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**ADDRESS BY ENRIQUE PEÑA NIETO
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES**

***UN HIGH LEVEL SUMMIT
TO ADDRESS LARGE MOVEMENTS
OF REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS***

11:00 a.m.

New York, United States of America

September 19, 2016

**YOUR EXCELLENCY, PETER THOMSON,
PRESIDENT OF THE 71st SESSION OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION;**

**YOUR EXCELLENCY, BAN KI MOON,
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS;**

**YOUR EXCELLENCIES, HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT;**

DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES;

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

**Migrants symbolize the strength that has made
Humankind progress: the *movement*.**

**The great migrations have taken the human species to
the various corners of the Earth in all historical epochs. More
than 15 thousand years ago, man crossed the *Bering Strait*
and began to populate the **American Continent**.**

Throughout time, traditions and ideas, knowledge and technological progress, values and aspirations, have travelled with migrations.

Cultures are revitalized and enriched when they coexist and dialogue takes place among them. Migrants have been their principal voices.

History shows that there are no barriers that can stop either the movement of people, or the fusion of cultures or the dissemination of ideas.

Neither natural nor artificial barriers hold sway. For *every river*, there has always been a bridge, for *every obstacle*, there has always been a *way forward*.

If unsurmountable barriers existed, human beings would never have been able to discover and live in all the regions of the planet.

Movement is an essential part of human beings, because it reflects their instinct for survival, their vital energy, their ardent desire to excel and transcend.

Migrants' contributions to the different societies are undeniable, because all migrants are accompanied by their hope and their *identity*; their *energy* and their *talent*.

Mexico is an example of this. We are a country of origin, transit, destination and return for people.

We are a proudly *mestizo*, multicultural and diverse nation, with a living and vibrant culture that is the fruit of many migrations throughout our history.

We Mexicans firmly believe that this *mestizo* fusion is the *future and destiny* of Humankind.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

For these reasons, Mexico celebrates the occasion of **this first *High Level Summit to Address Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants*** at the UN.

We believe that these guiding documents should take the following principles into account:

First: use of a Human Rights approach that sets forth the States' obligations to migrants.

Second: a vision for Shared Responsibility among migrants' countries of *origin, transit, destination* and *return*.

Third: recognition of the contributions migrants make to Social and Economic Development.

Fourth: a focus on Social Inclusion that contributes to eradicating intolerance, prejudice and racism.

Fifth: a framework for Governance of Migration that offers alternatives for the *safe and orderly* management of migratory flows.

Sixth: greater International Cooperation to strengthen States' capacity for comprehensive attention to migration, and,

Seventh: the consideration of Climate Change and Natural Phenomena as causes of migration.

To make progress toward achieving these objectives, my country has offered to host an *International Preparatory Meeting* in 2017.

Mexico will continue working to have migrants recognized as *agents of change and development*; to ensure their Human Rights are respected; and to do away with statements of hate and discrimination against migrants.

The international community has an unmet commitment to migrants. The time has come for us to address this commitment together.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

I salute each and every one of you for demonstrating sensitivity and political will in order to discuss actions in favor of migrants and of safe and orderly migration.

Mexico will continue actively participating in multilateral forums to devise the *Global Pact for Orderly, Safe and Regular Migration* and the *Global Pact on Refugees* in 2018.