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- 1.1 Since earliest times, humanity has been on the move. Some people move in search of new economic opportunities and horizons. Others move to escape armed conflict, persecution, terrorism, poverty, food insecurity or human rights violations and abuses. Still others do so in response to the adverse effects of climate change, natural disasters (some of which may be 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 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. Most of them move without incident. In 2015 their number surpassed 244 million, growing at a rate faster than the world's population. However, there are roughly 65 million forcibly displaced persons, including over 21 million refugees, 3 million asylum-seekers and over 40 million internally displaced persons.
  - 1.4 In adopting a year ago the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we recognized clearly the positive contribution made by migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development. Our world is a better place for that contribution. The benefits and opportunities of safe, orderly, regular and responsible migration are considerable and are often underestimated. Displacement and irregular migration, on the other hand, present complex challenges.
  - 1.5 Though their treatment is governed by separate legal frameworks, refugees and migrants have the same

smugglers. Many fall prey to such groups or become victims of trafficking. Even if they reach their destination, they face an uncertain reception and a precarious future.

- 1.9 The challenge to world leaders is moral and humanitarian. We are determined, first and foremost, to save lives. We are also determined to find long-term and sustainable solutions. We will combat with all the means at our disposal the abuses and exploitation suffered by countless refugees and migrants in vulnerable situations.
- 1.10 We acknowledge a shared global responsibility to manage large movements of refugees and migrants in a humane, sensitive and compassionate manner, while acknowledging that there are varying capacities to respond to these movements. International cooperation, and in particular cooperation among countries of origin or nationality, transit and destination, has never been more important; win-win cooperation in this area has profound benefits for humanity. Refugees and migrants involved in large movements must have the comprehensive policy support, practical assistance and legal protection consistent with States' obligations under international law. We also recall our obligation to respect their human rights and fundamental freedoms fully, and we stress their critical need to live their lives in safety and dignity. We

society. We said also that we will endeavour to reach the furthest behind first. We reaffirm today our commitments which relate to the specific needs of migrants or refugees. The Agenda makes clear, inter alia, that we will “facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies”. The needs of refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants are explicitly recognized.

- 1.16 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, we are determined to realize the full potential of that Agenda for refugees and migrants.
- 1.17 We reaffirm the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and its recommendations concerning measures to mitigate risks associated with disasters which are outlined in that Framework. States who have signed and ratified the Paris Agreement on Climate Change welcome that agreement and are committed to its implementation. We reaffirm the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, including its provisions which are applicable to refugees and migrants.
- 1.18 We welcome the 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.
- 1.19 We recognize the very large number of people who are displaced within national borders, and the potential for such persons to seek protection and assistance in other countries as refugees or migrants. Noting the need for effective strategies to ensure adequate protection and assistance for internally displaced persons, we invite the Secretary General to commission a review of the support currently available, building on the existing work done within the UN system on this subject.

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We have agreed today on a set of commitments which apply to both refugees and migrants and refugees and also on sets of commitments for refugees and migrants respectively. Some commitments, while 3.7498 Tm(((t)7.9 rTf(re)-3 (le)-3 (v)-5.n-0.n)13.1 (t) In addition, Annex I to this Declaration contains a Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework and outlines

