ESCWA, welcomed participants and thanked the League of Arab States and IOM for their willingness to collaborate in the organization of the event. He noted the importance of migration in the Arab region and the potential opportunities and challenges it brought, particularly brain drain, an over-reliance on migrants in countries of destination, and the situation of forced migrants and refugees.

79. Moving to the migration and development agenda, Mr. Neto noted the active role Arab countries had played in regional and global dialogue processes and in undertaking initiatives to reach out to their diasporas abroad. He also discussed how changing political circumstances could lead to a reconsideration of the place of migrants and expatriate communities in the social contracts of the countries concerned.

80. Mr. Neto concluded by noting the timeliness of the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in the context of the discussion of the post-2015 development agenda and the review of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. He described how migration could be an important enabler for human and economic development at individual, community and national levels, and argued that any future development agenda should therefore take migration into account when outlining its goals. Moreover, the impact of these goals on migrants themselves should also be taken into consideration. He called on participants to send a clear message to the world of the importance of integrating migration into future development agendas.

Annex I\*

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

A. ESCWA MEMBER COUNTRIES

Bahrain

Mr. Ali Al Kohaji  
Vice President  
Operations Department  
Labour Market Regulatory Authority  
P.O. Box 18333, Manama  
Tel.: +973-3975 5955  
E-mail: [ali.alkooheji@lmra.gov.bh](mailto:ali.alkooheji@lmra.gov.bh)

Egypt

Ms. Nahed Hassan Al Eshary  
Head of Immigration Affairs and Egyptians  
Abroad  
Ministry of Manpower and Immigration  
Cairo  
Tel.: +0100-994 0761  
Fax: +3335 332  
E-mail: [drnhh@yahoo.com](mailto:drnhh@yahoo.com)

Mr. Mohamed Shokry  
Researcher  
Ministry of Manpower and Immigration  
Cairo  
Tel.: +0111-246 4626  
E-mail: [Mohamed.shokry@hotmail.com](mailto:Mohamed.shokry@hotmail.com)

Mr. Mohamed El Fishawy  
Researcher  
Ministry of Manpower and Immigration  
Cairo  
Tel.: +011150-50166  
E-mail: [m\\_el\\_fishawy@hotmail.com](mailto:m_el_fishawy@hotmail.com)

Iraq

Mr. Sattar Nawrooz Khan  
Deputy Director General  
Department of Immigration  
Ministry of Displacement and Migration  
Baghdad  
Tel.: +964-770 1777 802/7901559893  
E-mail: [nowroz57@yahoo.com](mailto:nowroz57@yahoo.com)

Mr. Sabah Sultan Saleh  
Legal Rights  
Ministry of Displacement and Migration  
Baghdad  
Tel.: +964-7701-714 697  
E-mail: [sba\\_su80@yahoo.com](mailto:sba_su80@yahoo.com)

Ms. Zeena Al Khatib  
Second Secretary  
Permanent Mission to League of Arab States  
Cairo, Egypt  
Tel.: +0114-110 9904  
E-mail: [zeena722003@yahoo.com](mailto:zeena722003@yahoo.com)

Jordan

Mr. Rasem Hashem  
Ambassador  
Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs  
and Expatriates  
Amman  
Tel.: +962-6-571 2529  
Fax: +962-6-571 2529  
E-mail: [rasem.h@fm.gov.jo](mailto:rasem.h@fm.gov.jo)

Mr. Mutasem Al-Basheer  
Third Secretary  
Permanent Mission to League of Arab States  
Cairo, Egypt  
Tel.: +01281-888 887  
E-mail: [mutasem.b@fm.gov.jo](mailto:mutasem.b@fm.gov.jo)

Kuwait

Mr. Abdulla Al-Ragib  
General Directorate for Immigration Investigation  
Ministry of Interior  
Kuwait

Mr. Eissa Al-Zayadi  
General Directorate for Immigration Investigation  
Ministry of Interior  
Kuwait

---

\* Issued as submitted.

