

France signs an agreement with UNOCT to strengthen co-operation on API and PNR to help counter terrorist travel

NEW YORK, 1 December 2021 - The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the Government of France signed today a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) marking the foundation of a strategic partnership between the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel (CT Travel) Programme and ‘France’s “Service National des Données de Voyage (SNDV)”. The agreement provides a framework to exchange expertise and explore innovative solutions that aim to enhance capabilities to detect the travel of terrorists and serious criminals by collecting and analyzing advance passenger information (API) and passenger name record (PNR) data.

The signing of the MoU took place during a virtual ceremony between the Under-Secretary-General of UNOCT, **Mr. Vladimir Voronkov**, and the Deputy Head of France’s SNDV, Mr. Bruno Roussel. *“Today’s Memorandum of Understanding marks a new partnership between France and the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme to work together and share best-practices to enhance terrorist detection capabilities using passenger data,”* Mr. Voronkov said.

“The fight against terrorism requires collective efforts, and we would like to reiterate our commitment to this issue. This Memorandum of Understanding is based on reciprocity. On the one hand, it represents an opportunity for the SNDV to benefit from the knowledge and good practices of the UN. On the other hand, it allows France to share its expertise in the field of API-PNR data processing and to contribute to shaping international security,” **Mr. Roussel** said

Building Member States’ capabilities to prevent and counter terrorism is a top UNOCT priority. Under this agreement, UNOCT and France will collectively examine opportunities to reinforce France’s existing passenger data processing measures through the capabilities and solutions offered under the CT Travel Programme, including the programme’s “goTravel” software solution.

The “goTravel” system is a United Nations-owned software solution derived from the Travel Information Portal (TRIP), developed by the Kingdom of the Netherlands with the support of the European Union and donated to the United Nations, which supports the effective processing and analysis of passenger data to identify, detect and intercept known and suspected terrorists as well as other serious criminals, including those that might otherwise remain unknown to authorities, before, during and after cross-border travel.

The agreement also provides for the sharing of best practices and recommendations with regards to the experience acquired by France through the design, implementation, and upgrades of its

“API-PNR France system” for the benefit of the CT Travel Programme and its beneficiaries, including supporting the ongoing development of the Programme’s maritime component.

Currently supporting 49 beneficiary Member States across the globe, UNOCT’s flagship global initiative assists beneficiary Member States in enhancing their national capabilities to detect and intercept terrorists and serious criminals by using API and PNR data and cross-checking against INTERPOL and other international and national databases of known and suspected terrorists and criminals, in accordance with Security Council resolutions [2178](#) (2014), [2396](#) (2017), and [2482](#) (2019), international standards and recommended practices, relevant privacy laws, and human rights principles. The Programme also promotes regional cooperation through enhanced information exchange and sharing of lessons learned and good practices.

The CT Travel Programme follows an ‘All-of-UN’ approach to provide comprehensive, yet tailored assistance to beneficiary Member States, with the support of five implementing partners including the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Office of Information and Communications Technology (OICT), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL).

The CT Travel Programme is funded by generous contributions from the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the European Union, the United States of America, the State of Qatar, Australia, Germany, Japan, the Republic of India, and with in-kind support from Hungary.



For more information, please contact:

Ms. Laurence Gerard, at gerard@un.org, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)
CT Travel Programme, at cttravel@un.org, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)

[Website](#) | [Twitter](#)

[#UNiteToCounterTerrorism](#)