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United Nations Summit for Refugees and Migrants  
Round Table 5: "Global compact for safe, regular and orderly migration:  
towards realizing the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development  
and achieving full respect for the human rights of migrants"

3:00-6:00 p.m., Conference Room 3, 19 September 2016

Mr. Chair,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Today's Summit, focusing on large movements of refugees and migrants, is an historic event. It signals that world leaders want to find solutions for the challenges posed by mass movements of people across international borders.

The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants contains important commitments by the international community. It also charts a way forward between now and 2018.

Allow me to congratulate all of you for reaching this consensus in such a short time frame.

According to estimates prepared by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the total number of international migrants increased from 173 million in 2000 to 244 million in 2015. In our increasingly global world, the number of people living in a country other than where they were born is likely to continue increasing.

Having considered the constraints, I would like to underscore four main points.

First, we should not confuse forced displacement and voluntary migration.

While forced migration is undeniably a problem, voluntary migration, with well-managed migration policies, offers many benefits, not only to migrants and their families, but also to their countries of origin and destination. Voluntary migration should be prevented or resolved, voluntary migration should be facilitated through well-managed migration policies.

Second, whatever the reasons for their movement, migrants contribute significantly to development. They help to advance mutual understanding and contribute to cultural diversity in host countries. Migrants spur economic development both in their adopted lands and back home.

In 2015 alone, migrants sent \$432 billion in remittances to developing countries. This is more than