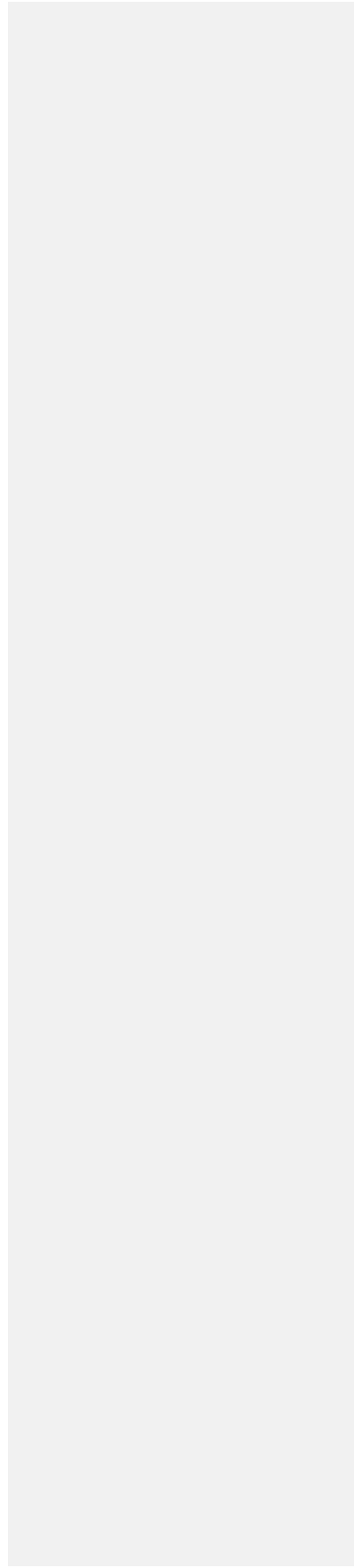
- 2.3 Recognising that States have rights and responsibilities to manage and control their borders, we will implement both on arrival and return border management procedures, including disembarkation procedures and security and identification procedures, which are in conformity with applicable obligations under

national child protection authorities as a matter of course. We will comply with our obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child. We will provide for health, education, and psychosocial development and for their birth registration. We are determined to ensure that all children are in education within a few months of arrival, and we will prioritize budgetary provision to facilitate this. We will strive to provide refugee and migrant children with a nurturing environment for the full realization of their rights and capabilities.

- 2.12 Reaffirming that all individuals seeking to cross international borders are entitled to due process in the assessment of their legal status, entry and stay, we will consider alternatives to detention while these assessments are underway. We will review policies that criminalize cross-border movements. Furthermore, recognizing that detention is never in the interests of children, we commit to working toward the earliest possible ending of this practice.
- 2.13 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.
- 2.14 We recognize that refugees and migrants in large movements are at greater risk of being trafficked and of being subjected to forced labour. We will, 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. We will provide protection and support for the victims of human trafficking, and will ensure that they are not penalised for crimes committed as a direct result of human trafficking. With a view to disrupting the criminal networks involved, we will review our national legislation to ensure conformity with our obligations under international law on migrant smuggling, human trafficking, maritime safety as well as with international standards for border management. We will implement the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking In Persons. We will establish or upgrade, as appropriate, national and regional anti-human trafficking policies. We note initiatives such as the African Union Horn of Africa Initiative on Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants, the ASEAN Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the Work Plans against Trafficking in Persons in the Western Hemisphere. We welcome reinforced technical cooperation, on a regional and bilateral basis, between countries of origin, transit and destination on the prevention of trafficking and smuggling of human beings.
- 2.15 We favour an approach to addressing forced displacement and protracted crises which would reduce vulnerability, improve self-reliance and resilience (such as in the education sphere and labour markets), facilitate a transition from relief to development and improve coordination with peacebuilding efforts. We will ensure, on the basis of bilateral, regional and international cooperation, that adequate, sustainable and predictable multi-annual financing is made available to enable host countries and communities to respond both to the immediate humanitarian needs and to the longer-term development needs of refugees, migrants and host communities. There is a need to address gaps in humanitarian funding, considering additional resources as appropriate. 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. We envisage innovative financing responses, risk financing for affected communities, and a reduction of duplication and management costs and implementation of other efficiencies so as to ensure a more efficient and effective use of existing resources.
- 2.16 We commit to combatting discrimination in our societies against refugees and migrants and will undertake efforts aimed at their integration and inclusion. Relevant national policies will be developed to these ends in conjunction with civil society (including faith-based organizations), the private sector, employers' and workers' organizations and other stakeholders. We also note the obligation on refugees and migrants to observe the laws and regulations of their host countries.

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acceding to relevant International Labour Organization conventions, as appropriate. We note, in addition, that migrants enjoy rights and protection under various provisions of international law.

