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Minister for Diversity, Inclusion and Ethnic Communities

UN Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism

Event Host: United Nations

Dates: 8 and 9 September 2022

Video message length: 3 minutes

- Tēnā koutou katoa
- **My name is Priyanca Radhakrishnan and I am New Zealand's Minister for Diversity, Inclusion and Ethnic Communities, I am also responsible for overseeing our social cohesion work programme.**
- I would like to convey New Zealand's gratitude to the United Nations for hosting this Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism.
- New Zealand is committed to working with partners at home and abroad to support and promote universal human rights including those of survivors of terrorism.
- This is why New Zealand is so supportive of this Global Congress.
- It has been said that our young nation sadly came of age on 15 March 2019, when an armed terrorist attacked two mosques in the city of Christchurch, killing 51 shuhada (martyrs) and injuring or traumatising dozens more.

- The New Zealand Government remains committed to addressing the enduring needs of the survivors, and to be guided by their voices.
- A Royal Commission of Inquiry – the highest independent investigative and advisory body in our nation – advised the Government on how it should respond to ensure such a tragedy never happens again. Survivor and community voices played a vital role in this.
- The Inquiry made 44 recommendations - all of which our government agreed to in-principle.
- The recommendations span five key areas including a strong people focused approach to social cohesion, reducing hate crime and updating our national security system - including countering terrorism and violent extremism. The report also made recommendations for further work we can do around firearms - beyond the swift action we already took in the wake of March 15.
- All of these areas serve to give confidence back to our communities. It also means we can put mitigations in place that support vulnerable people to have the tools and resources to not become radicalised towards terrorism or other extremist and violent behaviours.
- The other significant response with the goal of eliminating terrorist and violent extremist content online, is the Christchurch Call co-led by the Governments of New Zealand and France.

- The New Zealand Government's implementation of several Legislative and Operational changes in its national response also took into account the voices of survivors which, for example, is reflected in our counter terrorism strategies and Police programme to improve their approach to hate crime.
- To end, I thank you for the opportunity to speak today and offer words of the Imam of Al Noor mosque in the face of one of our nation's darkest days – *“We are broken-hearted but we are not broken. We are alive. We are together. We are determined to not let anyone divide us.”*
- Nō reira, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa.