



H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson, President of the Seventy-First Session of the General Assembly

H.E. Mr. Mogens Lyketoft, President of the Seventieth Session of the General Assembly

H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations

Honorable Heads of State, Heads of Government

Distinguished delegations, Ladies and gentlemen

Images of childhood cut short by conflict and terror have appalled the world. Lives lost in the pursuit of survival in other countries move us to reflect and, especially, to act.

Almost seventy years ago, this Assembly adopted a universal declaration of

rights. It declared that every person who suffers persecution has the right to seek shelter in other countries. It is high time to translate this right into concrete measures.

This is the first time that this Assembly deals with matters related to refugees and migrants together. We cannot less exposure to the root causes of

humanity. In our relations with foreigners, with others, we test our allegiance to these values, our commitment to civilization

Brazil is a country built on the strength of millions of people from all continents. We value our diversity. Immigrants made – and continue to make – a significant contribution to our development. More than that, they are an essential part of our identity. In the Rio Olympics and Paralympics, we had the honor of welcoming the first delegation of refugees to compete in the Games.

In the last years, Brazil has welcomed more than 95,000 refugees from 79

We live in times that require boldness and courage.

During World War II, Luiz Martins de Souza Dantas, then Brazilian Ambassador to Paris, took the initiative of issuing hundreds of visas to save the lives of European citizens fleeing Nazism. Souza Dantas acted out of a moral imperative, convinced that his actions would save lives.