



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
12 June 2019

Original: English

2019 session

26 July 2018–25 July 2019

Agenda item 5

High-level segment

Statement submitted by *The Arab Council for Supporting Fair Trial*, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



Statement

Within the context of the High-level Segment theme for the year 2019; its designated Goals 4, 8, 10 and 16 comply with our scope of work.

Firstly, our definition of the theme is empowering and supporting the vulnerable population, which includes refugees, as a UNHCR legal partner since 2010 and by the nature of our work, we are in direct contact with the refugees; quite aware of their vulnerable conditions.

Since 2011 the region has been subjected to a lot of disruption and a prolonged period of instability, which by its turn led to a large number of the affected population from neighboring countries to flee to Egypt, both willingly seeking better life conditions or unwillingly due to the critical situation in their area.

Egypt is considered as one of the safe and stable destinations in the last couple of years, which made it one of the countries hosting a large population of refugees from different origins and diverse backgrounds and based on the current situation in neighboring countries, the number of refugees and asylum seekers in Egypt is expected to rise, bearing in mind the current situation in Sudan and Libya.

From ACSFT's point of view, there is an ongoing cooperation between UNHCR and the Egyptian government. Firstly, concerning the education of refugee's children, authorities granted the right for children refugees to attend public schools and receive an equal treatment as Egyptian children concerning education.

Secondly, the refugees working conditions in Egypt are governed by the same laws governing the work for foreigners, yet the refugees are treated as Egyptians and excluded from the constraining precautions implied to protect the national market governing the work for foreigners, and possess the right of starting their own projects or earning their living through freelancing, based on the 1951 convention.

Lastly, as for the healthcare, Egypt included all the refugees in its 2019 initiative for medical screening and testing to detect any disease in the Egyptian population.

Even though there is a decent improvement in different aspects that had a positive reflection on the refugee's lives in Egypt, still the full empowerment of the vulnerable population requires additional initiatives and legislations, which we will highlight in depth during our oral statement, under the headline "Investing the energies and potential of refugees in the hosting countries".
