

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

**Launch meeting of the
Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism**

25 June 2019

Secretary-General Guterres,
Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

launching meeting of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism is an important milestone in our work to support those that have been injured, traumatized or have lost their lives during terrorist attacks.

The launch of this group is the culmination of considerable efforts by a number of States.

In July last year, we established a comprehensive programme to support and promote the needs of victims, to highlight their voices, and to strengthen the capacities of victims' associations, civil society and Member States.

This Group of Friends will be a leading partner in these efforts.

I would like to propose that my Office and the Group of Friends co-host a photographic exhibition that portrays the resilience of victims of terrorism to commemorate the second International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism. This exhibition would take place in August.

I also look forward to the Group of Friends being a key partner in the first-ever Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism to be held next June in New York.

This landmark event will be an integral -
with the seventh biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the second High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States.

These events aim to be a testament to the importance of multilateralism and international

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

I am personally and deeply committed to the issue of victims of terrorism. I try to meet victims whenever I travel in my job, whether it is to Maiduguri, Fallujah, Timbuktu, Kabul, Paris, Madrid.

Recently, I met with youth victims of terrorism from across the world. Despite their