



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

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

Special Meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee on “countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes” and associated events

Soft opening session and tribute to the victims of terrorism

Mumbai, India, 28 October 2022

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am honoured to participate in this soft opening session and tribute to victims of terrorism.

I stand in solidarity with the victims and survivors of terrorist attacks carried out around the world, including here in Mumbai, at this hotel, 14 years ago.

Victims and survivors are the face of our common humanity. They remind us why we need to act with resolve and unity to break free from terrorist violence and address the conditions conducive to its spread.

They inspire us to do more and to ensure that their voices are heard, their dignity defended, their needs addressed, and their rights upheld.

Societies benefit when victims and survivors are placed at the heart of our efforts to prevent and counter terrorism.

The international community has made significant progress over the last decade to highlight the importance of the role of victims and survivors in counter-terrorism.

This includes, for example, the adoption of General Assembly resolutions, one proclaiming 21 August as the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, and another on the enhancement of international cooperation to assist victims of terrorism.

Several Member States have also strengthened their legislation and developed national comprehensive assistance plans to better protect, assist and support victims and survivors of terrorism.

While such progress is commendable, concrete and tangible action is needed to comprehensively address the individual rights and needs of victims and survivors of terrorism around the world.

This was the clear Call to Action of Victims during the first-ever United Nations Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism, organized by my Office last month in New York.

During the Congress, victims called on the international community to work together to do more to support them and to keep their interests front and centre in the fight against terrorism.

The United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres called for a particular focus on the provision of mental health and psychosocial support services to victims and their communities, for as long as necessary.

The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism will continue to prioritize the rights and needs of victims across all areas of its work.

Let us renew our commitment to honour, advocate for and support victims and survivors of terrorism. Let us rise to this challenge, inspired by their courage and strength.

Thank you.