Within the framework of reviving the world refugee day, and since the Arab region is considered as one of the world’s most affected areas by the refugee crisis and has suffered its complications since the 1940s and which has increased during the last decade in its intensity and spread in several countries in the region, the Member States’ representatives in the Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugees Affairs (Which the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States is in charge of its secretariat) reaffirm the necessity to develop a comprehensive approach to address the refugee crisis, which works on addressing the root causes, finding peaceful solutions for the crises that some countries of the region are suffering from, while, at the same time, supporting those who flee the crises and provide them and their families with secured and decent life, in a way that protects the states’ security and sovereignty, in preparation for their return to their home countries.

They reaffirm that the refugee crisis and the refugees situations and rights have economic, social, and humanitarian consequences, as well as political and security implications, particularly on the neighboring countries that receive huge numbers of displaced people and refugees, and that the crisis also has impact at both international and regional levels. Therefore, its necessary to foster international cooperation, support, and solidarity with the states and societies that are mostly affected by the refugee waves, and support them to bear the burden and control the humanitarian status that exceeds their capabilities. Within this framework, they praise the exerted efforts of the Arab states and their contributions since the beginning of the crisis, whether through hosting the largest number of refugees or providing funds to secure the necessary humanitarian assistance by holding several pledging conferences, the last of which were the Leaders’ Summit on Refugees which was held on 20th of September 2016 on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly 71st session, and Brussels Conference on Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region which was held on 5th of April 2017. They also commend the assignment of the Arab Leaders to the Arab League’s council at the ministerial level, during Amman summit held on 29th of March 2017, “to establish specific mechanism to support the Arab states that host Syrian refugees to enable them bear the burden”, and call for implementing this through increasing the aid directed to development and economic support, not only that directed to humanitarian relief.
They also renew their condemnation to Israel for the continuation of the suffering of the Palestinian refugees, and hold the occupying state the responsibility of this long suffering and in particular for their displacement. Moreover, they call the international community to continue in providing the necessary support for The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) so that it can continue bearing its full responsibility towards them, and reaffirm the Palestinian refugees’ rights to return their homes under the United Nations General Assembly resolution no. 194 for the year 1948, and the importance to continue in providing more support to the countries that host them, especially with the secondary Palestinian displacement from Syria. They call the international community to pressure on Israel to abide by respecting the international law, stop aggression, siege, ethnic cleansing, and racism policies that aim to continue displacing the Palestinians from their homelands.

The Member States’ representatives in the Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugees Affairs also support “Together: Respect, Safety and Dignity For All” campaign that has been launched by the United Nations for the aim of combating the false information and misconceptions regarding migrants and refugees, and they confirm that the Arab States will play a significant role in organizing several activities within the framework of this campaign.

As they are keen to coordinate in international forums that discuss migration and refugees issues, especially during the current period as the Arab region witnesses unprecedented growth in terms of migrants and refugees flows, they affirm the importance of the effective Arab participation in the ongoing consultations to develop a comprehensive Refugee Response framework (CRRF), which will be developed and initiated by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the engagement of the states – each according to its priorities and circumstances – in piloting and assessing the CRRF and improving its implementation, the process will lead at the end to develop the global compact on refugees to be adopted in 2018. Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugees Affairs intends to hold an extraordinary meeting to ensure good preparation for the Arab contribution in these consultations, which affirm the privacy of the Arab Region and each of its countries that should be taken into account when drafting the CRRF, to be developed in a way that respects this privacy.

It should be noted in this occasion that the ARCP has changed its name to be “the Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugees Affairs”, in order to reflect the importance of the Refugees issue on the regional level, especially since the Arab region is the world’s first sending and receiving region for refugees.