



**UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM**

**Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General,
United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism**

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

20 September 2023

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to attend this fourth Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism. I would like to thank the co-chairs of the Group of Friends, Iraq and Spain, for their strong leadership and their tireless efforts to place victims of terrorism high on the international agenda.

Although the terrorism landscape remains extremely fluid, with Africa now the epicenter of attacks, we continue to see its effects on individuals, societies, and nations across the world.

Victims are looking to the United Nations and the international community for action. Therefore, we need to show that our response is prompt, effective and practical.

Together with this Group of Friends, I would like us to commit to building upon the achievements of last year. This foundation includes the roadmap from the first United Nations Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism and stronger language on victims in the eighth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Looking forward, it will be important for next year's African Counter-Terrorism Summit, co-organized by Nigeria and my Office, to provide a platform for victims' voices. I also look forward to the international conference on victims of terrorism to be hosted in Spain next year.

I am proud that this Group and the United Nations continue to show our solidarity with victims. Your support was evident this June at the dedication of the United Nations Victims of Terrorism Solidarity Tree during the Counter-Terrorism Week.

The high-level event for the sixth commemoration of the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism in August focused on the importance of recovery and resilience of victims through the theme of "Legacy: Finding Hope and Building a Peaceful Future".

In parallel, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism launched an interactive documentary gallery on Instagram featuring how victims and survivors create a positive legacy in the aftermath of terrorism.

Excellencies,

We must continue this momentum in support of victims and survivors of terrorism.

While the Group of Friends needs to continue to be a powerful voice for those who cannot speak up, it must also support the necessary capacity building programming with financial resources to support victims and survivors of terrorism. Words without actions will seem insincere for victims and survivors who have suffered so much.

General Assembly Resolution 73/305 remains one of the most important resolutions on victims of terrorism. However, it needs to be updated to better address their needs. In this regard, I strongly urge the development, funding and implementation of comprehensive assistance action plans to provide holistic, multifaceted support to victims at the national level. My Office stands ready to assist Member States in these efforts.

Excellencies,

Strengthening our partnership and collaboration at the national, regional, and international levels is the best way to provide a coherent response to the complex needs that confront victims daily. Therefore, we must continue to work together, for better protection and support of victims and a world free from terrorism.

Thank you.