



**UNITED NATIONS  
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM**

**Remarks by Mr Vladimir Voronkov  
Under-Secretary General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism**

**Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism**

**22 September 2022, 11:30 am  
Instituto Cervantes**

Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour to be here with you today, at the third Ministerial meeting of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism.

I want to warmly thank His Excellency Mr. Fuad Hussein, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq and His Excellency Mr. Jose Manuel Albares Bueno, Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of the Kingdom of Spain for the convening this meeting and for their strong leadership of the Group of Friends.

Each year, the Group has seen an expansion of its membership, while advocating strongly for victims' rights and needs, and while helping to drive progress at the international level to support victims of terrorism.

I would like to take this opportunity to also thank members of the Group and its two co-chairs, in particular, for the strong and steadfast support you have shown my Office and its Global Programme for Support to Victims of Terrorism. I look forward to continuing our collaboration and cooperation.

Excellencies,

We have just recently concluded the first-ever Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism, which served as a critical milestone towards strengthened global solidarity and unity in support of victims of terrorism. The Congress accomplished its main aim of placing victims and survivors of terrorism at the center of the conversation, and elevating their voices and perspectives.

During the Congress, with more than 400 in-person participants, including 113 victims of terrorism and victims' associations, we heard clearly the appeals of victims and survivors for strengthened support for their needs and rights. It is now up to us to translate this call into action.

I also warmly welcome the Kingdom of Spain's announcement to host a follow-up conference in 2024 that will allow us all to review progress made on the outcomes of the Congress.

I welcome the announcement just made by His Excellency Jose Manuel Albares Bueno, Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain, regarding Spain's planned generous contribution to the Trust Fund in support of Victims of Terrorism. Thank you Minister Albares Bueno.

Excellencies,

Our work for victims continues.

We have seen a number of activities raising the awareness of victims throughout the year, from the Malaga High-Level Conference on Civil Society, Human Rights and Counter-Terrorism, to the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, and finally, the Global Congress.

Many victims informed me that, in light of these initiatives, expectations on their end are now high. We cannot afford to lose this momentum.

During the Congress, we heard from victims about the need to have viable and sustainable support mechanisms. This is why we need to re-double our efforts to ensure that victims have access to reparations, justice and due process, while continuing to have their physical and mental health needs met.

Together, we can build on General Assembly Resolution 73/305, a landmark resolution adopted in 2019 to enhance international cooperation to assist victims of terrorism.

The upcoming eighth review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy presents another opportunity to build on the outcomes of the Congress.

I look forward to developing this roadmap with you and supporting the workplan of the Group in 2023.

As we move forward together, let us maintain this encouraging level of engagement, and continue to place the rights and needs of victims and survivors of terrorism at the centre of all our discussions.

Thank you for your attention.