

First Global Parliamentary Summit on Counter-Terrorism

***Remarks to be delivered under the following Agenda Item:
“Session 1: Parliamentary response to support the victims of terrorism”***

“Presentation of the work done by the IPU-UNODC-UNOCT in the elaboration of Model Legislative Provisions for Victims of Terrorism.”

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Thursday, 9 September, 2021, 10:20-12:30

[Following statement by David Alamos Martinez, OCT]

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues,

It is an honour and privilege to speak at this summit.

In continuation of the presentation by [my colleague David Alamos Martinez from] UNOCT on the work done by the IPU, UNOCT and UNODC in the elaboration of Model Legislative Provisions for Victims of Terrorism, I will focus on parts of the work and process so far - as well as overall aims of the provisions.

With the aim to develop the provisions, UNOCT, UNODC, and IPU jointly organized a virtual expert consultation session in July 2020 followed by six thematic expert consultation sessions from November 2020 to January 2021, which addressed a range of specific subjects.

These included themes such as the rights to compensation; recognition and remembrance; assistance and support for victims of terrorism, including

rehabilitation; protection of privacy and dignity of victims of terrorism; the role of victims' associations and non-governmental organizations; and access to justice for victims of terrorism.

In the work of developing to model legislative provisions, it has been a priority to have an inclusive process with broad consultations ensuring a wide expertise.

Members of parliament, international and national experts, relevant entities of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, regional parliamentary organizations, academia, civil society, associations of victims of terrorism, and victims themselves participated in the expert consultations.

The subsequent drafting, which is still ongoing, has taken place under the tri-lateral programme.

Furthermore, feedback on the draft model provisions have been sought from a core group of experts, including experts from key UN entities, academia, and civil society.

The provisions aim to be a technical assistance tool. The purpose of developing the provisions [which has also been addressed by my colleague in the above], includes that the provisions may serve as a model for the review of existing laws and procedures related to victims of terrorism and advance good practices.

Additionally, the development of model legislative provisions can serve to draw attention to the urgency of taking concrete steps to protect, assist and support victims of terrorism.

This should be seen within the overall aim to strengthen the capacity of national parliaments.

It should be highlighted that the model provisions are *not* intended to replace the national legislative drafting process and be incorporated directly into national legislation.

Rather, the model legislative provisions will propose a basis to assist in strengthening the national response, to be tailored to the national needs as also mentioned by my colleague from the UNOCT [in line with the constitutional principles and legal tradition of each Member State, and after a careful review of its existing legislative framework].

In short, the provisions will represent a resource for Member States to bring national legislation in line with international norms, through a victim-centred approach – an approach which should actively engage victims to fully understand the harms suffered and their rights and needs, and enable them to play active and participatory roles in measures to support and assist them, without fear of stigma, reprisal or secondary victimization.

These provisions are expected to be launched later this year.

UNODC has contributed to the development and concrete drafting of the provisions. This was done by building on UNODC's longstanding experience in providing legislative technical assistance to parliamentarians, and drawing on UNODC's integrated mandates on prevention of crime, corruption, and terrorism in all their manifestations.

In the area of counter-terrorism legislation alone, UNODC has supported the drafting, revision and adoption of 189 pieces of legislation, including in cooperation with parliament members of IPU.

In the area of victims of terrorism, UNODC has developed a range of publications addressing the rights and needs of victims of terrorism, and also has a strong mandate related to victims of crime in general, including as the custodian of the *UN Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power*.

Looking ahead, UNODC's recently adopted Strategy for 2021-2025 highlights that UNODC will “expand the on-the-ground presence to ensure that Member States can respond to emerging issues as they relate to terrorism and provide support to victims.”.

In conclusion, allow me to thank the IPU and UNOCT for fruitful cooperation on this very important initiative. A special acknowledgment and thanks must be extended to IPU's Secretariat in Geneva, under the leadership of Amb. Omar Mokhtar, for supporting this partnership.

Also, heartfelt thanks go to other entities of the UN family, experts, victims' organisations and victims themselves for the invaluable contributions to the work on developing the provisions.

We are confident that the *model legislative provisions* will be an important tool to support parliamentarians in delivering on their commitments to protect the rights of victims of terrorism.

Thank you.