Address by the President of the Republic of Cyprus at the
High Level Meeting on Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants
New York, 19 September 2016

From the outset, I would like to express my appreciation to the Secretary General and
the former President of the General Assembly, as well as the co-facilitators, Ireland and
Jordan, for their valuable work in preparation of this High Level meeting.

In this respect, I wish to convey that Cyprus fully and unwavering endorses the
outcome document which highlights our collective commitment to address large
movements of refugees and migrants.

We are facing an unprecedented humanitarian crisis which is the consequence on the
one hand of economic insecurity, poor standard of living and lack of education
opportunities on those countries in which migratory flows are being observed and on
the other hand the outcome of the ongoing turmoil, extremism, sectarianism, civil war
and terrorism taking place in Middle East, North Africa and other regions of the World.

Thus, addressing the root causes of large and long term movements of refugees and
migrants should be at the core of the international community’s strategy.

Firstly, we should direct our efforts so that all those countries in need are turned into
places in which sustainable development is a reality. Thus, our economic support
should be well-targeted and results-oriented so as to create those political and socio-
economic conditions that will deter people migrating.

Secondly, we need to effectively promote regional peace in order to end ongoing
conflicts and also prevent future ones. In this respect, Cyprus is committed in
cooperating with other partners and neighbours for creating effective partnerships in
the Eastern Mediterranean and thus generating the necessary conditions for regional
peace, security, stability and prosperity.
In parallel and in relation to the above, we should also jointly and in a comprehensive way direct our efforts against human traffickers and the enablers of terrorism.

The Republic of Cyprus is already taking action based on the principle of responsibility-sharing. Most recently, in our capacity as an EU member-state we have accepted the resettlement of refugees in our country and we have put forward measures for the recognition and protection of victims of trafficking, the prosecution and conviction of traffickers, but also for enhancing bilateral cooperation on support of refugees and migration management.

Looking forward to the relevant report of the Secretary General during the 71st session of the General Assembly, I would like to assure you that my country will work towards the effective implementation of the commitments made in today's high level meeting.

It is my firm belief that the achievement of these commitments, based on the principles of solidarity, shared responsibility and respect for human rights and dignity will be an important indicator of this Organization's success and relevance. It will also be a demonstration of our political will and determination to respond to the expectations of our citizens, for the benefit of mankind.

Thank you for your attention.