### Lebanon

Mr. Haitham Juma  
Director General  
General Directorate of Migrants  
Beirut  
Tel.: +961-1-333 100/840 921  
Fax: +961-1-840 924  
E-mail: [director@emigrants.gov.lb](mailto:director@emigrants.gov.lb)

### Libya

Mr. Ayyad Al Tayyari  
Advisor  
Permanent Mission to League of Arab States  
Cairo, Egypt  
Tel.: +3762 3809  
E-mail: [libyaldelegation-eg@hotmail.com](mailto:libyaldelegation-eg@hotmail.com)

### Morocco

Mr. Jaafar Debbarh  
Director of Cooperation, Studies and Prospectives  
Ministry Delegate to the Prime Minister in Charge  
of Moroccans Residing Abroad  
63, Rue Oum Rabiaa Agdal, Rabat  
Tel.: +212-537-682 044  
Fax: +212-537-682 044  
E-mail: [j.debbarh@mcmre.gov.ma](mailto:j.debbarh@mcmre.gov.ma)

### Oman

Ms. Nuha Al Harthia  
Deputy Director of Statistics  
Directorate General of Planning and Development  
Muscat  
Tel.: +968-9903 9296  
Fax: +968-2434 5115  
E-mail: [nuha226@hotmail.com](mailto:nuha226@hotmail.com)

Mr. Seif Al Bulushi  
Deputy Director of the Department of  
International Organizations and External  
Relations  
Muscat  
Tel.: +968-9555 5933  
Fax: +968-2434 5115  
E-mail: [io-dept@manpower.gov.om](mailto:io-dept@manpower.gov.om)

### Palestine

Mr. Ali Abu Hilal  
Director General  
Expatriates Affairs Dept.  
Ramallah  
Tel.: +9722-294 7482  
Fax: 9722-294 7483  
E-mail: [ali.pead@gmail.com](mailto:ali.pead@gmail.com)

Ms. Jumana Al Ghouli  
First Secretary  
Permanent Mission to League of Arab States  
Cairo, Egypt  
Tel.: +01091661111  
E-mail: [Jumanaalghoul@hotmail.com](mailto:Jumanaalghoul@hotmail.com)

### Qatar

Mr. Abdalla Al Hammadi  
Director of Technical Office  
Permanent Population Committee  
General Secretariat for Development Planning  
P.O. Box 1885, Doha  
Tel.: +974-558 33191  
Fax: +974-4483 6109  
E-mail: [aalhamadia@gmdp.gov.qa](mailto:aalhamadia@gmdp.gov.qa)

Ms. Khawla Al-Abdullah  
Population Researcher  
Permanent Population Committee  
General Secretariat for Development Planning  
P.O. Box 1885, Doha  
Tel.: +974-4495 8657  
Fax: +974-4483 6109  
E-mail: [kabdulla@gmdp.gov.qa](mailto:kabdulla@gmdp.gov.qa)

### The Sudan

Mr. Karar El Tohami  
Secretary General  
Secretariat of Sudanese Working Abroad  
Khartoum  
Tel.: +249-912 353 587  
Fax: +249-183 428 419f  
E-mail: [altohami@hotmail.com](mailto:altohami@hotmail.com)

Mr. Hasan Babiker Ahmed  
Director General of Immigration, Organizations  
and Communities  
Secretariat of Sudanese Working Abroad  
Khartoum  
Tel.: +249-9123 93175  
Fax: +249-183-428 414  
E-mail: [hasscob@hotmail.com](mailto:hasscob@hotmail.com)

The Sudan (continued)

Mr. Mohamed Osman  
Head of International Activities and Conferences  
Secretariat of Sudanese Working Abroad  
Khartoum  
Tel.: +249-9122 75043  
E-mail: [muataz200@hotmail.com](mailto:muataz200@hotmail.com)

Tunisia

Mr. Khalil Amiri  
Chief, Advisor  
Secretariat of the State for Migration and  
Tunisians Abroad  
27 Bab Bnet Str., P.O. Box 1006, Tunis  
Tel.: +216-71-150 169  
Fax: +216-71-566 944  
E-mail: [khalil.amiri@gmail.com](mailto:khalil.amiri@gmail.com)  
[khalil.amiri@rnas.gov.tn](mailto:khalil.amiri@rnas.gov.tn)

Mr. Samir Messelmani  
Central Director  
Office for Migration and Tunisians Abroad  
Rue Bassrah, Cite Erriadh, Kelibia 8090  
Tunis  
Tel.: +216-5216 1681  
Fax: +216-7134 3726  
E-mail: [sames2010@hotmail.fr](mailto:sames2010@hotmail.fr)

Mr. Masmoudi Belhassen  
Head of Department  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Av. De la Ligue de Etats Arabs  
Tunis  
Tel.: +216-98-218 786  
Fax: +216-71-785 980  
E-mail: [bmasmoudi@bluewin.ch](mailto:bmasmoudi@bluewin.ch)

