

Statement by H.E. Mr. José Manuel Albares Bueno, Minister of Foreign Affairs, the European Union and Cooperation of Spain in his capacity as co-Chair of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism

Memorial and Special Tribute Commemorating the 20th Anniversary of 9/11 Terrorist Attacks

20 September 2021

Ms. Alice Greenwald President of the September 11 Memorial,

Under Secretary General Vladimir Voronkov

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism.

We gather here today to pay tribute and honor the victims of the heinous attacks that took place on September 11 2001 in the United States, where nearly 3000 lives from more than 90 countries all over the world were taken by the terrorists, and thousands more injured. We want to remember all those who lost their lives and praise those who risked everything to help them. We also express our deepest sympathy and solidarity to grieving families, and recognize all people who continue to struggle due to their horrific experiences.

As we witness all the pain and longstanding suffering caused by these terrorist attacks to the victims and their families, we firmly condemn, more strongly than ever, terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and we reiterate our commitment to work, all together, against it. We call upon all Member States, the United Nations and other International organizations to redouble our common efforts and collaboration with that objective.

This Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism seeks to promote and protect the human rights of the victims of terrorism, and to advocate their diverse needs throughout their lives after their terrible experiences.

Therefore we take this opportunity to call upon all States to provide the victims and their families with proper support, assistance and rehabilitation, to ensure that their needs

are met and their human rights are recognized and protected, with a special consideration towards women and children.

We acknowledge the meaningful role that victims of terrorism must play a central role in all our counter terrorist efforts. Victims must be empowered to have their voices heard and counter the narrative of destruction and intolerance promoted by terrorist groups.

Today we would also like to avail this occasion to pay tribute to this great city, New York, that hosts all of us; living and working here made us witness and experience the suffering caused twenty years ago, but also see New York's endurance and resilience.

Let me finish by reiterating our solidarity with the people of New York City, the United States of America, as well as with all victims that have suffered the scourge of terrorism everywhere around the world. Let us restate our commitment towards our common collaboration to fight against terrorism, and in favor of the victims, their needs and their rights. We owe it to them

And now keeping all this in mind I would like to invite all of you to observe a minute of silence for all the victims of terrorism