



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

**Launch of the Model Legislative Provisions for Victims of Terrorism**

**4 February 2022, 8.30 a.m.**

Excellencies,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to the launch of the Model Legislative Provisions for Victims of Terrorism.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our partners in this tripartite initiative, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, for their strong collaboration with my Office in this endeavour.

And my sincere appreciation to all those who participated in developing the Provisions – namely, United Nations entities, civil society organizations, victims' associations and victims of terrorism.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The frightening cost of terrorism is starkly evident through the thousands of victims that continue to be affected by terrorist attacks.

I have spoken in the past at length about the need to provide victims with recognition, justice, dignity, truth and respect. However, translating these words into actions remains a challenge.

Showing political will means supporting victims, understanding their unique needs and realizing their rights. We owe that to the victims, their families and their communities.

This can be done by Member States enacting strong domestic legislation that recognizes that victims need support and require accountability, and that establishes mechanisms that are victim-centric.

The Secretary-General's report on 'progress made by the United Nations system in supporting Member States in assisting victims of terrorism' as well as relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 73/305 on 'enhancement of international cooperation to assist victims of terrorism' and the seventh review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, have all urged to strengthen national efforts in protecting and supporting the rights and needs of victims, particularly through the development of strong domestic frameworks.

These calls have been heeded, and I am proud to be here today, with Ms. Ghada Fathi Waly, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, to launch the Model Legislative Provisions on Victims of Terrorism.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Model Legislative Provisions aim to strengthen the ability of national governments to provide victims with appropriate support, both immediately after an attack and in the long term, on key issues that affect victims and in response to the specific needs of women, girls, boys and men.

The Provisions will serve as a model to review existing national laws and procedures related to victims of terrorism, so that they are in line with international legal frameworks on victims. They will also help fill the gap where no legislation exists.

The Provisions can further support the development of national comprehensive assistance plans to better promote and protect the rights and support the needs of victims, as called for by the United Nations General Assembly.

By integrating specific legislative provisions on victims -- including in areas such as recognition, access to justice, assistance and support, compensation, and remembrance -- into national comprehensive assistance plans, Member States will ensure that efforts to prevent and counter violent extremism remain true to victims' needs and rights.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My Office stands ready to provide technical assistance and to work hand-in-hand with national authorities to address the needs and uphold the rights of victims. We will do so through the Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme and the UNOCT Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism.

I look forward to working together towards the effective implementation of the Provisions and to supporting Member States' efforts to take practical steps in developing national frameworks that are holistic, victim-centric and sustainable.

In this regard, I also look forward to welcoming you at the first Global Congress for Victims of Terrorism which will take place in New York later this year.

To conclude, I would like to express my gratitude to all donors contributing to the implementation of this global programme. First of all, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Qatar.

Thank you.