United Arab Emirates

Ms. Rasha Assem Abdel Haq  
International Organizations Expert  
Ministry of Labor  
Dubai  
Tel.: +971-4-702 3407  
E-mail: [Ra.saleh@mol.gov.ae](mailto:Ra.saleh@mol.gov.ae)

Mr. Ali Al Shamili  
Third Secretary  
Permanent Mission to League of Arab States  
Cairo, Egypt  
Tel.: +011-2222 2262  
E-mail: [a\\_alshemali@mofa.gov.ae](mailto:a_alshemali@mofa.gov.ae)

Yemen

Mr. AbdulKader Hamam  
Assistant Under-Secretary  
Expatriate Affairs Ministry for Diaspora  
Ministry of Expatriate Affairs  
Sana'a  
Tel.: +967-771 705 171  
Fax: +967-400 710  
E-mail: [ak.ahamam@gmail.com](mailto:ak.ahamam@gmail.com)

Ms. Eshraq Hammad  
Second Secretary  
Permanent Mission to League of Arab States  
Cairo, Egypt  
Tel.: +01011205575  
E-mail: [ishmd2000@yahoo.com](mailto:ishmd2000@yahoo.com)

B. STATES MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS NOT MEMBERS OF ESCWA

Algeria

Mr. Ahmed Djellal  
Office of the Secretary of State for the  
Nationals Abroad  
Algeria  
Tel.: +213-56-1382139  
Fax: +213-2150 4411  
E-mail: [ahmdj09@yahoo.com](mailto:ahmdj09@yahoo.com)  
[a.djellal@mae.alg](mailto:a.djellal@mae.alg)

Ms. Lilia Ferial Dali  
Diplomatic Secretary  
Embassy of Algeria  
Cairo, Egypt  
Tel.: +010-122 76796  
E-mail: [roumaniferial@yahoo.fr](mailto:roumaniferial@yahoo.fr)

C. UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS, PROGRAMMES AND AGENCIES

United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)

Ms. Francesca Perucci  
Chief, Demographic Analysis Branch  
Population Division  
2 UN Plaza, NY 10017  
New York, United States.  
Tel.: +212-963 0212  
E-mail: [perucci@un.org](mailto:perucci@un.org)

Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Mr. Hassan Yousif  
Population Affairs Officer  
Human and Social Development Section  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Tel.: +251-11-544 5178  
Fax: +251-11-551 2785  
E-mail: [HYoussif@uneca.org](mailto:HYoussif@uneca.org)

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

Mr. Renu Chahil-Graf  
Director  
Regional Support Team for the Middle East and North Africa  
Cairo, Egypt  
E-mail: [chahilgrafr@unaids.org](mailto:chahilgrafr@unaids.org)

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Mr. Abdallah Zoubi  
Population and Development Adviser  
Cairo, Egypt  
Tel.: +201-6663 6429  
Fax: +202-227 65403  
E-mail: [zoubi@unfpa.org](mailto:zoubi@unfpa.org)

Mr. Kharoufi Mostafa  
Policy Adviser  
Arab States Regional Office  
31 Palestine Street, New Maadi  
Cairo, Egypt  
Tel.: +202-706 7040  
Fax: +202-2517 4434  
E-mail: [mkhroui@unfpa.org](mailto:mkhroui@unfpa.org)

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Mr. Renauld Detalle  
Acting Regional Representative  
Beirut, Lebanon  
E-mail: [rdetalle@ohchr.org](mailto:rdetalle@ohchr.org)

Ms. Pia Oberoi  
Migration Advisor  
Avenue Giuseppe Motta, 48  
1202 Geneva, Switzerland  
Tel.: +41-22-928 9436  
Fax: +41-22-928 9010  
E-mail: [poberoi@ohchr.org](mailto:poberoi@ohchr.org)

Mr. Zane Preston  
Intern  
7 Golf Street, Postal No. 11431, Maadi  
Cairo, Egypt  
Tel.: +202-23591521  
Fax: +202-23591656  
E-mail: [zane.preston@unodc.org](mailto:zane.preston@unodc.org)

UN Women

Ms. Rana Korayem  
Programme Associate  
7 Golf Street, Maadi  
Cairo, Egypt  
Tel.: +01013333755  
E-mail: [rana.korayem@unwomen.org](mailto:rana.korayem@unwomen.org)  
[rana.gkorayem@gmail.com](mailto:rana.gkorayem@gmail.com)

International Labour Organization (ILO)

