

Your Excellency, Mr Peter Thomson, President of the 71st Session of the General Assembly,

Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,

Your Excellency, Mr Ban Ki Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations,

Distinguished Delegates,

Comrades and Friends.

Over the nect veer we have witnessed harrowing images of

refugees risking their lives to flee the dire realities in their countries of origin. We have been equally shocked at the hostile reception refugees have often been subjected to.

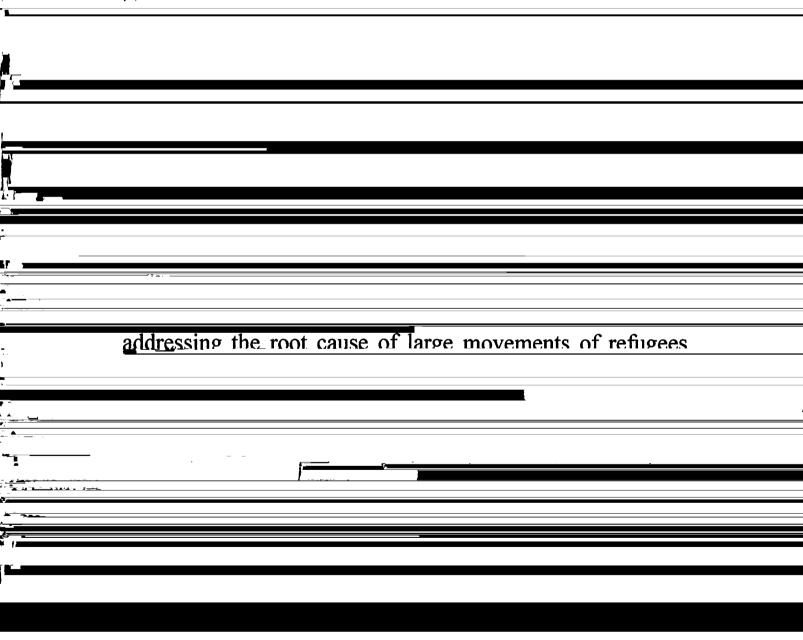
Against this background, we are pleased at the convening of this important meeting that allows us to explore a collective blueprint for dealing with large movements of refugees and Mr President,

The movement of people from one place to another is not a new phenomenon at all. Migration has been a fact of life from time immemorial. However, it is the magnitude and the

this an unprecedented phenomenon.

While this very interconnectedness has been viewed with

We have noted that a large portion of refugees that have landed on European shores originated from countries in armed conflict such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and Syria. We therefore are convinced that a return to the UN Charter ideals of saving succeeding generations from the scourge of



Some recent efforts to combat terrorism have tended to trample down upon the rights of migrant communities and refugees. While states have a legitimate right to take appropriate measures to protect their citizens from terrorism, there is great risk of mimicking the very same terrorist scourge, should we in the process disregard and unwantonly

Agenda 2030 recognises the positive contribution of migrants to inclusive growth and sustainable development. As we gain traction in the implementation of that Agenda, we should therefore be wary of a rising tendency by some unscrupulous individuals to stoke the fires of xenophobia and promote a negative narrative of migrants for political

We commend those states that have, despite their own limitations, opened their borders to migrant communities.

We in Zimbebuse have bested many refugees from conflict

affected countries. We call for a balanced focus on the humanitarian plight of migrants and refugees world over. It is our sincere hope that the implementation of the Declaration we have adopted today will culminate in a comprehensive and sustainable collective response to this