- 3.7 We commit to strengthening global governance for migration. We therefore warmly support and welcome the [agreement] to bring the International Organization for Migration, an organization with a global leading role in the field of migration, into a closer legal and working relationship with the United Nations. We look forward to the implementation of this [agreement] which will assist migrants, help Member States to address migration issues and promote better coherence between migration and related policy domains.
- 3.8 We will assist migrants in countries which are experiencing conflicts or natural disasters, working as applicable with the relevant national authorities. We note in this regard the “Migrants in Countries in Crisis” initiative and the Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change.
- 3.9 We take note of the work done by the Global Migration Group to develop principles and practical guidance on the protection of the human rights of migrants in vulnerable situations.





international financial institutions, civil society partners (including faith-based organisations, diaspora organizations and academia), the private sector, the media and refugees themselves. A comprehensive framework of this kind is annexed to this Declaration.

- 4.7 We will ensure that refugee admission policies or arrangements are in line with our obligations under international law. We wish also to see administrative barriers eased with a view to accelerating refugee admission procedures to the extent possible; we will also ensure access for children to child-friendly procedures. At the same time, we recognize that refugees' ability to lodge asylum claims in any country of their choice may be regulated under certain circumstances, subject to their protection being assured elsewhere.
- 4.8 We encourage the adoption of measures which would facilitate access to civil registration and documentation for refugees.
- 4.9 We recognize that statelessness can be a root cause of forced displacement; in turn, forced displacement can lead to statelessness. We take note of UNHCR's campaign to end statelessness within a decade and we encourage States to consider actions they could take to reduce the incidence of statelessness. We encourage those States who have not yet acceded to the two conventions for the prevention and reduction of statelessness to consider doing so. We further call upon all States to adopt and implement nationality legislation consistent with their obligations under international law, including with respect to elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and girls in nationality-related matters.
- 4.10 We recognise that refugee camps should be the exception and, to the extent possible, a temporary measure in response to an emergency. We note that 60% of refugees worldwide are in urban settings and only a minority are in camps; we will ensure that the delivery of assistance to refugees and host communities is adapted to the relevant context. We underline the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and settlements. We will work to strengthen security in refugee camps and surrounding local communities.
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- 4.16 We will provide humanitarian assistance to refugees so as to ensure essential support in key life-saving sectors, e.g. shelter, food, water and sanitation. We will support host countries and communities in this regard.
- 4.17 We commit to providing safe quality primary and secondary education for all refugee children and to do so within a few months of the initial displacement. We will provide host countries with the support they need in this regard. Access to education gives fundamental protection to children and youth in displacement contexts, particularly in situations of conflict and crisis.
- 4.18 We will support early childhood education for refugee children. We will also promote also the role of tertiary education, skills training and vocational education. In crisis situations, higher education protects a critical group of young men and women, helps to build self-reliance, fosters inclusion and non-discrimination and provides a foundation for the rebuilding of war-torn societies.
- 4.19 We will ensure that the basic health needs of refugee communities are met, and that women and girls have access to essential healthcare services. We will also develop national strategies for the protection of refugees within the framework of national social safety nets.
- 4.20 Welcoming the positive steps taken by individual Member States, we encourage host governments, where possible, to open their labour markets to refugees. We will work to strengthen host communities' resilience, assisting them, for example, with employment creation and income generation schemes. In this regard, we recognize the potential of young people and will work to create conditions for growth,

- 5.1 We agree that arrangements are needed to ensure systematic follow-up and review of the range of commitments we are making today. These arrangements might be envisaged, in particular, in the context of reviews of progress on implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Accordingly, we request the Secretary General to ensure, with input from the Special Representative of the Secretary General on International Migration, UNHCR, IOM, other agencies and others, that the progress made by Member States and the UN in implementing the commitments made at today's High Level Meeting will be the subject of periodic assessments provided to the High Level Political Forum, and accordingly to Member States, as part of the Secretary General's reporting on review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- 5.2 In addition, a role in reviewing relevant aspects should be envisaged for the periodic High Level Dialogues on International Migration and Development and for the annual report of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to the General Assembly.
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