Mr. Luca Fedi  
Senior Administrator  
Cairo, Egypt  
E-mail: [Fedi@ilo.org](mailto:Fedi@ilo.org)

#### D. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

##### Secretariat for the Swedish Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)

Ambassador Eva Åkerman Börje  
Ambassador  
GFMD – Swedish Government  
Malmtorgsgatan 3  
10339 Stockholm, Sweden  
Tel.: +46-70-525 1488  
E-mail: [eva.akerman-borje@gov.se](mailto:eva.akerman-borje@gov.se)

#### E. REGIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

##### Arab Labor Organization (ALO)

Mr. Heidar Abshar  
Assistant Director General  
Cairo, Egypt  
Tel.: +202-0233362719

Mr. Moustaf Abd El Satar  
Head of Labor Migrants Unit  
Cairo, Egypt  
Tel.: +202-0233362719

#### F. EXPERTS

Mr. Ibrahim Awad  
Professor of Public Policies  
The American University in Cairo  
AUC Avenue, P.O. Box 74  
New Cairo 11835  
Cairo, Egypt  
Tel.: +202-2615 1398  
Fax: +202-2795 7565  
E-mail: [iawad@aucegypt.edu](mailto:iawad@aucegypt.edu)

Mr. Ashley William Gois  
Regional Coordinator  
Migrant Forum in Asia  
23 Malugay St. – Pilat Village  
Las Pinas City, Metro Manila  
Philippines  
Tel.: +63920-960 0916  
Fax: +632-4333 508  
E-mail: [mfa@mfasia.org](mailto:mfa@mfasia.org)

Mr. Mohamed Dito  
Policy Consultant  
Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA)  
P.O. Box 18333  
Manama, Bahrain  
Tel.: +973-396 44065  
Fax: +973-17-552 648  
E-mail: [ditomohammednew@gmail.com](mailto:ditomohammednew@gmail.com)

Mr. Rajai Ray Jureidini  
Qatar Foundation  
Doha, Qatar  
Tel.: +974-6686 2439  
E-mail: [ray.jureidini@gmail.com](mailto:ray.jureidini@gmail.com)  
[rjureidini@qf.org.qa](mailto:rjureidini@qf.org.qa)

Mr. Samir Farid  
Chief Technical Advisor  
Mediterranean Household International Migration  
Survey Programme (MED-HIMS)  
P.O. Box 10 Brocas Close  
London NW3 3LD  
United Kingdom  
Tel.: +44-20-7586 7180  
Fax: +44-20-7813 0696  
E-mail: [samirfarid@hotmail.com](mailto:samirfarid@hotmail.com)

Ms. Salwa Karam  
Dr. State and a Sociology Researcher  
Lebanese Diaspora Studies Center (LERC)  
University of Notre Dame (NDU)  
Furn El Chebbak, Freres Str., Saliba Bldg.  
Beirut, Lebanon  
Tel.: +961-1-384 397  
E-mail: [salwa-c-karam@hotmail.com](mailto:salwa-c-karam@hotmail.com)

Mr. Mohamed Khachani  
General Secretary  
Moroccan Association of Studies and  
Researchers on Migration  
P.O. Box 8057 Rabat United Nations 10100  
Rabat, Morocco  
Tel.: +212-661 400 287  
Fax: +212-537 713 450  
E-mail: [mohamedkhachani@gmail.com](mailto:mohamedkhachani@gmail.com)

Mr. George Naufal  
Assistant Professor of Economics  
American University of Sharjah (AUS)  
P.O. Box 26666  
Sharjah, UAE  
Tel.: +971-6-515 2369  
Fax: +971-6-558 5065  
E-mail: [gnaufal@aus.edu](mailto:gnaufal@aus.edu)

Ms. Heba Nassar  
Professor of Economics  
American University in Cairo  
Cairo, Egypt  
Tel.: +20-1-221 83876  
Fax: +202-38507984  
E-mail: [hebanas@aucegypt.edu](mailto:hebanas@aucegypt.edu)

Mr. Muhammad Al-Ramadhan  
Program Manager  
Private Sector Department  
Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research  
P.O. Box 24885-13109 Safat  
Kuwait  
Tel.: +965-249 89474  
Fax: +965-249 89499  
E-mail: [mrmadhan@kisir.edu.kw](mailto:mrmadhan@kisir.edu.kw)

Mr. Ayman Zohry  
Expert on Migration Studies  
P.O. Box 30  
El-Malek El-Saleh  
Cairo, Egypt  
Tel.: +2010-279 7171  
Fax: +202-3536 5865  
E-mail: [azohry@zohry.com](mailto:azohry@zohry.com)

