The Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugees Affairs (ARCP) held its third ordinary meeting on 8-9/5/2017 at LAS Headquarters in Cairo. The meeting was attended by representatives of 15 Arab Member States, representing concerned ministries of migration and refugees issues.

On its first session, the meeting discussed the “Migration related targets of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda”, with a significant contribution of IOM Regional Office (MENA) and the Director of LAS Sustainable Development Department. In a new tradition with the aim to exchange information and best practices on different topics related to Migration, the first session also discussed the issue of “Irregular Migration in the Arab Region” with the participation of H.E. Ambassador Naela Gabr, Chairperson of The Egyptian National Coordinating Committee on preventing and combating illegal migration (NCCPIM), who gave a speech on the efforts undertaken by Egypt in combating irregular migration. LAS, Refugees, Expatriates and Migration Affairs Department, gave an overview during the same session on the phenomenon of irregular migration in the Arab region.

A session was dedicated to discuss Member States’ efforts to follow-up on New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. The Member States actively participated in this session and they provided LAS, Refugees, Expatriates and Migration Affairs Department (the ARCP Secretariat) with papers on their efforts in this regard. The papers will be collected in a documentary file and it’ll be published on LAS portal.

A Position Paper on the themes of the Tenth Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), to take place in June 2017 in Berlin, was adopted by the participants, translated into English and sent to Morocco, as the Co-chair of the two next upcoming rounds of the GFMD, to publish it on the GFMD website.

During the meeting, the participants agreed on holding an extraordinary meeting for the ARCP during the last week of July 2017 as an Arab Regional Consultations on the Global Compact on Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees. The proposed meeting is supposed to be held in cooperation with IOM and UNHCR, and it’ll come out with two separate documents on the two Global Compacts.

Based on the prolonged refugee crisis in the Arab region, the participants decided to change the name of the ARCP in order to reflect the importance of this issue for the process, thus it became the “Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugees Affairs”.

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