Excellencies,

Forced displacement is one of the defining international challenges of our time. Over 65 million people in the world are currently displaced by conflict and violence - the highest number recorded since World War II. Today’s Summit must be a turning point to reversing this trend, building upon the outcomes of the World Humanitarian Summit in May.

Having just returned from missions to Afghanistan, South Sudan and the Middle East, I want to reaffirm the absolute urgency that this issue requires - both for the displaced and their host communities.

At the centre of each of these crises is the disturbing erosion of respect for international humanitarian law that undercuts the very moral and legal foundations our international order has been built upon over many decades. People are forced to flee because they are directly attacked, their homes and livelihoods destroyed, they can’t get their children into any school term after term, and their access to healthcare deliberately obstructed by warring parties. And when all hope has been expunged.

Collectively, we must do much better to stand for what is right and outlaw what is wrong.

In many places we let down the displaced by short-changing the long-term responses they so desperately need. Host communities are overburdened by the sheer volume of services and assistance required. International organizations are pushed to the brink of their capacity to deliver.

Only a collective effort, in which we each recognize and take on our individual as well as shared responsibilities, as outlined in the Secretary General's Agenda for Humanity and as set out so cogently by the Co-Chair, the Prime Minister of Luxembourg at the outset of
this Roundtable session, will lead to the sea-change we need in our approach to
displacement, forced displacement in particular.

The New York Declaration rightly notes the need for reflection on the protection and
assistance of IDPs and the prevention and reduction of such displacement. We need
urgent action on this commitment.

The focus of this Summit is – importantly - on refugees and migrants. But we must not
forget that most refugees and migrants are first displaced within their own borders. The
vast majority of people displaced by violence and conflict – more than 40 million - are
internally displaced persons (IDPs). Most IDPs will never cross an international border,
but they do pose a challenge to the sustainable development and stability of countries and
communities.

Discussions during the World Humanitarian Summit stressed the urgency to adopt a new
approach to address forced displacement, in line with the Agenda for Humanity. We
must operate a dramatic shift in the way we confront displacement, realizing the point
that it is no longer a short-term humanitarian challenge, but a long-term development,
socio-economic and political responsibility that requires our collective support and
engagement bi-laterally, regionally and globally.

We will only enact meaningful change if Governments, development and humanitarian
partners, public and private sector, international and local organizations work together
based on their comparative advantages, to achieve collective outcomes, reduce
vulnerability and need over multiple years. We have to mean that common will to
happen, as well as will the means. So we must change access to labour markets, services,
and safety nets; invest in education and skill for IDPs; and better financial support for
host countries and communities.

For many IDPs, the promise of “no-one left behind” depends on the success of this
sustained, collective effort. You can be assured of my commitment to lead the
humanitarian community in that endeavour.

I urge you to rally with us around the Secretary-General’s target of halving internal
displacement globally in a safe, dignified and durable manner by 2030.

Addressing gaps in humanitarian and development funding and aligning existing
resources and funds will be essential to achieve success. We will work to expand the
Central Emergency Response Fund to US$1 billion annually by 2018. We will also seek
to increase the proportion of humanitarian appeal funding channelled through country-
based pooled funds to 15 per cent by 2018.

The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and this Summit are important
milestones to ensure the survival and protection of all people on the move, whether or not
they have crossed an international border.
Thank you.