

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

**The Power of Resilience
New York, 21 August 2019**

Mr. Secretary-General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen

Thank you for attending the launch of this photographic exhibition to commemorate the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism. First of all, my words of respect to all of them and in particular to those who have joined us today.

I would like to thank the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism for co-hosting this event and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the financial support to make it possible.

I would also like to thank Sarah, Maureen and Thelma, for their sincere, emotional and impactful stories. These stories left no one indifferent.

This Day is for victims and survivors of terrorism – we want to hear your voices, listen to your experience and your thoughts on how we can strengthen our commitment to you.

We have heard what resilience means to each of you. Each meaning is very personal and not the same. This is what resilience is about – unique individuals seeking their own path towards healing.

This path is not an easy one. It requires strength and determination, and I am always humbled by the courage and dignity of those who take it.

The photographic exhibition shows just this. We asked each survivor what was the one thing that helped them become resilient.

This ranges from life itself to family, art and books, forgiveness and mindset – showing that resilience is multi-dimensional.

To truly help and support victims and survivors, we must understand what they need and I am sure that this exhibition makes it clearer.

Mr. Secretary-General,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We now have stronger mechanisms to act. The General Assembly has mandated my Office to strengthen the work of the Organization on victims of terrorism, and we intend to broaden the scope of our victims support programme to include many of the issues highlighted in the exhibition and in your statements.

The establishment of the Group of Friends is another step forward in the commitment of the international community towards victims.

The next milestone will be the first Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism, which will be held next year here at the United Nations in New York, during the second Counter-Terrorism Week. We need to start working on it without delay.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On this Day, we remember all the victims of terrorism around the world. We pay tribute to those whose lives were stolen, and to those left behind.

Thank you all for attending this event and I encourage you to visit the exhibition.

Thank you very much for your attention and I now kindly ask you to remain seated while the Secretary-General leaves.

Thank you.