Mr. Wael El-Delaimy  
Society of Advancement of Science and  
Technology in the Arab World (SASTA)  
P.O. Box 17404  
San Diego, U.S.A.  
Tel.: +1-858-822 6515  
E-mail: [wael@ucsd.edu](mailto:wael@ucsd.edu)

Mr. Abdel Mawla El Solh  
Regional Representative to the Middle East  
International Center for Migration Policy  
Development (ICMPD)  
P.O. Box 881  
Saida, Lebanon  
Mobile: +961-3-722717  
Fax: +961-7-722717  
E-mail: [amelsoh@yahoo.com](mailto:amelsoh@yahoo.com)

## G. ORGANIZERS

### League of Arab States

Ambassador Faeqa Al-Saleh  
Ambassador  
Assistant Secretary-General  
Cairo, Egypt  
Tel.: +202-750 511  
Fax: +202-2773 5559  
E-mail: [aemigrant.dept@las.int](mailto:aemigrant.dept@las.int)

Ms. Enas El Fergany  
Director  
Migration and Arab Expatriates Department  
Cairo, Egypt  
Tel.: +202-750 511  
Fax: +202-2773 5559  
E-mail: [aemigrant.dept@las.int](mailto:aemigrant.dept@las.int)

Ms. Lubna Azzam  
Migration and Arab Expatriates Department  
Cairo, Egypt  
Tel.: +202-750 511  
Fax: +202-2773 5559  
E-mail: [aemigrant.dept@las.int](mailto:aemigrant.dept@las.int)

Ms. Amina El-Sheibany  
Migration and Arab Expatriates Department  
Cairo, Egypt  
Tel.: +202-750 511  
Fax: +202-2773 5559  
E-mail: [aemigrant.dept@las.int](mailto:aemigrant.dept@las.int)

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Mr. Pasquale Lupoli  
Director  
MENA Regional Office  
Cairo, Egypt  
Tel.: +202-2736 5140  
E-mail: [plupoli@iom.int](mailto:plupoli@iom.int)

Mr. Michael Newson  
Regional Labour Migration/Migration and  
Development Specialist  
MENA Regional Office  
47C, Abou El-Feda Street, Zamalek  
Cairo, Egypt  
Tel.: +202-2736 5140 ext. 310  
E-mail: [mnewson@iom.int](mailto:mnewson@iom.int)

Mr. Donato Colucci  
Immigration & Border Management Specialist  
MENA Regional Office  
Cairo, Egypt  
Tel.: +2736 5140  
E-mail: [dcolucci@iom.int](mailto:dcolucci@iom.int)

Mr. Mathieu Luciano  
Regional Liaison and Policy Officer  
MENA Regional Office  
Cairo, Egypt  
Tel.: +2010-162 55500  
E-mail: [mluciano@iom.int](mailto:mluciano@iom.int)

Mr. Harry Cook  
MENA Regional Office  
Cairo, Egypt  
Tel.: +2736 5140  
E-mail: [hcook@iom.int](mailto:hcook@iom.int)

Ms. Lorena Lando  
Chief of Mission  
6, Passage du Lac Le Bourget  
BP 77 – 1053 Les Berges du Lac  
Tunis, Tunisia  
Tel.: +216-71 860 312/71 960 313  
Fax: +216-71 962 385  
E-mail: [LLANDO@iom.int](mailto:LLANDO@iom.int)

Ms. Karoline Popp  
Migration Policy Officer  
17, route des Morillons, 1211 Geneva  
Switzerland  
Tel.: +41-22-717 9402  
E-mail: [kpopp@iom.int](mailto:kpopp@iom.int)

Ms. Lara Fakhoury  
Programme Support Officer  
MENA Regional Office  
47 Abu Al Feda Str., Zamalek  
Cairo, Egypt  
Mobile: +010-162-55502  
E-mail: [lafakhoury@iom.int](mailto:lafakhoury@iom.int)

Ms. Sara Sadek  
MENA Regional Office  
47 Abu Al Feda Str., Zamalek  
Cairo, Egypt  
Tel.: +202-2736 5140  
E-mail: [ssadek@iom.int](mailto:ssadek@iom.int).

