



First Global Parliamentary Summit on Counter-Terrorism, 9 September 2021

Session 1: Parliamentary response to support the victims of terrorism

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to be speaking today during this important session on victims of terrorism and to co-present the ongoing project of the Model Legislative Provisions that we have jointly undertaken with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, and the Inter-Parliamentary Union. I would like to thank our partners for their good collaboration on this very important initiative.

Over the last several years, the international community has made real progress on upholding the rights and supporting the needs of victims of terrorism - through the adoption of key General Assembly resolutions, by providing victims with a greater platform to share their stories and by placing victims at the centre of counter-terrorism efforts.

The Secretary-General's report on victims (A/74/790), the 2019 General Assembly resolution 73/305 and the seventh review resolution of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted in June of this year, have all continued to urge Member States and the United Nations to strengthen its efforts to support victims. This has ranged from advocacy, solidarity, to more practical measures, such as capacity building and technical assistance.

The Secretary-General's report particularly highlights the need for Member States to develop "model legislation, good practices and lessons learned"



specifically for victims, considering their rights and unique needs as a result of a terrorist attack. General Assembly resolution 73/305 further emphasizes the key role that the United Nations can play in this regard.

These calls have been heeded, and we are proud to be partners under the tripartite IPU-UN initiative to develop Model Legislative Provisions for victims of terrorism.

Ladies and Gentlemen

As the world rapidly changes and as we see a fluid terrorist landscape, we also see the threat of creating new victims. It remains important, therefore, that the efforts undertaken at the international level must be translated at the national and regional level to avoid losing progress achieved so far. Only through strong domestic legal frameworks can the rights of and needs of victims be truly realised.

The purpose of the Model Legislative Provisions seeks to guide Member States in understanding the key issues that affect victims –whether it is on compensation, assistance and support, and access to justice. Having this knowledge, and realising the tools to support this, will effectively help Member States to properly implement specific provisions, or strengthen existing ones, that uphold the rights and support the needs of victims.



The Provisions, which will include a gender-sensitive component, will therefore, seek to serve as a model for the review of existing laws and procedures related to victims of terrorism in line with recent advances on this subject matter and to strengthen these frameworks, where required. It will also seek to support the development of legislation to better support victims where no legislation exists. Ultimately, the Provisions act as the fundamental basis to strengthen the national response to specifically assist and support victims of terrorism through a legal framework that puts victims at its heart.

The Provisions will be tailored to the national needs in line with the constitutional principles and legal tradition of each Member State, and after careful review of its existing legislative framework.

Thus, we hope, that through these efforts the Provisions will also serve as a catalyst to systematize and promote the exchange of information regarding existing good practices among different Member States and promote and strengthen collaboration among countries, the UN, civil society and victims to better promote and protect the rights and needs of victims of terrorism.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Model Legal Provisions on Victims of Terrorism were elaborated under the scope of the Parliamentary Engagement Programme as regards as UNOCT. Let me please take the opportunity to, very shortly, present you this new initiative.



Last month of June, UNOCT opened in Doha, Qatar, a new Office on Parliamentary Engagement to implement the Global Programme on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism. This is the unique UN Office completely devoted to support and enhance the work of Parliamentarians and Parliamentary Assemblies in preventing the scourge of terrorism, by implementing the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy, United Nations Security Council Resolutions as well as other international instruments.

The new Programme Office of Parliamentary Engagement will continue strengthening parliamentary contribution and facilitate inter-parliamentary dialogue on Countering Terrorism and Preventing Violent Extremism, building upon core parliamentary functions and partnerships with parliamentary assemblies.

The new Office continue providing assistance on the basis on CTED and CTC recommendations under three main pillars of collaboration: 1) by providing technical support to Parliamentarians in legal drafting, legal analysis, as well as in policy making and the development of specialized tools and publications tailored to the countries; 2) also, the New Office will support in raising awareness and enhancing capacities of national parliaments and parliamentary assemblies, and it will also; 3) enhance coordination and partnerships in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism.

Besides the relevant model legal provisions on Victims of terrorism, the Parliamentary Engagement Office is also soon launching a Guide for Parliamentarians in Implementing the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy, as



well as a tool to facilitate implementation of the SC resolution 1373, and a compendium and recommendations of legal provisions on data protection in the context of countering terrorism and violent extremism.

We would like to express our gratitude to many of the Parliamentary Assemblies and UN entities that has made our work possible.

For your ease of reference, we have left some flyers on your tables with more information on the New Office. We will be honored to work with you and enhance our partnerships.

I would like to finish by taking the opportunity to thank once again UNODC and IPU for this important partnership, but also other entities in the UN family, victims' associations and victims who are working closely with us to ensure that the Model Legislative Provisions truly reflect the rights and needs of victims worldwide. Many thanks for your kind attention.