

1. Defining the challenge

- 1.1 Since earliest times, humanity has been on the move. Some people move in search of new opportunities and horizons. Others move to escape conflict, persecution, terrorism or poverty. Still others do so in response to natural disasters, **including those potentially linked to** climate change or other environmental factors. Many move, indeed, for a combination of these reasons
- 1.2 We have considered today how best the international community should respond to the growing global phenomenon of large movements of refugees and migrants.
- 1.3 Refugees and migrants are distinct categories of persons whose treatment is governed by separate legal frameworks. They also face many common challenges, including in the context of large movements. The definition of “large movements” depends primarily on the geographical context, on a receiving State’s capacity to respond and on the impact of a movement which is sudden or prolonged; it would not, for example, cover regular flows of migrants from one country to another. “Large movements” may involve mixed flows of people, whether refugees or migrants, who move for different reasons but who use similar routes and irregular channels.
- 1.4 We are witnessing in today’s world an unprecedented level of human mobility. More people than ever before live in a country other than the one where they were born. Migrants are present in all countries in the world. In 2015 their number surpassed 244 million, growing at a rate faster than the world’s population. There are roughly 65 million displaced persons, including 25 million refugees and asylum-seekers and 40 million internally displaced persons.
- 1.5 The benefits and opportunities of safe, orderly, regular and responsible migration are considerable and are often underere

- 1.7 We declare our profound solidarity with, and support for, the millions of people in different parts of the world who, for reasons beyond their control, are forced to uproot themselves and their families from their homes and to seek refuge and safety elsewhere.
- 1.8 Refugees and migrants in large movements often face a desperate ordeal. Many take great risks to reach safety, embarking on perilous journeys – frequently by sea – which they may not survive. Many fall prey to criminal groups. Even if they reach their destination, they face an uncertain reception and a precarious future.
- 1.9 The challenge **to world leaders we face** is moral and humanitarian. We are determined, first and foremost, to save lives. We will combat **with all the means at our disposal** the abuses and exploitation suffered by countless refugees and migrants in vulnerable situations. We acknowledge **a shared global responsibility** **the need to improve international cooperation in order** to manage large movements of refugees and migrants in a humane, sensitive and compassionate manner. A particular onus and burden fall on countries of origin or nationality, transit and destination; cooperation between all such countries has never been more important. Those involved in large movements must have the comprehensive policy support, practical assistance and legal protection which they need **and to which they are entitled under international law**; their human rights and fundamental freedoms must be fully respected; and they must be able to live their lives in safety and in dignity. We pledge this support to those affected today as well as to those who will be part of future large movements.
- 1.10 All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. International law prohibits discrimination of any kind on the basis of race, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. History has taught us, regrettably, many lessons about the destructive legacies of hatred. Yet in many parts of the world we are witnessing increasingly xenophobic and racist responses to refugees and migrants.
- 1.11 We strongly condemn such responses. Diversity enriches and strengthens every society. Demonising refugees or migrants offends profoundly against the values of dignity and equality for every human being to which we have committed ourselves. Gathered today at the United Nations, the birthplace and custodian of these universal values, we declare all manifestations of xenophobia, racial discrimination and intolerance directed at refugees or migrants to be utterly unacceptable. We will take a range of steps to counter such attitudes and behaviour, in particular hate speech and racial violence. We support, and will help to implement, the Secretary General's **proposal for** initiative on a UN-led global campaign to counter xenophobia, with Member State, private sector and civil society engagement. This campaign will emphasize direct personal contact between host communities and refugees and migrants and will highlight the positive contributions made by the latter as well as our common humanity.
- 1.12 We reaffirm the principles and values of the United Nations Charter. We reaffirm also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the core international human rights treaties. We reaffirm, and will fully protect, the human rights of all those who leave their countries, regardless of status. We recognize that all refugees and migrants, regardless of status, are rights holders. Our response is grounded in full respect for international human rights law and, as applicable, international refugee law and international humanitarian law.

concern such as education, labour standards, human trafficking, exploitation of children, access to justice and the building of self-reliance and resilience.

- 1.14 Implementation of all relevant provisions of the Agenda will enable the contribution which migrants are making to sustainable development to be reinforced. At the same time, it will address many of the root causes of forced displacement, helping to create more favourable conditions in countries of origin. Meeting today a year after our adoption of the 2030 Agenda, and in direct follow-up to it, we pledge to realize the full potential of that Agenda for refugees and migrants.
- 1.15 We welcome the extremely valuable report from the Secretary-General, entitled "In Safety and Dignity: Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants", which was published in May 2016 (pursuant to GA Decision A/70/L.34) in preparation for this High Level Meeting. We recall also the contributions made by the London Conference on Supporting Syria and the Region (February 2016), the High Level Meeting on Global Responsibility Sharing through Pathways for Admission of Syrian Refugees (March 2016) and the World Humanitarian Summit (May 2016).
- 1.16 We favour a new approach to addressing forced displacement and protracted crises which would not only deal with immediate humanitarian needs but would also reduce vulnerability and improve self-reliance and resilience by strengthening the nexus between humanitarian assistance and development cooperation. There is a need to address gaps in humanitarian resources and to ensure that host countries and communities receive adequate multi-annual financing as well as support for capacity-building and strengthening resilience. — We look forward to close cooperation in this regard among Member States, UN agencies and other actors and between the UN and international financial institutions such as the World Bank.
- 1.17 We welcome the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and will implement the measures to mitigate risks associated with disasters which are outlined in that Framework. We welcome also the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and will take the steps needed to implement that Agreement in full.
- 1.18 We welcome the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, including the support of various kinds which it extends to refugees and migrants and its provisions relating to migrants' remittances.
- 1.19 We note valuable regional initiatives, such as the Bali Process and the Brazil Plan of Action, which seek solutions to the challenges posed by large movements of refugees and migrants.
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Commitments for migrants and refugees jointly

