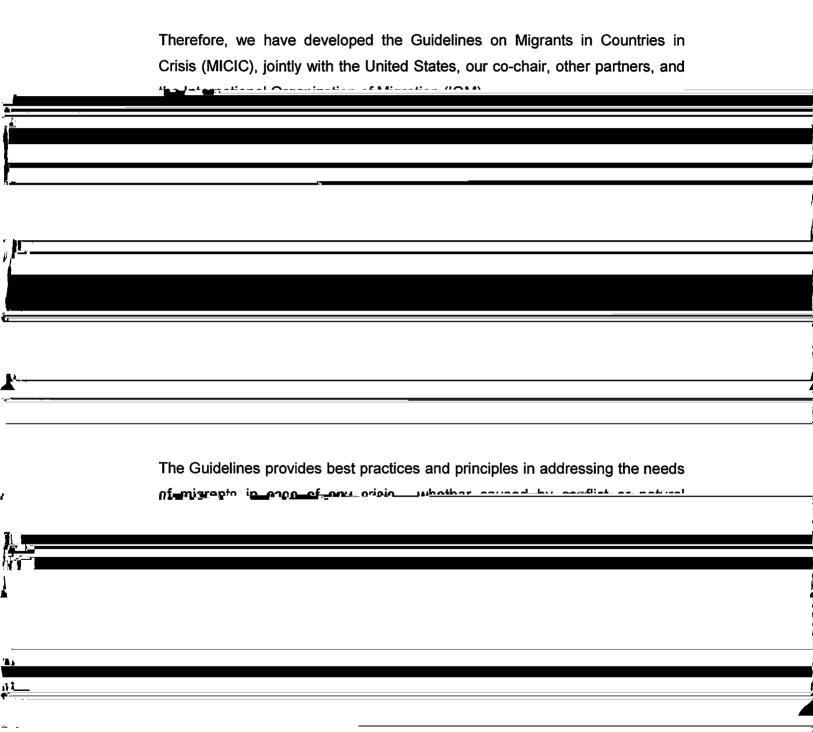# PHILIPPINE STATEMENT

We likewise ensured the promotion and protection of the human rights of all migrant workers, regardless of migration status. We also sought to include migrants in the list of vulnerable groups. In all cases, migrants' needs must be addressed by the Agenda with the view that they be empowered.

Therefore, we have developed the Guidelines on Migrants in Countries in Crisis (MICIC), jointly with the United States, our co-chair, other partners, and the International Organization of Migration (IOM).

The Guidelines provides best practices and principles in addressing the needs of migrants in case of any origin, whether caused by conflict or natural disasters, in their host country. The Guidelines were launched recently

years past, we granted asylum to the Russians in the 1920's, the Jews, as well as Spanish and Chinese in the 1930's. In recent years, we welcomed to our shores Vietnamese, Cambodians, and Lao people from the 1970s to the '90s.

For the Philippines, the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol are the cornerstones of international law on refugee protection. We thus reaffirm our commitment to the goals of the Convention and its Protocol. We also support the 1954 Convention on Statelesss Persons.

We will sustain our support for the Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM), a cooperation arrangement with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the IOM. The ETM provides for the immediate evacuation of refugees who are at risk of *refoulement*[1] and persecution from their countries of origin.

We continue to support the UNHCR. Through institutional coordination at global level, we can ably address the refugees crisis and provide effective and lasting solutions. Our support have come in the form of financial contributions since 1980, aside from country-specific humanitarian assistance programmes.

Always, we recognize the crucial role of regional processes within the ASEAN
the region. That is why we have been supporting the ASEAN Trust Fund

which addresses the case of irregular movements of persons in the Andaman
Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

in Persons and Related Transnational Crime.

Mr. President,

This Summit is neither isolated nor insulated from the observant eyes of media
and the rest of the world. They watch as we act together for the cause of
millions of refugees in large movements and migrants. Almost without any
choice, these migrants are pinning their hopes for a predictable future on us.