2015 Progress Report for the RCM

Thematic Working Group on International Migration

Chair: LAS, IOM, and UN-ESCWA

I. 2014 – 2015 Achievements: Highlights of Key Activities since 20th RCM

The key activities of the Working Group on International Migration in the Arab region in 2014-2015 included:

- Mapping Report on Programmes and Projects on International Migration in the Arab Region (internal report), April 2014
- Training Workshop on International Migration and Development, Cairo, 15-18 September 2014

II. Main Activities and Outputs Planned for 2016

Following the launch of the 2015 Situation Report (3rd December 2015), the co-chairs of the working group (UN ESCWA, IOM and LAS) are convening a working level meeting to discuss the group’s main activities and outputs for 2016. The working group will have an opportunity to take stock of its activities to date and to discuss lessons learnt, membership and terms of reference, proposed work programme as well as key outputs for 2016-2017.

III. Has the Working Group already integrated the 2030 Development Agenda into its work? How is the Agenda expected to impact the work of the Working group? How can the Working Group play a role in supporting the adaptation, implementation and monitoring of the SDGs/GGs in the Arab Region?

The 2015 Situation Report already recognizes the importance of human mobility as a key factor for sustainable development. Given the protracted nature of displacement in the Arab region, the report also highlights strategies embracing the principles of sustainable development for handling the multiple displacement and refugee crises that the region is currently facing as these are most effective in tackling scarce resources, strengthening capacity and reducing environmental degradation. Similarly, other activities such as the preparations of the High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development and the Training Workshop on Migration and Development are also examples of how the group has considered the new development agenda.

The working level meeting convened for 3rd December 2015 will discuss how the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development can be further incorporated into the work programme for the 2016-2017 period. We envisage that the working group will aim to support countries meeting sustainable development goals by raising awareness, improving the knowledge base on migration and displacement and providing policy guidance and training.
IV. Decisions Requested from the Members of the RCM (if any)

n/a