Economic and Social Commission for  
Western Asia (ESCWA)

Mr. Frederico Neto  
Director  
Social Development Division  
P.O. Box 11-8575, Riad El-Solh  
Beirut, Lebanon  
Tel.: +961-1-978 417  
Fax: +961-1-981 510  
E-mail: [neto2@un.org](mailto:neto2@un.org)

Ms. Karima El-Korri  
Chief  
Population and Social Development Section  
Social Development Division  
P.O. Box 11-8575, Riad El-Solh  
Beirut, Lebanon  
Tel.: +961-1-978 408  
Fax: +961-1-981 510  
E-mail: [elkorri@un.org](mailto:elkorri@un.org)

Mr. Khaled Hussien  
Head, Globalization and Financing for  
Development Unit  
Economic Development and Globalization  
Division  
P.O. Box 11-8575, Riad El-Solh  
Beirut, Lebanon.  
Tel.: +961-1-978 461  
Fax: +961-1-981 510  
E-mail: [husseink@un.org](mailto:husseink@un.org)

Economic and Social Commission for  
Western Asia (ESCWA) (continued)

Mr. Paul Tacon  
Associate Social Affairs Officer  
Population and Social Development Section  
Social Development Division  
P.O. Box 11-8575, Riad El-Solh  
Beirut, Lebanon  
Tel.: +961-1-978 423  
Fax: +961-1-981 510  
E-mail: [tacon@un.org](mailto:tacon@un.org)

Mr. Jose Antonio Pedrosa Garcia  
Economic Affairs Officer  
Globalization and Financing for Development  
Unit  
Economic Development and Globalization  
Division  
P.O. Box 11-8575, Riad El-Solh  
Beirut, Lebanon.  
Tel.: +961-1-978 428  
Fax: +961-1-981 510  
E-mail: [pedrosagarcia@un.org](mailto:pedrosagarcia@un.org)

Ms. Therese Breir  
Administrative Assistance  
Population and Social Development Section  
Social Development Division  
P.O. Box 11-8575, Riad El-Solh  
Beirut, Lebanon  
Tel.: +961-1-978 813  
Fax: +961-1-981 510  
E-mail: [massaad@un.org](mailto:massaad@un.org)

## Annex II

### **REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE ARAB REGION**

*In preparation of the second High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development*

Final Declaration  
League of Arab States Headquarters,  
Cairo, 4-5 June 2013

#### **Final Declaration**

The official representatives of authorities in charge of migration, expatriates affairs and communities living abroad and authorities in charge of labour in Arab countries as well as representatives of regional, international and Arab organizations, civil society organizations and experts participating in the “Regional Consultative meeting on International Migration and Development in the Arab Region”, organized by: the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States (Migration and Arab Expatriates Department), the Economic and Social Commission of Western Asia (ESCWA), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) at the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States in Cairo on 4-5/6/2013, within the framework of preparations for the Second High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development which will be held at the United Nations General Assembly in October 2013:

- *Recalling* the outcome of the First High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development held in 2006, the meetings of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, the International Conference on Population and Development, the Arab Declaration on International Labour Migration issued in 2006, the Recommendations of the first and second Arab Ministerial meetings on Migration and Expatriates Affairs held in 2008 and 2009 respectively and the Declaration of the First Arab Expatriates meeting held in 2010;
- *Recognizing* the importance of Arab coordination in relevant international forums on Migration and Development, foremost among which are the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and the Global Forum on Migration and Development;
- *Affirming* that issues of migration as well as the status and rights of migrants are not only important social, economic and humanitarian matters of concern to Arab countries but they also have political implications at the regional and international levels;
- *Recognizing* the regular increase in the number of refugees and displaced persons in some countries in the Arab region;
- *Aiming* to reinforce the positive aspects of Arab migration and to reduce its negative impacts on the process of development in the Arab countries including scientific and technological development;
- *Recognizing* the negative impacts of Arab brain drain on development efforts in Arab countries, including achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and post-2015 Development Agenda;
- *Affirming* the important role of Arab civil society organizations in the countries of destination in improving the general status of Arab communities including cultural, social, political and economic aspects;
- *Having considered* the presentations made and listened to the ideas and proposals of the participants, and to interventions and discussions that took place over the two-day meeting.

