The Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs (ARCP) held its Fifth ordinary meeting on 15-16/4/2019 at LAS Headquarters in Cairo. The meeting was attended by representatives of 18 Arab Member States from concerned ministries of migration and refugee affairs.

The opening session included opening remarks by H.E. Ambassador Dr. Haifa Abu-Ghazaleh, Assistant Secretary-General, Head of Social Affairs Sector, and H.E. Ambassador Dina El-Sehy, Deputy Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Refugees, Migration and Combating Human Trafficking. Afterwards, Mrs. Enas El Fergany, Director of Refugees, Expatriates and Migration Affairs Department (LAS), briefed Member States on the efforts undertaken by the ARCP Secretariat since the fourth meeting held in May 2018.

In continuation of LAS’ efforts in raising the awareness of its Member States’ officials on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) and the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), the first session of the ARCP meeting concentrated on the follow-up on both compacts. Mrs. Carmela Godeau, IOM Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa, gave a presentation titled “Following Marrakesh, where do we go next”. The presentation highlighted the adoption of the GCM, the launch of the UN Migration Network, follow-up and review mechanisms on the international and regional level, as well as the IOM’s role in helping Member States in this process. Mr. Kaidar Ayoub, Senior Regional Liaison Officer, represented the UNHCR in this session and gave a statement on the situation in the Arab region, the adoption of New York declaration, the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) and the GCR.

The Member States had the chance during the second session to present their priorities and visions to implement the GCM and the GCR. Representatives of Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Sudan and Tunisia gave speeches in this session. Kuwait, Lebanon and Qatar had written contributions which were distributed during the meeting.

In the framework of exchanging experiences and best practices, a session was dedicated on the second day to discuss the migration related targets in the 2030 SDGs. Bahrain and Sudan presented their efforts in this regard, and got engaged in a fruitful discussion with the rest of the participating states after their presentations.

Member States agreed on the “ARCP Contribution to the Twelfth Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)”, to take place in November 2019 in Ecuador. The document will be translated into English and sent to Ecuador, as the GFMD chair, to publish it on the GFMD website.