

Dear colleagues and friends,

Thank you for coming.

I am glad to welcome you to the first side event of the United Nations "Counter-Terrorism Week!".

It is an honor to have our special guests here today.

What I have learned from these meetings is that victims are powerful and credible messengers. Their tragic experiences put a human face to the consequences of terrorism and teach us not to lose our humanity.

But we must not only listen to victims' voices. We must also work towards protecting their rights and supporting their needs.

The Secretary-General has urged us to stand in solidarity with victims, to continue in our efforts to protect their rights, and recognize the vital role they can play in preventing terrorism and violent extremism.

Recently, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, the capacity-building arm of the Office of Counter-Terrorism launched a multi-million dollar Victims of Terrorism Programme that builds on the Secretary-General's core aims of unity, solidarity and collaboration with victims.

We will stand in solidarity with victims, raise awareness on their needs and work toward the fulfillment of their rights. This will be achieved through practical activities, such as:

- 3i4 building the capacity of victims to put forward counter narratives to those of violent extremists,
- 3ii4 strengthening mechanisms to provide practical resources to victims, through the UN Victims of Terrorism Support Portal,
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