**High Level Side Event on Strengthening cooperation on migration and refugee movements in the perspective of the new development agenda**

3-6pm – 30 September 2015

*Closing remarks by H.E. Mr Mogens Lykketoft, President of the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly*

(8-9 minutes, 1000 words)

Heads of State and Government, Honourable Minsters, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening.

Let me begin by thanking the Secretary-General for convening this meeting at such a crucial moment.

Ladies and gentlemen, the current crisis that the world is facing, related to migration and refugees, has been called the worst humanitarian crisis since the Second World War.

bring significant social, cultural and economic benefits for countries of origin and destination. That’s the reason why many countries have ambitious migration schemes and arrangements.

Further to our discussions today, it seems clear there is scope to discuss ways to improve cooperation and effectively manage migration. We need better tools to support countries  in advancing

Today’s crisis is unprecedented. It is global in scope, presenting challenges in Africa, Europe, Asia and the Americas.  No country or region can address it on its own. We must all contribute to solving this crisis, whether we feel distant, or face the challenges of proximity.

Action is needed now.

We must ensure that this crisis continues to receive our focus and engagement and is our utmost priority. We must not allow our commitment to weaken. I have heard this message from all leaders during his week.

First, we need to ensure comprehensive engagement by the UN system to advance global solutions to these complex situations.

In this regard, the UN and other institutions and agencies must be provided with the financial and operational support needed to fulfil their mandates.

We must also review how our humanitarian operations are funded. It is time to establish a coherent and sustainable system to respond to humanitarian crises. As it stands, it is always too little too late. Media

Middle East, Africa, Asia, Europe or elsewhere. Unless we address the root causes behind this global crisis, we will remain in response mode – with challenges only ever increasing.

During the course of this 70th anniversary, working together with all of you, with the Secretary General and other stakeholders, I will do all I can