Statement by Fe1 deral Fyoreigny Minis(m)3(TJETBT1 0

Ladies and gentlemen,

Out there in the harbor of New York City, inside the Statue of Liberty, there is a poem that says:

These days, I feel like the

Statue of Liberty would fit in many cities around the world Amman or Gaziantep, Munich or Agadez to welcome the huddled masses of today. More than 60 million people today have fled their homes more than ever before since the founding of the United Nations!

The reasons for their flight are diverse - civil war, the threat of terrorism, political persecution, exclusion or discrimination but these countless stories have one thing in common: The <u>violation of human rights</u> drives people from their homes.

To me, that as two implications:

<u>First</u>, we need to understand the close link between human rights, peace and security.

But, secondly, to the millions of refugees today, all of us in the International Community share a <u>common responsibility</u>.

And in order to live up to it, we need to do much more than we are currently doing:

<u>First</u>, The UN's humanitarian agencies provide the most urgently needed assistance but they are dangerously underfunded. Germany has pledged an additional 100 million Euros- and we call upon others to follow. That is why, as G 7 chair, I convened a donor meeting yesterday and I am glad about the support.

<u>Second</u>, we need to address the humanitarian situation in the conflict areas. During armed conflict, every party to the conflict has to adhere to international humanitarian law, including the rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief for civilians in need.

I suggest that we work together on the basis that is already there.

Concerning Syria, the Security Council passed Resolution 2139 last year clearly condemning the use of barrel bombs and demanding humanitarian access to the suffering people.

resolution as common ground and carry it forward.

Our <u>third task</u> is to protect the human rights of people along their <u>path of migration</u>. This includes the fight against trafficking and smuggling, while making sure that people are not sent back into

This is an enormous task especially for the <u>neighboring countries</u> of Syria Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey, who need our support. But and

I say that with just as much concern- treating refugees with dignity and protecting their rights is also the defining challenge for us in Europe. Even though European search and rescue operations save thousands of lives on the Mediterranean, we must not forget the thousands who have lost their lives on that dangerous journey. We need a common European asylum system with common humanitarian standards in all of Europe, but a long way to go.
