

# High-Level International Conference on Human Rights, Civil Society and Counter-Terrorism

## Remarks of

**Mr. Mahaveer Singhvi**

**Joint Secretary (Counter Terrorism)**

**Ministry of External Affairs**

**Session III -Victims and Survivors of Terrorism**

**May 11, 2022**

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

Good Morning,

India conveys its deep appreciation to the Government of Spain and the UN Office of Counter Terrorism (UNOCT) for organizing the session on Victims of Terrorism.

As a country which has been a victim of state-sponsored cross-border terrorism for past 3 decades, India understands the human cost of terrorism, and its lasting impact on the victims and families of the victims.

The pain and suffering of victims and families multiply when their **right to justice** is denied as the perpetrators, facilitators, and financiers of these attacks continue to walk free, enjoying State support and hospitality. The victims of dastardly Mumbai, Pathankot and Pulwama terror attacks are yet to get justice. India remains committed to a “zero tolerance” policy to terrorism and to bringing the perpetrators of these terror attacks on our soil to justice.

Distinguished Delegates,

Acts of terrorism not only violate the rights of individual victims, but they also deeply affect the enjoyment of a range of rights by the families of the victims and society as a whole. Women and children are particularly vulnerable to human rights abuses by the terrorists. Measures aimed at addressing the needs of the victims of terrorism, therefore, should factor in the sensitivities of these vulnerable sections of the society.

While we understand the immediate and long terms needs of the victims like recovery and rehabilitation; we should jointly work with the victims to building counter narrative against the forceful and fanciful propaganda of terrorism, through their stories of endurance and resilience.

India assumed the Chair of the Counter Terrorism Committee for 2022. One of our priorities as CTC Chair is to focus on the victims of terrorism and enhancing their

voice. We believe that civil society can play an important role in this regard.

India is member of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism. We have co-sponsored the General Assembly resolution 73/305 on “enhancement of International Cooperation to Assist Victims of Terrorism.” We have also contributed constructively to strengthen the language of provisions related to victims of terrorism during the 7th review of Global Counter Terrorism Strategy.

We have taken note of the launch of the model legislative provisions jointly developed by UNOCT, UNODC and IPU this year. We trust these model provisions will greatly help member states to further strengthen their national legal frameworks aimed at assisting victims of terrorism.

India supports establishment of a voluntarily funded programme to support Member States in assisting victims of terrorism through national systems. We also fully support bringing in a new resolution on the victims of terrorism, which will pave the way for the establishment of funding mechanism.

It is heartening to note that the first global congress of Victims of Terrorism will be held later this year which was postponed due to CoVID 19. has been postponed several times due to COVID19. We hope that the Congress will be reflect on some of the issues I mentioned.

To conclude, I would like to reaffirm our commitment to the plight and issues faced by victims of terrorism.

Thank you!

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