



UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM



PRESS RELEASE

Sierra Leone Signs a Memorandum of Understanding with UNOCT to Strengthen Co-operation in Preventing and Countering Terrorism

Freetown, 12 May 2022 – The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone, represented by the Office of National Security, formalized the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen co-operation in preventing and countering terrorism and its nexus with organized crime.

The MoU will accelerate the delivery of technical assistance to Sierra Leone under the [United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel \('CT Travel'\) Programme](#) building national capacities and supporting efforts to address threats associated with the travel of terrorists and other serious criminals.

The in-person ceremony took place in Freetown, on the margins of the West Africa Regional Informal Working Group on Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR). Chief of the Countering Terrorist Travel Section of UNOCT, Ms. Christine Bradley, handed over a copy of the MoU previously signed by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism to Mr. Abdullah Caulker, National Security Coordinator of Sierra Leone.

Building stronger partnerships to support Member States' efforts to prevent and counter-terrorism is one of the top priorities of UNOCT. In this regard, the effective processing and analysis of passenger data are essential to the identification, detection, and interception of those who pose a terrorism-related threat as well as other serious criminals, including those that might be unknown to authorities, before, during and after travel.

Within the framework of this agreement, UNOCT and Sierra Leone agree to cooperate on joint capacity-building activities, acknowledging Security Council resolutions [2178 \(2014\)](#) and [2396 \(2017\)](#), which calls upon 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.

It also comprises the establishment of a strategic partnership to assist the Government to implement the programmatic roadmap to support implementation and the use of the United Nations 'goTravel' technology in compliance with international law, in particular, international human rights, refugee and international humanitarian law.

As a beneficiary of the CT Travel Programme, the Republic of Sierra Leone is being supported across four key pillars of the programme, which include:

1. The development of necessary legislative frameworks regulating the collection, transmission, use, retention and sharing of passenger data, in compliance with internationally recognized standards and human rights principles;
2. The institutional set-up and development of operational capacity of Botswana’s detection centre, also known as a Passenger Information Unit;
3. Engagement and cooperation with the transport industry to ensure technical connectivity; and
4. Technical support, including the licensing and deployment of the United Nations’ specialized ‘goTravel’ software system.

The CT Travel Programme, UNOCT’s flagship global initiative which assists beneficiary Member States in enhancing their national capabilities to detect and intercept terrorists and serious criminals by using API and PNR data, is currently supporting 52 beneficiary Member States across the globe. 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, yet 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 \(IOM\)](#).



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