

PGA70

REMARKS AT OPENING SESSION OF HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY MEETING TO ADDRESS LARGE
MOVEMENTS OF REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

New York, 19 September 2016

Distinguished heads of State and government,

President Thomson, Secretary General Ban-ki Moon,
Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

Approximately 70 million people across our world are on

2016 has been a transformative year in redefining and focusing international cooperation on one of the most critical challenges of our time.

I congratulate the facilitators and all Member States on their efforts during the 70th session leading to the New York Declaration to be adopted later today.

The Declaration reflects the collective commitment of

the international community:

- to protect the human rights of all people regardless of their migration status:

Let us call on all partners – civil society, international

financial institutions, and the private sector – to
support the implementation of commitments and

strengthen coherence of our efforts.

I warmly welcome the Secretary-General's new
campaign to counter xenophobia and intolerance.

In the face of a changing world, it is vital that we do
not give in to fear, but that we strive to maintain our
principles and our common humanity.

The lives of so many depend on it.