



**UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM**

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

**Building National Capacities to Counter Terrorist Travel:
Highlighting Achievements, Impact and Lessons Learned from the Field**

**24 June 2021
8.00am – 9.30am**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and all partners of the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme, let me extend my warm greetings to everyone joining today's side-event.

During this event we will explore the achievements, impact and lessons learned from the implementation of the Programme.

Just over two years ago, in May 2019, we launched this global Programme to help requesting Member States build national capacities to collect, analyze, and use passenger data to detect and counter terrorist movements across borders.

The Programme was designed in response to UN Security Council resolution 2396 of December 2017, which obliges States to collect and use advance passenger information (API) and passenger name record (PNR) data in conjunction with national and international databases to detect and interdict the travel of known and suspected terrorists and serious criminals.

The CT Travel Programme provides tailored, yet comprehensive, support to all Member States, establishing and enhancing national capabilities to use traveler information in accordance with international standards, human rights, and relevant privacy laws.

However, this is not a simple endeavor.

To achieve our objectives, we have leveraged the mandates of, and have gathered the best in-house expertise available in a truly "All-of-UN" approach.

We work in close partnership with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the United Nations Office of Information and Communication Technology, and INTERPOL.

This collaboration uniquely positions the Programme as a UN flagship initiative offering comprehensive capacity-building support.

And indeed, over the past two years alone, 42 countries from across the globe have officially joined the Programme as beneficiaries.

In today's event, you will hear directly from four such Member States about their experiences with and the impact of the programme, namely: Azerbaijan, Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire and The Gambia.

We have been working closely with these four countries as well as with other beneficiaries to collectively contribute to efforts to build a safer world – a world free from terrorism.

In support of this goal, we want to learn from our achievements and challenges over the past two years to expand the scope and coverage of the Programme as we move forward.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The CT Travel Programme has been made possible thanks to the generous support of our donors: the Netherlands, the European Union, the United States, the State of Qatar, Japan, Australia, Germany, India and Hungary, to whom I am very grateful for their continuing trust in our efforts.

Let me conclude by reiterating that properly designed and delivered API and PNR systems that respect human rights are instrumental tools to prevent and counter terrorism and serious crimes.

I look forward to hearing more on this from the Programme partners and beneficiaries.

Thank you.