



THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL

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**OPENING REMARKS AT INFORMAL INTERACTIVE
HEARINGS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF NON-
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, CIVIL SOCIETY**

**Mr. President,
Special Representative of the Secretary-General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

Thank you for inviting me to be with you today. The Secretary-General who is on travel, sends his best wishes for you and this important meeting.

Seven years ago, I presided over preparations for the first High-level Dialogue on international migration.

It turned out to be a milestone event, a true “game-changer”.

For civil society, it signalled a new era of constructive engagement with Member States.

And for Member States it demonstrated that migration

could be widely and deeply debated at the highest level.

We now have a global forum for informal dialogue and

**The benefits of migration can only be fully harnessed,
and the situation of migrants tangibly improved, if we
establish sustained and strong partnerships as well as
strategic cooperation between different actors**

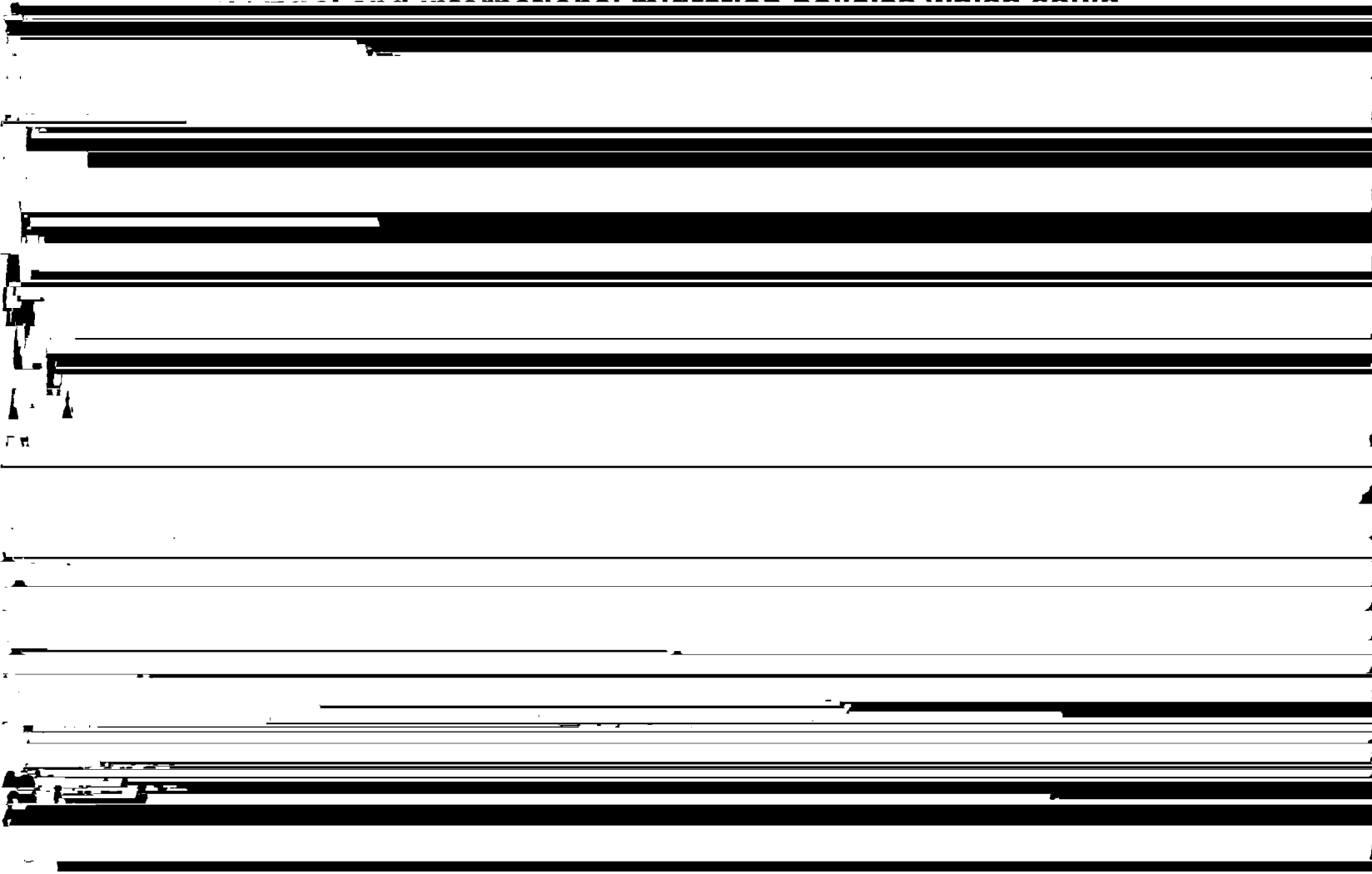
We need to engage the media to make the public and policy makers aware of the vital and positive role migrants can play in helping build and invigorate nations, economies and cultures.

**Mr. President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I would also like to highlight the importance of migration for the post-2015 UN development agenda.

The 2013 General Assembly High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development is an opportunity for Member States to lay the foundation for improved local,

national and international migration policies which could



Migration affects every region, with movements from South-to-South as significant as those from South-to-North.

We need a renewed and reinvigorated global

to increase trade and wealth

Fifth and finally, we must develop a framework for managing migration from countries and regions affected by crisis and violence.

Friends in civil society, you work with migrants on a daily basis – helping them to find a home, a school, a doctor or legal representation.

You are fighting for equal treatment and fundamental

Today's meeting can substantially contribute to this