



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

**Remarks by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov,
Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Office of Counter-
Terrorism (UNOCT)**

**The Kingdom of Norway – United Nations Office of
Counter-Terrorism
e-Signing Ceremony for MoU and MoA on the United
Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme**

7 July 2022

Dear colleagues,

At the outset, I wish to express my deepest condolences to all the people affected by the attack perpetrated in Oslo on 25 June, which the Norwegian police is investigating as an act of terrorism. My heartfelt thoughts and sympathy go to the survivors and families of the victims.

Dear colleagues,

I am grateful for Norway's political and generous financial support to UNOCT, and our cooperation on areas such as the UN Countering Terrorist Travel programme, programming on preventing and countering violent extremism, support on Fusion Cells, and support for Victims of Terrorism.

The agreements being signed today further solidify our longstanding partnership.

I would like to thank Mr. Vandvik and Mr. Walsø and your respective teams for getting us to the point where we are ready to sign both a Memorandum of Understanding and a Memorandum of Agreement between Norway and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism.

Norway officially requested to join the Countering Terrorist Travel programme in May 2021. Since then, we have had over a year of intense collaboration to ensure your Passenger Information Unit is operational and ready to analyze passenger data.

Both the Memorandum of Understanding and the Memorandum of Agreement are a symbol of the solid joint commitment of Norway and the UN Countering Terrorist Travel Programme, in line with Security Council resolution 2396 and international standards and recommended practices of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

I am also pleased to share that with today's signing, Norway will be the first country in Europe to sign a Memorandum of Agreement with the Countering Terrorist Travel Programme for the licensing and deployment of goTravel. The first country but certainly not the last! It is a very good start, and we hope more and more countries will join.

goTravel is a United Nations-owned software solution that helps in effective processing and analysis of passenger data.

Furthermore, Norway is also on course to be one of the first to go ‘*Live*’ operationally with goTravel. This progress is a sign of the excellent work being conducted by our respective teams.

On that note, I would like to recognize the role and efforts of the UN Office of Information and Communications Technology (OICT). I am happy to be joined today by my colleague and friend Mr. Bernardo Mariano Jr., the Chief Information Technology Officer and Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Information and Communications Technology and his team.

Indeed, much has been achieved under the Countering Terrorist Travel Programme since its launch three years ago in May 2019. UNOCT has welcomed more than 50 Member States, who have joined as beneficiaries of the Programme. Many of these are progressing to a stage where they also will be in a position to start using goTravel.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the donors of the Countering Terrorist Travel Programme, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the European Union, the United States, the State of Qatar, Australia, Germany, Japan, India, and Hungary for their generous contributions which have enabled the Programme’s implementation in this region and elsewhere around the globe.

Mr. Vandvik, Mr. Walsø, thank you both once again for forging this important partnership between the Kingdom of Norway and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism.

I thank you.