



Addressing migration at local, regional and global levels

Director General Swing attends 5th Meeting of Chairs and Secretariats of Regional Consultative Processes on Migration, meets members of Egypt's new cabinet

26 October—Taking on challenges in migration governance at a local, regional and global level, IOM's Director General William Lacy Swing, visited Egypt to attend the Fifth Global Meeting of Chairs and Secretariats of Regional Consultative Processes on Migration (RCPs) on Migration as well as to meet with members of Egypt's newly appointed cabinet of ministers.

On the 21 and 22 of October, the International Organization for Migration, in collaboration with the League of Arab States (LAS), brought together the Chairs and Secretariats of Regional Consultative Processes on Migration (RCPs) at the LAS headquarters. Ambassador Swing opened proceedings together with the LAS Assistant Secretary General Badre Eddine Allali.

At the opening of the conference, the Arab Regional Consultative Process (ARCP), was officially launched. The ARCP is the only process which includes all 22 Arab States as members, with the League acting as its secretariat. It will serve as a platform to enhance cooperation and work toward more profound understanding of migration issues in the region.

For three decades, RCPs have developed across most regions of the globe to address the growing challenges of international migration governance. Today, 18 RCPs operate actively with more than 160 countries belonging to at least one RCP. Initiated and driven by states, they serve as important platforms for international, regional and inter-state dialogue and cooperation.

Building on the outcomes of the fourth global meeting of RCPs in Lima in May 2013, this fifth meeting invited RCPs to discuss appropriate action in the face of a changing migration and development agenda, particularly in regards to

migration as one of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) which were agreed on by UN member states in September 2015.

Representatives of RCPs reviewed key developments and pressing migration governance issues, including the protection of human rights of all migrants, saving and protecting migrant lives at sea and on land, forced migration due to climate change, environmental degradation and political instability, and the plight of migrants in countries in crisis ([MICIC Initiative](#)).

"At a time when the international community is facing multiple migration crises in all regions of the world, RCPs play an increasingly important role in fostering mutual understanding and collaboration between countries of origin, transit and destination. They help ensure coherence in policy and practice," said Ambassador Swing.

In addition to attending the GRCP, Ambassador Swing met with the Prime Minister Sherif Ismail, as well as Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Interior, Justice, Emigration and Expatriate Affairs and the Minister of Manpower where he reiterated IOM's support for the government of Egypt in assisting and protecting migrants.

Ambassador Swing welcomed H.E. President Al Sisi's speech at the 70th UN General Assembly which called for better management of human mobility that in turn contributes to development of both countries of origin and destination – and provides an effective alternative to trafficking and smuggling of human beings.

The importance of a National Migration Platform was echoed by IOM and the Ministers, and the Minister of Justice announced the establishment of a dedicated court for pros-

ecuting traffickers and smugglers.

For his meeting with Mr. Munitiry, head of the Arab Labor Organization, the Director General emphasized that Egypt, and indeed many countries in the MENA region, have a large, youthful population that needs employment opportunities – both within their home countries, but also abroad.

Ambassador Swing also appeared on [Nile TV's breakfast show](#) where he spoke about global migration trends, and highlighted Egypt's role as country of origin, transit and destination for migration.

"You have now an aging Global North in need of workers at all levels, and you have a youthful, largely unemployed Global South in need of work. So I think inexorably, you're going to have more multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, and multi-religious societies."



Director General Swing speaks on Nile TV's breakfast show.

For more information, please contact Amr Taha, Head of Office for CO Egypt at iomcairo@iom.int, or Karoline Popp, Regional Policy and Liaison Officer at kpopp@iom.int