



PRESS RELEASE

TOGO AND UNOCT SIGN AGREEMENT TO STRENGTHEN CO-OPERATION IN PREVENTING AND COUNTERING TERRORIST TRAVEL AND SERIOUS CRIMES

NEW YORK / LOMÉ, 07 September 2022 – The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the Republic of Togo finalized a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) today to formalize their partnership in preventing and countering terrorist travel and serious crimes, by collecting, processing, and using Advance Passenger Information (API), and Passenger Name Record (PNR) data, which are essential tools for combating terrorism and transnational organized crime.

Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, and Mr. Affoh Atcha-Dedji, Togolese Minister of Road Air and Rail Transport exchanged signatures during a hybrid event in New York and Lomé.

Mr. Voronkov thanked the Government of Togo for its ongoing cooperation with UNOCT and stressed that *“The fruits of our joint efforts have already been seen, notably through the creation of Togo’s draft national API and PNR decree and the ongoing development of the structure and Standard Operating Procedures for your future multi-agency Passenger Information Unit (PIU). As we speak, an interactive API and PNR training is being delivered in Lomé by the CT Travel Programme for 40 national focal points to support the next phase of implementation and the operationalization of the PIU through deployment of the UN goTravel Software Solution”* Mr. Voronkov said.

Thanking UNOCT and the various specialized agencies of the United Nations system, which work within the framework of the CT Programme, Mr. Affoh Atcha-Dédji, Minister of Road, Air and Rail transport of the Togolese Republic, said *“Together, we have made significant progress, but the work remains immense for a full and complete implementation of the API and PNR system. We want to count on the support and assistance of the CT Travel Programme to meet the remaining challenges. We are delighted to proceed today to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding which now constitutes the formal framework of our collaboration.*

The MoU will accelerate the delivery of comprehensive technical assistance to Togo under the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel (‘CT Travel’) Programme. The MoU will allow the United Nations to continue supporting the country in enhancing its capabilities to detect and intercept terrorists and other criminals by using travel information and cross-checking the data against INTERPOL and other international and national databases of known and suspected terrorists and criminals. This includes support to build detection capabilities within the maritime domain through the collection and processing of maritime passenger and crew data.

The CT Travel Programme follows an “All-of-UN” approach to provide comprehensive, yet tailored assistance to beneficiary Member States, with the support of its six implementing partners, the [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 \(UNOICT\)](#), and the [International Criminal Police Organization \(INTERPOL\)](#), and in close cooperation with the [International Organization for Migration \(IOM\)](#).



The UN Countering Terrorist Travel Programme is co-funded by generous contributions from the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the European Union, the United States of America, the State of Qatar, Australia, Germany, Japan, Hungary, and the Republic of India.

For more information, please contact:

Ms. Laurence Gerard, at gerardl@un.org, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)
CT Travel Programme, at cttravel@un.org, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)