



**UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM**

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

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

20 September 2021

Mrs. Alice Greenwald, President of the National 9/11 Memorial and Museum,
H.E. Mr. José Manuel Albares, Minister for Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of
the Kingdom of Spain,

Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have gathered from all over the world on this sacred ground in the host city of the United States to pay tribute to the victims and survivors of the terrible attacks that occurred here just over twenty years ago.

On that Tuesday morning in September, the world watched in horror as terror struck here - where we stand today – and in the District of Columbia as well as in Pennsylvania.

But shortly after, the United Nations came together to take action against those responsible for these attacks and others, by first and foremost declaring international terrorism a threat to international peace and security.

We have been united in our efforts to prevent such attacks from happening again and to bring terrorists to justice.

But we have never lost sight of the plight of the victims. Of their needs. Of their rights. We will not forget them.

We will continue to place victims at the heart of our counter-terrorism efforts.

We will continue to speak for those who can no longer speak.

We will amplify the voices of survivors.

Nothing could be more appropriate than for all of us to be standing in front of the Survivor Tree to honour the nearly 3,000 people from over 90 countries who lost their lives during the attacks; and to remember the fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, and beloved friends who perished on that day.

On behalf of Secretary-General António Guterres, let me affirm that the United Nations will continue to uphold the rights of victims, and support Member States' efforts to address their needs.

That we will stand in solidarity with all victims of terrorism.

That they will not be forgotten.

That no day shall erase them from the memory of time.

Thank you.