



**UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM
UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT)**

**Opening Remarks (video message) by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General
United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism**

Launch Event: “Technical support on the rights and needs of victims of terrorism through the establishment of National Comprehensive Assistance Plans and Model Legislative Provisions”

**16 January 2024
Manila, Philippines**

Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to welcome you to the launch of the project on “Technical support on the rights and needs of victims of terrorism through the establishment of National Comprehensive Assistance Plans and Model Legislative Provisions”, which is pioneered by the Philippines.

Today’s launch of this important project in Manila is a testament to our collective commitment to support those most affected by the scourge of terrorism – its victims and survivors. Supporting victims and survivors of terrorism is a critical, but often forgotten component of our efforts to prevent and counter violent extremism and terrorism.

I would like to thank our funding partner, the United States, for prioritizing the wellbeing and rights of victims and survivors of terrorism. I also want to extend my appreciation to our implementing partner, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, which has been instrumental to the development and launch of this project.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to the Government of the Philippines for supporting the needs and rights of victims of terrorism. My Office is privileged to work with you. You are the first Member State to engage in this groundbreaking work with us and we appreciate the example you are setting before other members of the international community.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We all know that terrorism inflicts immense physical and mental suffering to individual victims and their families as well as to society and beyond.

Our collective goal is to prevent future attacks and loss of life, and to ensure that victims and survivors receive the support they need to rebuild their lives.

The United Nations and its Member States have made great strides over the past few years to move from symbolic solidarity towards a more robust engagement to advance victims' rights and needs.

At the international level, key milestones, such as the International Day for Victims and the first United Nations Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism, have laid the groundwork to advance victim-centered approaches. However, without action at the national level, including adoption and implementation of relevant law, we risk losing the momentum.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is heartening to see that Member States including the Philippines are increasingly prioritizing a victim-centered approach.

My Office is committed to continue supporting you in addressing the threat of terrorism in an effective, sustainable, and international law-compliant manner.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This project we are launching today, which places victims and survivors at the center of our counter terrorism efforts, will be added to the list of existing joint initiatives implemented in the Philippines, including the UN Joint Programme on Human Rights and the Counter-Terrorism Travel Programme.

It is the first of its kind to strengthen Member States' legislative frameworks and address victims' needs through a comprehensive action plan. It also aims to help Member States develop their capacity to support victims and survivors of terrorism and to advance their rights and needs.

I look forward to hearing the outcomes of this unique initiative and exploring how to support victims and survivors of terrorism in the Philippines and around the world.

Thank you.