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RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

PREMIER MINISTRE

SECRETARIAT D'ÉTAT CHARGE DE L'AIDE AUX VICTIMES

International Conference on Victims Assistance

Draft Agenda

#Aide aux
victimes

Paris

January 9 & 10, 2017

The International Conference on Victims Assistance will be held on January 9th and 10th 2017 in Paris, in reference to the international march of January, 11th 2015. The aim of this conference is to share experiences and good practices, allow the different actors to network, in order to settle international guidelines on victims assistance. Several foreign and French experts will meet in order to identify common grounds of action. Our goal is to explore the ways of rebuilding societies after these traumatic events.

SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM¹ (January 9th 2017)

● **9:30-10:00 am: Opening speech by Mrs. Irina Bokova, Director-General of the UNESCO, and by the Minister of State in charge of Victims Assistance, attached to the Prime Minister, in charge of victim support, Mrs. Juliette Méadel**

● **10:00-11:15 am: Victims' place in the society: evolution, recognition and commemorations**

The place of victims in contemporary western societies has profoundly evolved. Over the past forty years, victims have gained a greater visibility in the public space. In the 1970s victimology helped having victims being placed at the center, a trend that was accompanied by the adoption of several international rules and standards on victims of crime in the mid-1980s. Victim status has become a societal issue, raising new expectations and questioning public authorities' responses. If the establishment of a policy of memory is only one part of the recognition that victims and their relatives expect from the Nation, it is nevertheless a paramount matter for the victims to return to a normal life.

● **11:15-12:30 am: Access to information and protection of victims' privacy: self-regulation of the media in a globalized environment**

Media coverage of traumatic events sometimes leads to decency and deontology infringements. A collective reflection must be undertaken in order to provide a better frame to the broadcasting of images that often reveal a form of voyeurism towards victims in the moments following the traumatic event. The issue on whether or not to reveal the identity of perpetrators of terrorist acts is also at the heart of the debate. This round table will strive to find better ways to regulate the media coverage of victims and perpetrators of terrorist acts while preserving the freedom of information. In the era of digital and media globalization, this question calls for an international response.

● **12:30 – 2:00 pm: Buffet lunch**

● **2:00-2:15 pm: Introduction of the afternoon discussions**

¹ The day is divided in 6 round tables. Each roundtable brings together 5 speakers. Each speaker's speaking time is limited to 9 minutes. 30 minutes of debate are scheduled at the end of each round table.

■ **2:15-3:30 pm: Training and coordination of first responders, conditions for an effective response during the emergency phase**

The care provided to victims in the first moments following the tragedy or the attack is decisive. Coordination of actors on the field is essential, as the profiles of the various actors may vary: doctors, rescue workers, law enforcement agencies, civil society (citizens trained in first aid assistance, reservists, volunteers ...). This discussion shall also allow to anticipate the monitoring phase.

■ **3:30-4:45 pm: Care, compensation and long-term support: converge national systems for a better protection of victims**

The practices on victims assistance and taking their rights into account, have improved considerably these recent years. The major challenge is to coordinate all the initiatives and establish a network of actors, with the ultimate aim of helping victims in their reconstruction. Rights that can be mobilized (including the compensation process) may vary from one country to another but pursue a similar objective of reparation.

■ **4:45-5:00 pm: Afternoon break**

■ **5:00-6:15pm: Resilience and reconstruction: how to return to a normal life after a traumatic event?**

The support and assistance systems must increase victims' capacity to rebuild themselves after the tragedy. Most often, being surrounded by family, returning to work, accessing reasonable housing, are among the factors that can help resilience. The aim is to provide the means needed to overcome physical and psychological injuries, in order to go back to the course of one's life.

■ **6:15-6:30 pm: Closing of the first day**

MINISTERS MEETING (January 10th 2017)

■ **9:00-9:30 am: Meeting opening**

■ **9:30-11:30 am: Sharing views on governmental initiatives**

Each Minister is invited to take the floor in order to set out his or her national system's main features and good practices that could be shared. The aim is to define principles of shared actions, foreshadowing a common base of victim support policies in order to strengthen international cooperation.

■ **11:30-12:00 m : Closing speech**