



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON COUNTERING TERRORISM

Global Congress on Victims of Terrorism

convened by the United Nations

8 to 9 September 2022, New York, USA

DRAFT TALKING POINTS

High-Level Ministerial Session (Day 1, 11:05 - 12:25), 3 minutes

Excellencies,

Distinguished colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a sincere pleasure for me to be with you today and to take part in this important Congress on Victims of Terrorism.

First of all, like my colleagues, I want to say **thank you to UN for organizing this important event** and the leadership of Under Secretary **Voronkov**. And inviting me and other parliamentarians in our capacity as **we share interparliamentary force as I do in the OSCE, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe**.

We enjoy outstanding co-operation with our UN partners, who are helping our committees to be more impactful in our parliamentary efforts. I am also pleased to represent the new **Co-ordination Mechanism amongst Parliamentary Assemblies on Countering-Terrorism Matters**, as the first elected President.

To begin with, I would like to **offer heartfelt condolences** to the families and loved ones of all the victims of terrorism and violent extremism, as well as to the Governments that have been targeted by such atrocities.

And we got a lot of information of the begin of this Congress; how terrible it is for each individual to be a victim of terrorism.

And after each of these attacks, we hear a lot about the people who are the terrorists, they are on TV, we know their names, we know their names.

But rarely, we hear about those who were killed, who were injured. Women, girls and boys, going about their daily lives – spending time with their friends in restaurants, attending concerts, or just commuting to work – when their lives have ended or been changed forever.

This Congress is therefore a great opportunity to highlight the tragic human cost of terrorism. Such shameful acts are intended precisely to **undermine the trust** of our citizens in their public authorities and **fuel animosity** among the different segments of our society.

While developing our strategies and programmes, we should also realize that **survivors of terror attacks play a key role in countering extremist violence**. They do that as witnesses in court trials; and they do that as beacons of hope in our societies. They help us preserve the memory of those who perished at the hand of terrorists, and they remind us that we need to do more to protect our citizens.

As the **largest and more inclusive regional security organization**, the OSCE is well placed to bring 57 countries – spanning three continents – together to address top security threats such as countering terrorism and violent extremisms, and preventing radicalization.

Our goal is to **build trust, share lessons learned and best practices, as well as promote policy convergence** among our countries.

Since 2017, a key priority of our Assembly is **promoting the rights and needs of victims of terrorism** and strengthening the role of **victims' associations**.

We have adopted a **new, detailed resolution on the Victims of Terrorism** at our last Annual Session in Birmingham this July, which is inspired by UN Model Legislative Provisions. This underlines the need to **safeguard the rights, dignity and memory of all victims**. We hope this parliamentary document will become a **benchmark for the efforts of our fifty-seven Governments in this context**. They have to act now and to bring all that UN is doing in their National Legislation. This is very important.

So, I hope that we are successful in our strength for a safer and more united world in this fight against Terrorism. Only together, we can be successful.

Thank you!

Session 1: Recognition and Remembrance Measures (Day 1 - 15:00 - 16:05),

1-3 minutes

Excellencies,

Distinguished colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to address you again, as Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism of the OSCE PA.

It is key to **coherently address the complex needs of the victims of terrorism and integrate such provisions into comprehensive counter-terrorism policies and practices at national level.**

Ultimately, by remembering all the victims of terrorism and supporting their loved ones we are not only **paying tribute to their heroism and human suffering**, but also contributing to **change those very narratives of fear and hatred** that terrorists seek to incite within our own societies.

When we lift up the victims of terrorism, listen to their voices, respect their rights and provide them with support and justice, we reduce the lasting damage done by terrorists to individuals, families and communities.

We must work together to effectively counter terrorism and to ensure that for victims the principles of **memory, dignity and justice** are upheld.

QUESTIONS

- In July this year we were pleased to introduce a **new, detailed draft resolution** in our Assembly on the Victims of Terrorism, which was adopted at our Annual Session in Birmingham, and we hope that it will become a clear benchmark for the efforts of our participating States, and

can act as inspiration to other parliamentary assemblies. We stand ready to offer more details to whomever is interested!

- Parliamentarians are responsible for shaping the legislative and policy frameworks of our countries and have a vital role in supporting the implementation of international counter-terrorism obligations. What are the **best practices in ensuring recognition and remembrance measures are included in our legislative frameworks?**
- In 2019 the OSCE PA conducted a **Parliamentary Oversight Initiative** on Strengthening Border Security and Information Sharing in the OSCE Region to gain insight into substantive matters concerning the adoption and implementation at the national level of obligations stemming from UN Security Council Resolution 2396 on border security and information sharing. Perhaps this initiative could be **replicated with regards to obligations to victims of terrorism?**

Breakout Session 2 B – Terrorist attacks based on xenophobia, racism, and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion or belief (XRIRB) (Day 1 - 16:10 - 17:15), 1-3 minutes

Excellencies,

Distinguished colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to address you again, as Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism of the OSCE PA.

In the OSCE region we are faced by many challenges prompted by xenophobia, racism, and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion or belief, and the terrorism this inspires.

Particularly, the **war in Ukraine** will have dire implications on the regional and global security situation. While what we are witnessing in Eastern Europe is not related to terrorism, the UN warns us that conflicts can be drivers of terrorism.¹ After all, the very concept of **hybrid warfare** is rather vague. As such, it does not help to draw a clear line between acts of war and acts of terrorism. But this is a critical distinction to make, as different international norms apply: international humanitarian law and human rights law in one case, and the international counter-terrorism legal framework in the other.

Notably, **cyber-attacks** have the potential of a massive **spill over effect**, with a much broader global impact, and no clarity over how far they could reach because of the extensive online interconnectivity.

Irrespective, this illegal war will **destabilize the broader region**, with enormous social, political, and economic repercussions. For example, the looming **food**

¹ UN75, [A New Era of Conflict and Violence](#), 2020.

crisis will severely impact millions of individuals across the world, with unpredictable consequences.

Terrorist groups are likely to exploit these news areas of tension, instability, and desperation amongst vulnerable populations to inspire terrorist activism. This will increase the susceptibility of local populations to radicalization.

Furthermore, regrettably, in many of our countries we continue to witness a worrying increase in both **right-wing extremism** and male supremacist attacks, fuelled by a rise in “alt-right” ideology and conspiracy theories spread online, including the notable 6 January Capitol Hill riot in Washington DC. During the pandemic, **the male supremacist movement has also grown and radicalised**, with increased time online fuelling the spread of incel ideology.² Throughout 2020 and 2021 male supremacist activity has moved offline and become more increasingly, and we have recently seen an expansion from North America to Europe.³ The spread of this ideology is worrying, and global efforts should be made to tackle this online and offline.

QUESTIONS

- Considering the **rise in the spread of hate speech, dis- and misinformation, conspiracy theories online, as well as terrorist radicalization and recruitment**, what global and regional measures are needed to combat this? And how can Parliamentary Assemblies and Parliamentarians contribute to these prevention efforts?
- Currently in many of our countries we continue to witness a worrying increase in both **right-wing extremism** and male supremacist attacks, fuelled by a rise in “alt-right” ideology and conspiracy theories spread online. This ideology is spreading most rapidly amongst youth, which is

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*

particularly worrying. How can we ensure globally co-ordinated efforts to tackle this concerning new trend?

- How can we **best respond to new threats** and ensure our counter-terrorism strategies and legislation is in line with constantly evolving trends and challenges?