



**His Excellency William Lacy Swing
Director General of the International Organization for Migration,
Excellencies Members of the Council,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It gives me great pleasure to be here on the occasion of the Arab Parliament's (the Legislative Observatory Body of the League of Arab States since 2005 and the Representative of the Arab Nation) admission to the IOM as an Observer Organization as result of the decision adopted at the 107 IOM Council Session.

On behalf of the Arab Parliament I want to thank the Member States for their vote of confidence, and to congratulate other new Observers who have joined IOM in this Session.

The Arab Parliament is keen to cooperate with the IOM in order to enhance efforts to address the challenges of migration in the Arab Region and advance a common understanding of migration in light of the new framework of sustainable development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please allow me to introduce in brief the latest efforts of the Arab Parliament to address the Syrian Refugees crisis:

- The Arab Parliament established on April 2016 a Group concerned by the Syrian crisis file headed by H.E.Mr. Ahmed AlJarwan the President of the Arab Parliament, this Group discussed in many occasions the implications of the worsening crisis in Syria and introduced the Arab Parliament's vision and plan of action in order to strengthen the path of a political solution to the crisis and to end the suffering of the Syrian people in the framework of the International Community's efforts to speed solving this crisis, as well as discussing ways of cooperation and coordination on the protection of the rights of Syrians Refugees and Displaced and improve their situation in accordance with the UN Conventions and Relevant Laws, in particular with:**



- Their Excellencies Vice President of the German Bundestag, Vice President of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia and Second Vice President of the Hellenic Parliament, on the margins of the Third Summit of Presidents of the Parliamentary Assembly for the Union of the Mediterranean held on May, 2016 in Tangier – Kingdom of Morocco.
- Their Excellencies United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Director General of the International Organization for Migration, Inter-Parliamentary Union Secretary General, ICRC Regional Director for the Middle East and Representatives of Arab Diplomatic Missions to the United Nations Office in Geneva in my presence, on June 2016, during the Arab Parliament's participation in the symposium on the protection of Syrian refugees' rights, co-organized by the Arab Parliament and the Arab Federation of Human Rights, on 13 and 14 June 2016 at the UN building in Geneva.
- His Excellency Mr. President of the Hellenic Parliament, on September, 27th 2016 during the visit to the Hellenic Republic.
- Upon the invitation of Mr. Mayor of Lesvos, the delegation visited the Island of Lesvos on September 28th, 2016 in order to experience the response of the local community to the overwhelming crisis of the Syrian refugees hosted since the beginning of 2015, and met with the representatives of UNHCR in the Island.
- The Arab Parliament is following up all these meetings and discussions, and coordinate in all its meetings within International and Regional Conferences in order to reduce the impact of the Syrian crisis on the Refugees.

Finally, the Arab Parliament is confident that the IOM will spare no effort to cooperate in this important humanitarian issue.

Thank you for your attention.