



March 17, 2016  
Beirut, Lebanon

### **Law students debate refugee law in Moot Court**

The Agence universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF) and its “École Doctorale de Droit du Moyen-Orient” (EDDMO), in partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Regional Bureau for Education in the Arab States and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), are holding their first joint Moot Court competition in Lebanon from March 21 to 23, 2016 at UNESCO Office in Bir Hassan, Beirut.

The competition will be conducted in both Arabic and French. The participants will be Masters and PhD law students from different nationalities and backgrounds, including from Lebanon, Syria and Egypt. They will discuss one of the most topical issues in the Middle East in 2016: the rights of refugees.

The aim of the Moot Court competition is to improve students' capacity to participate in debates on important issues of public policy. It will also challenge them to participate in legal research and formulate arguments through teamwork.

The Moot Court, which falls within the festivities organised for the 2016 “Francophonie” month, will also include a seminar on refugee law headed by law professionals and academic practitioners from around the world on March 23.

*For media inquiries or interview requests in Arabic, English or French please get in touch with:*

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**The Agence universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF)** is an international organisation that brings together francophone or partially francophone universities, colleges, university networks and scientific research centres from across the world. With a network of 821 members in 106 countries, it is one of the most important

associations of higher education and research institutions in the world. AUF is also the agency for higher education and research of the Francophonie Summit.

The mission of **UNESCO Office in Beirut** is to contribute to sustainable human development in a culture of peace underpinned by tolerance, democracy and human rights through programmes and projects in UNESCO's fields of competence: Education, Sciences, Culture and Communication & Information. As a Regional Bureau, UNESCO Beirut Office is a centre of expertise in the field of Education for the Arab world, serving twenty-two Arab countries in the region.

**The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)** is an independent, international, humanitarian non-governmental organisation which provides assistance, protection and contributes to durable solutions for refugees and internally displaced people worldwide. NRC has been working in Lebanon since 2006, and has grown significantly since the start of the Syrian crisis. Through its core activities NRC provides humanitarian assistance and protection to refugees from Syria, Lebanese host communities, as well as to the Palestinian refugees already living in the country.