



# UN GLOBAL CONGRESS OF VICTIMS OF TERRORISM

Advancing the rights & needs of victims of terrorism

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL CONGRESS CONCLUDES AT UN HEADQUARTERS WITH COMMITMENTS TO INCREASE SUPPORT TO VICTIMS OF TERRORISM

**New York, 9 September 2022** – The first [United Nations Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism](#), organized by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) concluded today in New York. Held under the theme of “Advancing the Rights and Needs of Victims of Terrorism”, the Congress provided a platform for dialogue and engagement on a victim-centric approach to countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism. More than 600 participants, including close to 100 victims of terrorism from 25 countries across the globe attended in person

The Congress concluded with the presentation of the Chair’s Summary by **Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, the Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism**. The Chair’s Summary entails a 7-point-action plan that lays the groundwork for a roadmap to guide the international agenda in advancing the rights and the needs of victims of terrorism.

*“Today, all of us here are convinced that our solidarity and support for victims should continue to move from rhetoric to reality,”* Mr. Voronkov said, echoing the Call to Action from victims of terrorism at the high-level opening of the Congress. *“They [the victims] called for a comprehensive approach to fulfilling their rights and needs. We heard the message. Now, we must act,”* he urged.

In his remarks, the Under-Secretary-General reiterated the main elements of a three-pronged approach to promote the rights of victims of terrorism and better support their financial, legal, medical, and psychosocial needs. First, he called for inclusion of victims of terrorism and victims’ associations in efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism conducive to terrorism. Second, he called on Member States to strengthen national commitments to victims by enshrining their rights in domestic legislation, and developing national comprehensive assistance plans, as called for in General Assembly resolution 73/305. Third, he stressed the need to strengthen international cooperation in support of victims of terrorism.

The Chair’s Summary foresees the launch of the UNOCT Victims of Terrorism Association Network (VOTAN) in 2023, which would bring together victims, victims associations and civil



society organizations to work together to further the rights and support the needs of victims and survivors of terrorism. An international conference will be held on a rotational basis every two years, which will review the progress of the previous years and action over the next two. Mr. Voronkov welcomed the Kingdom of Spain's initiative to hold the first international follow-up conference in 2024.

In close collaboration with the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, the United Nations will continue to share good practices, lessons learned and toolkits on supporting victims of terrorism and their families with Member States and civil society.

Mr. Voronkov expressed gratitude to the two co-chairs of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, the Republic of Iraq and the Kingdom of Spain, and the other members of the Group of Friends, as well as to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the State of Qatar, and the Federal Republic of Germany for their kind support and contribution to this event.

Additional information can be found on the dedicated webpage for the [2022 Global Congress](#) and twitter [@UN\\_OCT](#). Watch the Congress live on [UN Web TV](#) and the [press conference](#) by Raffi Gregorian, UNOCT Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General and Director of UNOCT.

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For any questions, please contact Ms. Laurence Gerard ([gerardl@un.org](mailto:gerardl@un.org)), Public Information Officer, UN Office of Counter-Terrorism