



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

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

**Signing Ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of
Nigeria and the United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism within the scope of the United
Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme**

30 August 2023, Abuja

Excellencies,

Distinguished Guests,

I would like to thank you, Rear Admiral Musa, and your team, for the hard work and efforts leading up to today's signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

This Memorandum of Understanding is a symbol of the solid cooperation and mutual commitment between Nigeria and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism in the implementation of the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme to strengthen Nigeria's detection capabilities using passenger data.

Our collaboration on this Programme began in 2021, followed by a National Consultation with all relevant stakeholders in Abuja in July 2022 and submission of a comprehensive roadmap to the Government of Nigeria. This roadmap recommended a range of actions to conceptualize, and ultimately operationalize Nigeria's passenger data infrastructure to support its unwavering fight against serious crime and terrorism.

This roadmap has since been put into action. Our ongoing cooperation relies on four key pillars which are all implemented through an "All-of-UN" approach:

The first pillar, which focuses on legislative matters, includes the provision of technical assistance for updating Nigeria's Advance Passenger Information law and finalizing a new data protection bill, in line with international standards while promoting a whole of government

approach. On that note, I was pleased to learn that significant advances have been made, and we look forward to the next steps. The second pillar covers the operationalization of a Passenger Information Unit that will draw from the expertise of all key government agencies. The Third pillar is dedicated to managing relations with the transport industry, namely air carriers to ensure technical connectivity.

Lastly, the fourth pillar provides all support required to deploy and utilize the United Nations' specialized 'goTravel' software system for the collection and analysis of passenger data.

Excellencies,

All this work is progressing thanks in large part to the leadership of the Office of the National Security Adviser. I thank and commend your Office's strong efforts and leadership at national inter-agency coordination in establishing an effective system to collect and analyze passenger data. I wish to also thank our friends at the Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the United Nations in New York, for their invaluable support.

Looking towards the future, we look forward to further deepening our cooperation with Nigeria, including at the regional level. The CT Travel Programme has established a network of regional Informal Working Groups on Advance Passenger Information and Passenger Name Record data.

These platforms aim to foster regional cooperation and information-exchange between practitioners on Advance Passenger Information and Passenger Name Record, enabling the sharing of good practices and lessons learned.

I encourage Nigeria to continue making its leading voice heard in this forum, especially with colleagues from West Africa.

Excellencies,

Through the CT Travel Programme, Nigeria has joined a large and growing family. In addition to Nigeria, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism has welcomed 66 beneficiary Member States to this global partnership since its launch just over four years ago in May 2019.

None of this would have been possible without the support of our dear UN-system partners, namely the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the UN Office of Communication and

Information Technology, the International Criminal Police Organization, and last but not least, the International Organization for Migration.

I take this opportunity to thank the funding partners who have supported the Countering Terrorist Travel Programme, namely the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the European Union, the United States, the State of Qatar, Australia, Japan, India, Germany, and Hungary.

Thank you.