



UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM



PRESS RELEASE

THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA AND UNOCT SIGN AN AGREEMENT TO STRENGTHEN CO-OPERATION IN PREVENTING AND COUNTERING TERRORIST TRAVEL AND SERIOUS CRIMES

New York, 06 September 2022 – The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the Republic of the Gambia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) today to formalize their partnership in preventing and countering terrorist travel and serious crimes, through the United Nations goTravel software, by collecting and using Advance Passenger Information (API), and Passenger Name Record (PNR) data.

Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, and Honorable Mr. Seyaka Sonko, Minister of Interior for the Republic of the Gambia, signed the agreement in an in-person event at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Mr. Voronkov thanked and congratulated the Government of the Republic of The Gambia for its ongoing cooperation with UNOCT and on entering pre-production with goTravel, and encouraged close cooperation with the UNOCT technical team to ensure the right infrastructure is in place. In addition, Mr. Voronkov said that *“The Memorandum of Understanding is a symbol of the solid joint commitment of the Republic of The Gambia 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)”*.

Honorable Mr. Seyaka Sonko, on his part, thanked UNOCT and the Gambia Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) for making the event possible. Honorable Sonko described the MoU as an important initiative that will contribute immensely to the efforts of UNOCT and Government of the Republic of the Gambia in the prevention, detection and investigation of terrorist offences and related travel. The Honorable Minister reaffirmed Government of The Gambia’s commitment in the fight against the global terrorist threat and reassured UNOCT of his Ministry’s support in the implementation of the provisions of the MoU on Countering Terrorism Travel Programme (CTTP).

The MoU will accelerate the delivery of comprehensive technical assistance to The Gambia under the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel (CT Travel) Programme. The MoU will allow the United Nations to continue supporting the country in enhancing its capabilities to detect and intercept terrorists and other criminals by using travel information and cross-checking the data against INTERPOL and other international and national databases of known and suspected terrorists and criminals. The Gambia is one of more than 51 Countering Terrorist Travel (CT Travel) Programme beneficiary countries.

The CT Travel Programme follows an “All-of-UN” approach to provide comprehensive, yet tailored assistance to beneficiary Member States, with the support of its five implementing partners, the [United Nations Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate \(CTED\)](#), the [United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime \(UNODC\)](#), the [International Civil Aviation Organization \(ICAO\)](#), the [United Nations Office of Information and Communication Technology \(UNOICT\)](#), 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:

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