



PRESS RELEASE

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM AND THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC SIGN
AGREEMENT TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION IN PREVENTING AND COUNTERING TERRORIST
TRAVEL

New York / Bishkek, 17 May 2024 – The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the State Committee for National Security (SCNS) of the Kyrgyz Republic signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to formalize their partnership in preventing and countering terrorist travel and serious crimes under the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme.

The MoU establishes a framework to cooperate and strengthen national capabilities with regards to Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) systems implementation to detect and counter the movement of terrorists and transnational organized crime. It is also in line with the newly-signed Kyrgyzstan-UNOCT roadmap 2024-2027, as well as national and regional counter-terrorism strategies.

The ceremony to exchange copies of the MoU signed by **Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism** and **Lieutenant General Kamchybek Tashiev, Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic and Chairman of the SCNS**, took place in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, during an official visit of Under-Secretary-General Voronkov to the country.

Mr. Voronkov thanked the Government of Kyrgyzstan for its strong collaboration with UNOCT and highlighted that the MoU *“solidifies our joint efforts to detect, disrupt and interdict the travel of terrorists, foreign terrorist fighters and other criminals, through the effective use of passenger data. We will continue our support on the operational and technical fronts and facilitate engagement with the transport industry and other Member States to bolster the Kyrgyz Republic’s capabilities,”* he added.

Speaking on behalf of the Kyrgyz Republic, **Deputy Chairman of the SCNS, Mr. T. Shabdanbekov**, expressed gratitude for the active cooperation and support provided by UNOCT. He also said that the MoU, *“will help strengthen the capacity to prevent travel for terrorist purposes, as well as enhance the capabilities of the API/PNR systems internationally and in the Kyrgyz Republic in particular.”*

The [UN Countering Terrorist Travel \(‘CT Travel’\) Programme](#) was launched by the Secretary-General in 2019 to support Member States in responding to the growing threat posed by the movement of foreign terrorist fighters. The Programme is a global initiative that builds Member States capacities to prevent, detect, investigate and prosecute terrorist offences and potential nexus with transnational organized crime, 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.

Five years since its inception, CT Travel is working closely with 75 Member States to strengthen capabilities around the world to collect and analyze passenger data to detect and counter terrorism. This flagship initiative is led by UNOCT and implemented with six other 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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