

September- October 2017: CMRS contributes to the UN processes of the Global Compacts on Migrants and Refugees

The United Nations Summit on Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants held at the 71st session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2016 adopted the New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants. The Declaration, which is a set of commitments made by Member States, in turn decided to work towards the adoption in 2018 of two Global Compacts on Refugees and on Migrants.

The Center for Migration and Refugee Studies (CMRS) of the School of Global Affairs and Public Policy (GAPP) at The American University in Cairo (AUC) is actively contributing to the preparatory processes of the two Compacts.

On 9-10 October, CMRS held an international conference on *International Cooperation in Burden-sharing for Refugees in the Euro-Mediterranean Space*. Academics, researchers, experts, officials of international intergovernmental organizations and civil society representatives from the Arab Middle East, Europe, Africa and North America participated in the six panels of the conference. In addition to drawing lessons from the refugee situation in the Euro-Mediterranean Space in the last few years, academics, researchers and experts seized the opportunity to contribute to the preparatory process of the Global Compact on Refugees. Their contribution took the form of a *Statement* where they expressed their views about provisions to be included in the Programme of Action that will accompany the Compact¹.

The Director of CMRS, Dr. Ibrahim Awad, contributed to the preparatory process of the Global Compact on Migrants. On 26-27 September, on invitation from the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA), the League of Arab States (LAS) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), he attended in Beirut the *Regional Consultation on International Migration in the Arab Region*, where he made a presentation about *the Global Governance of International Migration*.

On 12-13 October, on invitation from the president of the UNGA, Dr. Awad participated in the Sixth Informal Thematic Session on *Irregular migration and regular pathways, including decent work, labour mobility, recognition of skills and qualifications and other relevant measures*.

¹ The Statement can be accessed at <http://schools.aucegypt.edu/GAPP/cmrs/Pages/default.aspx>

Thematic sessions at the global level of the United Nations membership were held ahead of the intergovernmental negotiations that will start in February 2018. The title of Dr. Awad's contribution to the thematic session was *Towards a Joint Approach to Migration and Development*.

CMRS will continue contributing to global debates on refugees and migration benefiting from its international academic and policy networks and the confidence its enjoys in these circles.