



PRESS RELEASE

UNOCT and Belgium Sign a Memorandum of Understanding to Strengthen Co-operation in countering terrorist travel

NEW YORK/BRUSSELS, 7 February 2023 – The [United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism \(UNOCT\)](#), and the Government of Belgium signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) today formalizing the strategic partnership between the [United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel \('CT Travel'\) Programme](#) and Belgium's National Travel Targeting Center (NTTC) within its [National Crisis Center \(NCCN\)](#). The agreement provides a framework for exchanging expertise and exploring innovative solutions to enhance capabilities to detect the travel of known and suspected terrorists and other criminals by collecting and analyzing Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Records (PNR).

Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, and Mr. Gunter Ceuppens, Head of NTTC, exchanged signatures during a hybrid event in New York and Brussels.

"Our Memorandum of Understanding is a symbol of the solid partnership and mutual commitment between Belgium and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism to work together and share best-practices to enhance terrorist detection capabilities using passenger data. Notably, as part of this strengthened partnership, Belgium and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism will work together to reinforce existing passenger data processing and targeting measures, including the Belgium Passenger Information Unit's BelTRIP solution and the Countering Terrorist Travel Programme's "goTravel" software solution", Mr. Voronkov said.

"This partnership between the UNOCT and the Belgian NTTC aims to strengthen API/PNR capabilities around the globe. As it takes a network to defeat a network, the NTTC aims to contribute through the delivery of training and sharing of (technical) knowledge in the fight against terrorism and serious crime." Mr. Gunter Ceuppens, Head of the NTTC concluded.

Building Member States' capabilities to prevent and counter terrorism is a top UNOCT priority. The agreement signed today provides for the sharing of best practices and recommendations by the UN and Belgium through the design, implementation and upgrades of API and PNR solutions, including the programme's "goTravel" software and its expansion from air travel to other modes of transport.

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 criminals, including those that might otherwise remain unknown to authorities before, during and after cross-border travel.

This UNOCT's flagship global initiative currently supports 62 beneficiary Member States across the globe in enhancing their national capabilities to detect and intercept terrorists and criminals by using API and PNR data and cross-checking against INTERPOL and other international and national databases. The

programme operates in accordance with Security Council resolutions 2178 (2014), 2396 (2017), and 2482 (2019), as well as with 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 and 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 \(IOM\)](#).



The UN Countering Terrorist Travel Programme is co-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, Hungary, and the Republic of India.

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