THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Excellency,

22 October 2015

I am pleased to inform you that the General Assembly will consider agenda item 130 "Global awareness of the tragedies of irregular migrants in the Mediterranean basin with specific emphasis on Syrian asylum seekers" at its plenary meeting on 20 November 2015.

The situation of refugees and irregular migrants crossing from the Middle East and Africa to Europe is of major concern to the international community. As the winter approaches, the conditions facing these vulnerable people will only worsen.

Regrettably, the tragic situation in the Mediterranean is pall of a larger global humanitarian and refugee crisis. This global crisis is of a magnitude not seen since the Second World War, as 60 million people, half of them children, have been forced to leave their homes due to conflict and violence.

It is clear that no country or region can address the current global crisis on its own. At the same time, the humanitarian system is under strain and cannot keep pace with growing needs and challenges. There is an urgent need to comprehensively address the global humanitarian and refugee crisis.

In this regard, this plenary meeting provides a unique 0ppOllunity to address not only the plight of the vulnerable people in the Mediterranean basin, but also to reflect on our collective response to the global crisis. Therefore, I encourage high level participation from Member States at the plenary meeting of the General Assembly on 20 November 2015.

This meeting will be preceded by an informal meeting in the afternoon of 19 November 2015 which will focus on ways to advance a comprehensive approach to humanitarian response. A programme for the informal meeting will be circulated in due course.

Over the coming period, I will continue to work in close cooperation with you to ensure that this crisis receives our continued focus and utmost consideration.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

To All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

Mogens Lykketoft