

November 20th, 2017

Organization: AMEL Association International (Lebanese Association for Popular Action)
Title: Accession Statement at the 108th Session of the Council
Host: United Nations International Organization for Migration
Date: November, 28th– December 1st, 2017
Place: Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
Subject: IOM Observer Status

Mr. Chairman, Director General Swing,
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentleman,

AMEL Association International expresses its gratitude and appreciation for the trust in being granted the Observer Status by the IOM.

'Dignity', 'Humanity' and 'Solidarity' are the core values that AMEL has based its support during the past 39 years; committed to serve every person faced with vulnerability.

"Positive Thinking and Permanent Optimism" is the slogan that unites more than 800 workers in Amel, devoting their lives to alleviate the suffering faced by migration, refuge and poverty. Humanitarian support is conducted with the conviction that every person is entitled to opportunities that respect his or her fundamental freedoms and human rights.

The world is witnessing unprecedented human mobility that urges the need for intensified humanitarian actions at all levels, with shared responsibility from developed and developing countries, to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration. Migration issues are becoming more complex, with the need to further address unsafe migration and development in COO, COD, or Countries in Transition where traits of human trafficking and smuggling are numerous. Migrants, seen as burden, need to be viewed as social, cultural and economic opportunities.

Consequent to the current Syrian Crisis, Lebanon has the highest refugee per capita, where - despite its limited resources - it welcomed one third of its population by refugees integrated in society. This example of solidarity should be replicated as a model of responsibility sharing among humanitarian actors.

AMEL provided more than 9 million services so far through its 24 centers, 6 mobile clinics and branches in Europe and the US; through health, education, child protection, livelihood, empowerment, and other. The situation of migrants and refugees is explosive and dramatic, where NGOs are becoming more essential than ever. AMEL calls the international community for several actions in moving the agenda forward:

1. Prevention of conflict to maintain peace,
2. Cooperation among humanitarian actors,
3. Equal partnerships between countries of the North and the South,
4. Recognition of the needs of the host community, and
5. Inclusion of development and durable solutions that aim for social justice

AMEL, in coordination with IOM offices in various countries, mainly the Middle East, Africa and Asia – has joined efforts in the support of migrant workers, especially victims of human trafficking. This is conducted to increase protection of victims through capacity building, provision of services, repatriation, return, and reintegration in home countries; among Policy efforts with governmental organizations.

AMEL looks forward for continuous collaboration with IOM to achieve mutual humanitarian causes in supporting migrants and refugees, trying to make this world a better world.

We thank you again for the trust and confidence.