Recommend the following:

## **I. INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES IN THE ARAB REGION**

1. *Affirming* the importance of the phenomenon of migration in the Arab Region with regard to its magnitude and various forms including temporary and long-term migration, forced migration as a result of political conflicts and Israeli occupation of Arab territories. International migration in the Arab world includes both male and female migrants as well as members of their families whom are affected by their migration.
2. *Affirming* that international migration from, to and within the Arab region constitute one of the prime factors driving social and economic development in the regions.
3. *Affirming* that migration from, to and within the Arab region, in addition to return migration is one of the important factors of sustainable development in the countries of origin and countries of destination.
4. *Affirming* that migrants from, to and within the Arab region contribute to socioeconomic development efforts in the Arab region through:
  - (a) Their skills and efficiency;
  - (b) Their work, which provides labour needed in the labour markets of countries of destination;
  - (c) Their remittances, which help in raising the standard of living of migrant's families in their countries of origin and in creating job opportunities therein;
  - (d) Strengthening the bonds of friendship between countries of origin and countries of destination through migrant communities.
5. *Affirming* that the increasing numbers of forced migrants from some Arab countries is a burden on development plans, which requires concerted international efforts to address the strain on host countries.
6. *Affirming* that international migration is an important factor towards regional cooperation and integration and a means for the Arab world to integrate into the global economic system.
7. *Valuing* the progress achieved by Arab countries as a result of their participation in bilateral, regional and international dialogues as well as through Arab and international cooperation in the field of international migration in addition to the formulation of policies and programmes to strengthen the relationship between migration and development. This is also achieved through the introduction of a number of reforms into the labour market and regulations related to migration systems at the country level.
8. Meanwhile the participants recognize the challenges that face the Arab world in the field of migration, foremost among which are:
  - (a) Structural imbalances in labour market systems in some of the labour receiving countries which lead to intensive dependence on low skilled labour of low productivity in some economic sectors;
  - (b) Weak relations between some countries of origin and their migrant communities;
  - (c) Insufficient participation of civil society organizations in the formulation and implementation of policies and programs related to migration and development;
  - (d) The growing phenomenon of irregular migration to and from the Arab region which exposes migrants to risks, exploitation and abuse and in some cases to human trafficking;

(e) The growing number of refugees and displaced persons due to the circumstances that some Arab countries are experiencing;

(f) The unavailability of comparative studies and accurate data and information on international migration and its impact on development;

(g) Weak integrated policies to mainstream migration into development policies with a view to maximizing the benefits of international migration and reducing its negative impacts, specially directing the mobility of human resources.

## **II. PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF LIVING CONDITIONS OF MIGRANT WORKERS**

9. *Emphasizing* the principle of joint responsibility between countries of origin and countries of destination and the adoption of comprehensive and balanced approaches for the protection of the rights of migrants and members of their families as well as the assimilation of return migrants.

10. *Recognizing* the growing phenomenon of xenophobia, the participants emphasize the need to protect migrants' rights according to regional and international conventions and to avert them from political agendas and racist practices.

11. *Shedding* light on the vulnerable and marginalized migrant groups and to raise awareness with regard to women and children through launching rights-awareness programs.

12. *Calling on* countries of destination to facilitate the process of family reunification and to grant them their legal protection.

13. *Urging* countries of destination to formulate and develop appropriate policies for the integration of migrants with a view to achieving social harmony and safeguarding their linguistic, cultural and religious rights as well as ensuring their right to practice them.

14. *Taking* necessary measures to ensure the protection of the rights of migrant workers by introducing legislative reforms that comply with international conventions and treaties.

15. *Supporting* combating irregular migration, smuggling of migrants, human trafficking and preventing criminal networks through raising awareness of the dangers of these phenomena in addition to enacting and enforcing necessary laws.

16. *Emphasizing* the need to protect migrants and their rights during crises.

17. *Calling on* Arab countries to take into consideration the rights of migrants to and from these countries when drafting legislation.

18. *Emphasizing* the importance of coordination at the regional and international levels when offering assistance to refugees, particularly Palestinian refugees whose affliction is exacerbated under Israeli occupation, and emphasizing their right to repatriation according to United Nations Resolution No. 194 because there could be no development in Palestine without the repatriation of its citizens.

## **III. PROMOTING THE ROLE OF MIGRANT COMMUNITIES IN DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND PRACTICE**

19. *Reaffirming* that qualified Arabs abroad are a national and international resource which should be given attention, support and a distinct status among the strategic development alternatives of Arab countries.

