

June 15, 2021

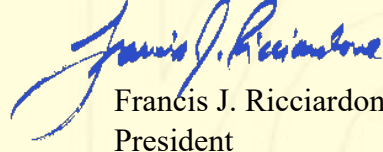
Mr. Karim Atassi
Head United Nations High Commission for Refugees
5 Michel Loutfallah Street
Zamalek, Cairo

Dear Mr Atassi:

I write to endorse the application of The Centre for Arab-West Understanding (CAWU) to become a UN Partner organization, in response to UNHCR's invitation. I understand that CAWU registered as an NGO at the Egyptian Ministry of Social Solidarity on June 11, 2007, under number 6985, to support university student internships for intercultural dialogue. CAWU operates strictly independently from any religious or political institution, although also Catholic Church partner organizations inside and outside Egypt have supported its work since its foundation. CAWU advocates dialogue and cooperation with all parties in society without discrimination on the basis of faith or any other factors. I had first become aware of their work when I served as US Ambassador to Egypt from 2005 until 2008, and I was pleased to witness their continued good work during my tenure (2016-2021) as President of the American University in Cairo.

CAWU informs me that they began educating non-Arabic speaking refugees in Egypt in 2018. They have now established a refugee learning center with 30 youth between 15 and 23 years old, with plans to grow to 200 students. The American University in Cairo takes a keen interest in such positive, independent civil society service initiatives in this vitally important field for the future of humanity, through our own Center for Refugee and Migration Studies. Hence we welcome CAWU's development as an independent, not-for-profit provider of education to refugees in Egypt. I believe that CAWU will prove to be an exemplary and impactful partner for the UNHCR.

Sincerely,


Francis J. Ricciardone
President