- 2.1 Underlining the importance of a comprehensive approach to the issues involved, we **will commit to** spare no effort to ensure a humane, sensitive and dignified reception for all persons arriving in large movements, whether refugees or migrants [REDACTED]

- 2.11 We **will commit to**, with full respect for the rules of international law, vigorously combat human trafficking and migrant smuggling, including through targeted measures to identify victims of trafficking within large movements of refugees and migrants and to provide temporary and longer-term protection to victims of such crimes. With a view to disrupting the criminal networks involved, **we will** review **of** our national legislation **and criminal justice provisions may be needed in order** to ensure conformity with international standards on **combating** migrant smuggling, human trafficking, **as well as on providing** maritime safety and border management. We **will commit to** establish or upgrade, as appropriate, national and regional anti-human trafficking policies. **We welcome the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons.** We note initiatives such as the African Union Horn of Africa Initiative on Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants. Reaffirming the importance of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the two relevant Protocols thereto, we encourage ratification of, accession to and implementation of relevant international instruments on preventing and combatting trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants.
- 2.12 We **will ensure** encourage States and relevant organizations **to mobilize**, on the basis of bilateral, regional and international cooperation, **that adequate, sustainable and predictable financing is made available resources as well as direct aid, as appropriate,** to enable countries to respond to the immediate humanitarian and developmental needs of the large numbers of refugees and migrants arriving in their territories.
- 2.13 We **will commit to** take steps to combat discrimination in our societies against refugees and migrants and to strengthen their inclusion in all spheres of life. **Relevant** National policies **will may** be developed to this end in conjunction with civil society, the private sector, employers' and workers' organizations and other stakeholders. We also note the obligation on refugees and migrants to observe the laws of their host countries.
- 2.14 We ~~will invest in~~ **recognize the importance of** improved data collection, including sex and age-disaggregated data as well as information on regular and irregular flows, the economic impacts of migration and refugee movements, and other issues.

3. Commitments for migrants

- 3.1 We commit to protecting the safety, dignity, and human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of status, at all times. We will cooperate closely **with each other** to facilitate and ensure safe, orderly, regular and responsible migration, including return and readmission.
- 3.2 We acknowledge our responsibility to protect the interests of, and assist, our migrant communities abroad, including through consular cooperation. We underline the right of migrants to return to their country of citizenship. We recall also that States must readmit their returning nationals who have no right to stay in other countries and ensure that they are duly received and they must ensure the readmission of their nationals without undue delay.
- 3.3 We **will commit to** address the conditions that create, or exacerbate, large movements of migrants. We **will underline the need to** analyse, and respond to, the factors which lead to, or contribute to, these movements. We will respect and safeguard, in the first instance, the right of people 23.3 (p)2.2 (m)-1.3 (1.152 0 (e)7.9.

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4.1 Recognizing that conflict and instability are among the factors which give rise to large refugee movements, we will work to prevent or resolve conflict. We will tackle the root causes of conflict situations. **Early response to human rights violations and abuses is critical and we note in this respect the Secretary General's valuable "Human Rights Up Front" initiative.** We **will also commit to** promote good governance and the rule of law at the international, regional and national levels. Recognizing that violations of international humanitarian law are a further contributory factor, we renew our commitment to uphold humanitarian principles and **respect** international humanitarian law. ~~We confirm also our respect for the norms which safeguard civilians in conflict~~ **including provisions aimed at the protection of civilians in armed conflict.**

4.1 bis. We commit to contribute to political settlement of conflicts and creation of appropriate conditions for sustainable voluntary return of refugees to their countries of origin, inter alia by providing these countries with necessary assistance in social and economic restoration and development as well as in the capacity building of their state institutions.

4.2 We reaffirm the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto as the foundation of the international refugee protection regime. We recognize the importance of their full and effective

States who have not yet acceded to the two conventions for the prevention and reduction of statelessness to consider doing so.

- 4.9 We recognise that refugee camps should be the exception and, to the extent possible, a temporary measure in response to an emergency. Further, we **will commit to** actively promote durable solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations, with a focus on sustainable and timely return where possible. We underline the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and settlements.
- 4.10 Welcoming the extraordinarily generous contribution made to date by countries which host large refugee populations, and the global public good which this constitutes, we **will commit to** work to increase the support needed for these countries and call for pledges made at recent relevant conferences to be disbursed promptly. We commit to sharing in an equitable manner the enormous burden these countries have been carrying.
- 4.11 We **will recognise the need to** expand the number and range of legal pathways available for refugees to be admitted to, or to be relocated or resettled in, third countries. **In addition to easing the plight of refugees, this has benefits for countries already hosting large refugee populations and it also assists receiving countries to meet, for example, labour market needs.**
- 4.12 We encourage Member States ~~who have not yet established resettlement programmes to consider doing so at the earliest opportunity; those who have already done so are encouraged to consider increases in the size of their programmes. We are setting as a target the provision of resettlement places and other legal pathways for admission on a scale which would enable the annual resettlement needs identified by UNHCR, or at least 10% of the total refugee population, to be met~~ **to create opportunities for resettlement as a**

- 4.18 We **will commit to** develop improved data collection systems to identify and monitor the needs of refugees and host communities.
- 4.19 To meet the challenge posed by large movements of refugees, close coordination will be required between a range of humanitarian and development actors. Host Governments and communities will require support from relevant UN agencies, local authorities, international financial institutions, regional development banks, bilateral donors, the private sector and civil society. We strongly encourage joined-up responses involving all