

ESTONIA

rändetippkohtumise plenaaristungil, 19.09.2016

Mr. President,

Secretary General,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Estonia welcomes the unique initiative by the Secretary-General of the United Nations that for the very first time allows us, the entire international community, to discuss refugee and migration issues in a

have been forced to move across borders or who have been forcibly displaced within their home countries.

Around the world, the number of child refugees and migrants count for nearly 50 million today. In just 10 years, the number of child refugees has more than doubled and it continues to grow. This shocking statistic shows we need to commit to rapid change. It is our duty to make

children's voices heard in the migration discussion and help them gain a foothold, protection, health and education – simply, a normal life.

Estonia is pays special attention to the plight of child refugees and migrants, and is working towards strengthening child protection and integration measures in European and national legislative frameworks and practices, including in the fields of education, health, social and legal services, as well as in promoting measures to combat discrimination and xenophobia.

Providing refugee and migrant children with an education, and giving them equal access to different fields of social life and public services helps us to build a safer and stronger society. Let me give some

examples: 1) In the refugee camp in Zaatar, Jordan, Estonia equipped computer classes and provided computer lessons for primary school children in the camp. 2) Local governments in Estonia that have resettled Syrian refugees from Turkey or relocated refugees from Greece, have

17, are in education, either in kindergarten, elementary or primary school.