



PRESS RELEASE

Azerbaijan and UNOCT Sign a Memorandum of Understanding to Strengthen Co-operation in Preventing and Countering Terrorism

NEW YORK / BAKU, 10 June 2022 – The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, represented by the State Customs Committee, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) today formalizing their partnership to strengthen co-operation in preventing and countering terrorism and its nexus with organized crime.

The MoU will accelerate the delivery of comprehensive technical assistance to Azerbaijan under the [United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel \(CT Travel\) Programme](#). It will allow the United Nations to continue supporting the country to enhance its capabilities to detect and intercept terrorists and serious criminals by using travel information, cross-checking against INTERPOL and other international and national databases of known and suspected terrorists and criminals.

Azerbaijan is one of 52 beneficiary Member States that have joined the CT Travel Programme since its launch in May 2019.

Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of UNOCT and Mr. Safar Mehdiyev, Chairman of the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, signed the partnership agreement in a virtual event.

“The MoU is a symbol of the solid partnership and mutual commitment between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Countering Terrorist Travel Programme to assist Azerbaijan in enhancing detection capabilities using passenger data through an All-of-UN concerted effort.” Mr. Voronkov [said](#).

“I am thankful to UNOCT for its support to Azerbaijan under the UN Countering Terrorist Travel Programme. Signing of this MoU also coincides with the 30-year anniversary of Azerbaijan's membership with the UN as an independent country. We attach great importance to countering terrorism and organized transnational crime within and beyond our national borders. Effective use of the passenger travel data will be an indispensable tool to intercept and prevent cross border movement of terrorists and criminals. We will continue our partnership with the UN in line with the approved roadmap under all four work streams - legal, operational, transport industry engagement, and ICT- to build an efficient API and PNR system.” Mr. Mehdiyev said.

The agreement lays out the foundation of a strategic partnership to assist the Government of Azerbaijan to implement the programmatic roadmap for the use of the United Nations 'goTravel' technology in compliance with international law, in particular, international human rights, refugee and international humanitarian law.

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), and in close cooperation with the [International Organization for Migration \(IOM\)](#).



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For more information, please contact:

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