

**STATEMENT BY**

**PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY**

**HIGH LEVEL SIDE EVENT  
STRENGTHENING COOPERATION ON MIGRATION AND REFUGEE  
MOVEMENTS IN THE ERA OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
70<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**(30 SEPTEMBER 2015, NEW YORK)**

Mr. Secretary General,  
Distinguished colleagues,

I thank Secretary General for convening this meeting on such a sensitive and important topic.

We are now witnessing the largest humanitarian crisis since World War II.

As Syrian conflict entered its fifth year, 300 thousand lives have been lost, 4 million people have sought shelter in the neighboring countries and more than 7 million people have been internally displaced.

The total number of Syrians in Turkey reached over 2 million. In camps, we are hosting close to 260 thousand Syrians.

Let me give you a striking example to demonstrate how tremendous the situation is:

Since the arrival of the first group of Syrians, close to 66 thousand babies have been born in Turkey. Overall, we host 960 thousand Syrian children.

As announced by the UNHCR, Turkey is now the biggest refugee hosting country in the world.

The cost of this huge undertaking for Turkey has so far been around 7,6 billion US Dollars. The contribution that we have received from the international community, only 417 million US Dollars.

Despite all challenges, we still continue our "open door" policy for Syrians fleeing from the violence in their country, without any discrimination with regard to religious or ethnic origin.

Yet, we reiterate once again

The item will be instrumental also in remembering that sustainable solution to migration can  
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economic deprivation in many of the origin countries are prevented.

We should not let short-term security considerations to distract our attention away from  
addressing the core problems.

Mr. Secretary General,  
Distinguished guests,

At this critical juncture, Turkey chairs the

