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Your Excellency, Mr Peter Thomson, President of the 71<sup>st</sup>  
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 past year we have witnessed harrowing images of




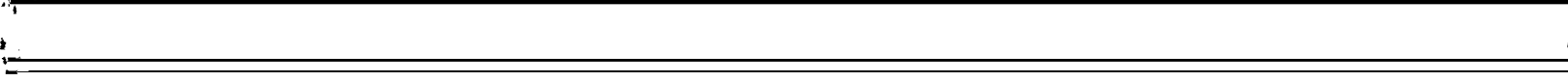




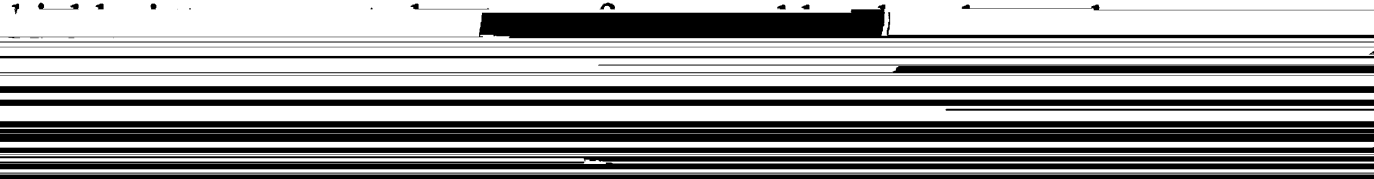
refugees risking their lives to flee the dire realities in their  
countries of origin. We have been equally shocked at the  
hostile reception refugees have often been subjected to.

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

in 2011. We are pleased that the New York

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 war and refraining from using armed force is critical in

addressing the root cause of large movements of refugees



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

We in Zimbabwe have hosted 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 shared challenge and promote burden sharing.