

Session 4: 2014 Progress Report for the 20th RCM

Working Group on **International Migration** in the Arab Region

Chair: ESCWA, IOM, LAS

Other members: ECA, ILO, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNEP, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNODC, UN-Women, WHO

I. **2013 – 2014 Achievements: Highlights of Key Activities since 19th RCM**

- The activities of the working group since the 19th RCM have been informed by a major mapping exercise on migration activities undertaken by member agencies carried out by ESCWA. This report found a number of areas for potential future work and collaboration on research and programming, on the basis of which the working group developed a workplan for 2014.

Training Workshop on International Migration and Development, September 15-18, League of Arab States Headquarters, Cairo:

- 19 officials from 9 countries (Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia, and Yemen) were trained over a four-day period on the concepts and practice of integrating international migration into development planning.
- The workshop was an output of the full working group, with the trainers basing their modules on the Arabic version of the *Integrating Migration into Development Planning: A Handbook for Policymakers and Practitioners* translated by ESCWA, and IOM's *Training Modules on International Migration and Development*. Further training materials on subjects such as the right to health and migration, migration and urban development, and trafficking in human beings, were provided by ILO, UNAIDS, UN-Habitat, UNODC and WHO.
- Participant evaluations from this workshop show that over 77 per cent of participants felt that they would be able to use the training material in their work, while over 91 per cent of participants called for follow-up activities. The workshop is intended to be the first in a series of workshops organized by the working group.

II. **Summary of Key Challenges Faced: Substantive and Procedural**

- Coordination of a number of agencies with different procedural considerations, especially relating to budgetary issues, has required significant planning and discussion to ensure the implementation of activities.

III. Main Activities and Outputs Planned for 2015

2015 Situation Report on International Migration in the Arab Region: Migration, Displacement and Development in a Changing Arab Region

- This major report, the first in a series of reports, will aim to address the knowledge deficit on international migration in the Arab region by providing a multi-disciplinary and comprehensive overview of relevant contemporary migration trends and their economic and social consequences in the Arab region for policy makers, researchers and practitioners, drawing on the expertise and mandates of the member agencies of the Working Group on International Migration in the Arab Region. This report will form part of regional follow-up on the outcomes of the 2013 UN High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, and will contribute to ongoing deliberations on the UN post-2015 development agenda, including the role of migration in the new global development framework, and to the preparations for the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit
- The outline and theme of the Report has been agreed between the member agencies. It will contain three major sections:
 - Section A: *The situation of international migration in the Arab region*. This will be a recurring section, using up-to-date data, academic literature and open-source information to provide a one-stop resource on relevant contemporary international migration trends in the Arab region for researchers, policymakers, and the general public.
 - Section B: *Developments in migration governance in the Arab region*. Section B will aim to provide a one-stop resource to understand the most important developments in migration governance in the Arab region over the two-year reporting cycle
 - Section C: *Forced Migration, Displacement and Development in a Changing Arab region*. This thematic section will aim to provide an understanding of the nature and effects of the different kinds of forced migration in the Arab region, and to provide insights into the appropriate responses to these phenomena which can mitigate negative development impacts, promote peacebuilding and reconstruction, encourage good governance, and respect the rights of forced migrants and host communities.
- The process of developing the report is being led by the co-chairs of the working group. Sections A and B are being drafted by ESCWA, while the co-chairs are working together to identify and contract experts for section C. Inputs will also be solicited from working group member agencies, who will also be involved in the review and endorsement of the publication to ensure that it captures the multi-dimensional realities of international migration in the Arab region. An expert group meeting of the member agencies and external experts will be held in February 2015 to review the publication.