

Good Morning, and welcome to all of the great nations who are represented here for this important conference and dialogue on human and family migration. It is not without notice that there are empty seats here today. I mention that not to castigate our fellow UN member nations for their absence but to recognize that migration in its immediacy does not affect all alike, but eventually, as the crisis looms across seas and borders, will touch every corner of gods earth and man's designated legal boundaries. And thus it will be crucial as our dialogues and conventions continue in the months and years ahead, that we encourage our fellow member states to preemptively participate fully in this movement. In order to change anything we will need everyone.

Ladies and Gentleman, fellow Mayors, delegates and diplomats and missions from around the world, my heart goes out to you and your people back home who are working diligently to address a humanitarian crisis the likes of which we have not seen in our lifetimes. And while each of us are facing uniquely regional challenges, we are joined together by the similar god given human experiences that cross the categories of language, nations and ethnicities. How will we meet today's emergencies? And How will we meet tomorrow's unknown obstacles? We will meet it TOGETHER.

I visit today from the small city of Clarkston, Georgia USA. Known as the most ethnically diverse square mile in America. A community of over 13,000 people, from Over 40 different nationalities, speaking 60 different languages and representing all the major religions on earth. Despite the extreme diversity and close proximity to people's who might otherwise have ancient vendettas or more recent tribal slights, we are a peaceful, welcoming and compassionate community. Consistently ranked in the top 50 safest cities in our state of Georgia, USA. In fact during the period of increased refugee resettlement under President George W Bush and President Barack Obama, 2006-2014,

the violent crime rate in Clarkston and surrounding neighborhoods of Decatur dropped a combined 68%, the property crime rate decreased as well.

Our experience as a city with 50% of the population foreign born has been mostly a positive and interesting experience over the last 35 years of refugee resettlement. And today I represent, as a young white male Mayor, a town that is 82% non white, recently re-elected to a second —4 year term, to testify that a community like ours, affectionately known by locals as a mini United Nations, can exist and does exist. In a small but significant way the dream of the United Nations has been played out in our microcosm of a future world, more diverse, in cultures, languages, ethnicities, religions, and probably most instructive for today - a young population. Half of which is under the age of 40.

In fact Clarkston in our elections this last November voted in 3 millennials of the 6 person city Council, meaning with a millennial Mayor, Clarkston is the first city in America with a majority millennial elected body. The dynamic of a young very diverse Community with a leadership majority all under 35 years of age could be the topic of a much longer panel discussion. But I will just say this about the future we are building in our small little place in a big big world. Our generation was taught from an early age the principle of equality, equity and justice— the speeches of Dr. Martin Luther King JR are taught to every school age child — but experiencing a political environment lead by our elders, in our own country, who did not uphold those values in the decision made before we came of age, has caused a groundswell of resentment towards those leaders on both sides of the political spectrum. As a young political leader in a country whose largest voting age bloc by 2020 will be millennial voters, over 88 million, I pledge to my generation and my colleagues around the world, to stay committed to the SDGs and stay committed to the

United States role in alleviating the migration crisis through strong partnerships with the IOM.

I look forward to the panel discussion and exploring specific ways we can increase local cooperation and innovation in refugee resettlement and migration. I will emphasize from the standpoint of the City of Clarkston that our young people and our young leaders must have a seat at the table, I'm afraid to acknowledge the likely truth that these challenges will not be isolated to the current generation, that it will take multiple current and future generations working together to create a more sustainable and resilient world.

In closing — I humbly do believe that we will look back decades from now, on this moment in our history and be proud that our cities welcomed in the so-called strangers from a foreign land, who dress strange and speak unknown languages - who - once we got to know them, turned out to be just like you and I, and our native born countrymen.

People who love to laugh, work hard, provide for their families, eat good food, enjoy good music, build and contribute their small part to our great cities and nations.

Thank you.