



PRESS RELEASE

UNOCT AND DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO SIGN AGREEMENT TO STRENGTHEN CO-OPERATION IN PREVENTING AND COUNTERING TERRORIST TRAVEL

Abuja, 23 April 2024 – The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen their existing cooperation in preventing and countering terrorism and its nexus with transnational organized crime.

The MoU will accelerate the delivery of technical assistance to the country under the [United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel \('CT Travel'\) Programme](#), building national capacities to counter terrorist threats through the collection, analysis, and exchange of passenger data, advance passenger information (API) and passenger name records (PNR), while upholding human rights. It also establishes a framework for cooperation and to share best practices.

Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism and **Mr. Jean-Louis Esambo Kangashe, Special Advisor on Security matters to the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Permanent Secretary of the National Coordination Committee for the Fight against International Terrorism (CNCLT)** signed the agreement on the margins of the High-Level African Counter-Terrorism Meeting in Abuja, Nigeria.

Mr. Voronkov thanked the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for its ongoing cooperation with UNOCT and highlighted that the MoU is a symbol of mutual commitment to reinforce the country's threat detection capabilities, using passenger data. *"In choosing to work with the CT Travel Programme, the Democratic Republic of the Congo has joined a large and growing family"*, he added, referring to the 74 participating Member States who partner with the programme.

"Today marks a decisive step as my country will now be able to benefit from the active support of UN CT Travel Programme partners as the Democratic Republic of the Congo boosts ongoing efforts to implement national detection capacities to counter terrorists and serious criminals as they use our transport infrastructure", **Mr. Jean-Louis Esambo Kangashe** said.

Within the framework of this agreement, UNOCT and the Democratic Republic of the Congo formalized their cooperation on joint capacity-building activities to fight terrorism in line with Security Council resolutions, [2178](#) (2014), [2396](#) (2017), and [2482](#) (2019). These resolutions call on Member States to require that airlines operating in their territories provide API and PNR data to the appropriate national authorities in order to detect the departure from, or attempted entry into or transit through their territories.

The MoU also outlines the provision of assistance to the Government to implement the programmatic roadmap to support the implementation and use of the United Nations 'goTravel' technology in compliance with international law, in particular, international human rights, refugee and international humanitarian law.

The [UN Countering Terrorist Travel \('CT Travel'\) Programme](#) was launched in 2019 to respond to the growing threat posed by the movement of foreign terrorist fighters. The Programme is a global initiative that aims to build Member States capacities to prevent, detect, investigate and prosecute terrorist offences and other serious crimes, including their related travel, by collecting and analyzing passenger data, both API and PNR, in line with United Nations Security Council resolutions, [2178](#) (2014), [2396](#) (2017), and [2482](#) (2019), international standards and best practices and human rights principles.

A flagship global initiative led by [UNOCT](#), the Programme follows an "One-UN" approach to provide comprehensive, yet tailored assistance to beneficiary Member States, with the support and expertise of six implementing partners: [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 \(OICT\)](#), the [International Criminal Police Organization \(INTERPOL\)](#), and the [International Organization for Migration \(IOM\)](#).



The United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel ('CT Travel') Programme is co-funded by strategic investments and in-kind support from the European Union, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the State of Qatar, Germany, Australia, the United States of America, the Republic of India, Japan, Hungary, and the Republic of Korea.

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