



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Organisation internationale pour les migrations (OIM)
Organización Internacional para las Migraciones (OIM)



19th Meeting of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM)

26-27 November 2013

League of Arab States, Cairo, Egypt

Thematic Working Group on International Migration in the Arab region

Objectives/Functions:

- The goal of the Regional Working Group is to coordinate the complementary efforts of actors working on migration issues in the Arab region and promote joint research and interventions. It will examine the links between migration and development; ensure systematic production and access to quality migration data; support the development and implementation of Government policies and programmes that maximize the benefits and minimize the adverse impacts of migration in a more coherent way; and promote dialogue between countries of the region to find mutually beneficial solutions to migration challenges. Recognizing that women migrants face specific risks, the working group will devote special attention to gender perspectives, cultural diversity, human rights and the rule of law.
- The functions of the Regional Working Group include: (i) Information sharing; (ii) Establishing priority areas for cooperation and potential joint programmatic responses; (iii) Dissemination of innovative/good practices and lessons; and (iv) Others: Encouraging broad participation and commitment of participating sectors and other stakeholders, including migrants; and promoting data production, research and information management among migration policy makers in the region.



Coordination Activities in 2013:

- The member agencies of the Working Group contributed to the "Regional Consultative meeting on International Migration and Development in the Arab Region" organized by ESCWA, IOM and LAS at the headquarters of the League of Arab States in Cairo on 4-5 June 2013, in preparation of the second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development which was held at the United Nations General Assembly in 3-4 October 2013. The participating member states adopted a "Final Declaration" on International Migration and Development in the Arab region.
- The co-chairs of the working group participated in the second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. In the plenary session of the second day of the High-level dialogue, the League of Arab States delivered a statement highlighting the efforts undertaken by the working group members to prepare for the second high-level dialogue and the active participation of Arab states in the regional consultative meeting, as well as the final declaration that was adopted in the meeting. The declaration was distributed in English and Arabic to the participants in the plenary sessions. ESCWA was also present during the High-level Dialogue and prepared a statement for the fourth roundtable session. Similarly, IOM spoke in all four roundtables of the HLD and at the plenary.
- Establishment of the working group
 - ToRs agreed on by participating agencies;
 - Endorsement of the working group by Arab countries in the outcome document of the Arab Regional Consultative Meeting on International Migration and Development in preparation of the second High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (see box);
 - List of focal points assembled from 13 participating agencies;
 - First message sent out sharing data on international migration in the Arab region from the latest update of the UN Population Division's Trends in International Migration Stock: the 2013 Revision;
 - Mapping exercise on initiatives undertaken by participating agencies on international migration in the Arab region begun.
- Plan for 2014:
During the first meeting of the Working group and based on the results of the mapping exercise, the member agencies will begin working on a common work-plan for 2014 with clear outcomes and objectives.

"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."

(Final declaration on international Migration in the Arab Region adopted by Arab member states, June 2013)