20. *Emphasizing* the need to integrate migration into national development plans in countries of origin and countries of destination; in addition to drawing up programmes to involve qualified Arab migrants in the development process of the Arab world through the transfer of their expertise, development of partnerships and communication networks between them and their counterparts in the Arab region; help them in accessing better information on job opportunities and investment in the region by making good use of modern means of communication and technology.
21. *Encouraging* initiatives launched by countries and regional and international organizations to communicate with expatriate communities with a view to promote development efforts in countries of origin.
22. *Encouraging* individual initiatives launched by some Arab migrants to benefit their countries of origin and to help them to achieve development and progress in different fields, whether through their remittances, investing in their countries of origin, or by transferring the knowledge they acquired in different fields.
23. *Emphasizing* the need to facilitate the transfer of remittances, reduce the cost of these transfers, and provide appropriate conditions to maximize the benefits of these remittances to accelerate socio-economic development efforts in the countries of origin and protect them from political pressures.
24. *Emphasizing* the need to involve key figures of migrant Arab communities and Arab migrant youth in activities related to the dialogue of cultures and religions which promote their role as a bridge for cultural and economic interaction between Arab countries and countries of destination.
25. *Launching* a serious dialogue on migration and development between communities, countries of origin and countries of destination.

#### **IV. SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT GOALS THROUGH REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LABOUR MOBILITY**

26. *Emphasizing* that migration from Arab countries is often motivated by economic reasons, with poverty and unemployment ranking high on the list. Therefore, achieving the Millennium Development Goals will affect migration from Arab countries, particularly with regard to skilled migrants. This will, in turn, reduce the brain drain from which the Arab region suffers.
27. *Recognizing that*, on the other hand, remittances of migrants will contribute positively to the development process through improving the living conditions of migrants' families, their health conditions, education and empowerment of women. Hence, an integrated system should be developed to direct remittances and invest them in social and economic development and to measure their impact on the development process.
28. *Integrating* migration into development strategies at the national, regional and international levels. This includes strategies to alleviate poverty, provide universal education, public service sectors and social justice measures.
29. *Emphasizing* the important role of migrant workers in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.
30. *Taking* necessary measures to guarantee regular and safe migration while giving priority to the training and rehabilitation of migrant workers through cooperation between the governments of countries of origin and countries of destination and civil society organizations.
31. *Emphasizing* the importance of including migration in the United Nations post-2015 development agenda, as well as in the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 since it is closely related to the three pillars (economic, social and development), of sustainable development and is one of the factors that affect population dynamics.

## V. PARTNERSHIP AND COOPERATION IN INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AT THE REGIONAL AND GLOBAL LEVELS

32. *Emphasizing* the importance of the role of cooperation and partnership between international and regional organizations and authorities in charge of international migration in the Arab region in the field of migration and development.
33. *Valuing* the establishment of a “Working Group on International Migration in the Arab Region” by the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States, ESCWA and the International Organization for Migration under their joint Chairmanship and with the membership of concerned organizations, with the aim of promoting coordination mechanisms, exchanging information on migration in addition to developing programmes, projects, activities and ideas related to international migration and development in the Arab region.
34. *Recognizing* the importance of Regional Consultative Processes on Migration (RCPs) in circulating information, best practices and lessons learned on migration, and given that they have proved their value in promoting collective responses and experience-sharing to confront migration challenges.
35. *Taking* into consideration the regional specificities of each geographic area with regard to needs, requirements and migration related challenges.
36. *Emphasizing* the role of countries of destination in supporting development programs in countries of origin through their communities and through direct contributions in the re-integration and settlement of return migrants in their countries.
37. *Encouraging* countries of origin and destination to sign joint agreements.
38. *Promoting* joint international cooperation to establish a system for recruiting workers within the framework of migration.
39. *Emphasizing* the importance of conducting research that aims to provide accessible accurate and up-to-date data on the reasons, motives, determinants and implications of international migration in the Arab region. These studies should cover the current, returning, forced and potential migration and its impacts on development, as well as strengthening the role of research centres on migration, improving them and establishing a network across the Arab region.
40. *Emphasizing* the importance of establishing a Regional Consultative Process on Migration in the Arab region within the framework of the League of Arab States.
41. *Welcoming* holding the Second High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and confirming the participation of the Arab countries in the dialogue and its proceedings in order to reach a consensus to promote the contribution of migration to development and reduce its negative impacts on countries of origin and countries of destination, as well as the migrants themselves. And affirming the importance of continuing to prepare for the High-level Dialogue by establishing a follow-up and coordination committee within the framework of the League of Arab States.
42. *Emphasizing* the need to incorporate the Arabic language as one of the accredited languages in the Global Forum on Migration and Development.
43. *Emphasizing* the keenness of Arab countries to participate in the regional and international events related to international migration and development as well as international cooperation at all levels.