



PRESS RELEASE

UNOCT AND NORWAY SIGN AGREEMENTS TO STRENGTHEN CO-OPERATION IN PREVENTING AND COUNTERING TERRORIST TRAVEL AND SERIOUS CRIMES

NEW YORK / OSLO, 7 July 2022 – The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the Kingdom of Norway signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) today to formalize their partnership in preventing and countering terrorist travel and serious crimes through the United Nations goTravel software.

Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, Mr. Bjørn Eirik Vandvik, Head of Policing Department at the Norwegian National Police Directorate, and Mr. Claes Lyth Walsø from the Norwegian Police ICT Services, signed the agreements in a virtual event.

Mr. Voronkov thanked the Government of Norway for its ongoing cooperation with UNOCT and stressed that *“Both the Memorandum of Understanding and the Memorandum of Agreement are a symbol of the solid joint commitment of Norway and the UN Countering Terrorist Travel Programme, in line with Security Council resolution 2396 and international standards and recommended practices of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).”* [Mr. Voronkov said.](#)

“The signing of the MoU and MoA symbolize a partnership and common commitment for close cooperation between the Norway and the UNOCT on the fight against Terrorism and Serious Crime. We value the important work of the UNOCT and are excited to be the first country in Western Europe to sign the MoA. We are confident that the Programme and goTravel will strengthen Norway’s capabilities to detect and contribute to the global effort to fight terrorism and serious crime”, Mr. Bjørn Eirik Vandvik said.

“Over the past year we have had the opportunity to get to know goTravel as an effective software solution to process and analyse passenger data. Through cooperation with the UN and the delivered software solution goTravel, we are confident that Norway will be able to effectively process and analyze large amount of passenger data with the purpose of identifying terrorists and other serious criminals travelling cross borders, and thus prevent serious incidents”, Mr. Claes Lyth Walsø said.

The MoU and MoA will accelerate the delivery of comprehensive technical assistance to Norway 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. The MoA will enable UNOCT to provide technical assistance and license the United Nations “goTravel” software to Norway to support the collection and analysis of advance passenger information (API) and passenger name record (PNR) data.

The UN Office of Information and Communications Technology (OICT) is one of the implementing partners under the Programme, and is responsible for the installation, support and maintenance of the goTravel software. **Mr. Bernardo Mariano Jr, Chief Information Technology Officer (CITO), Assistant Secretary-General, United Nations Office of Information and Communications Technology (OICT)**, said *“I would like to assure you of the full commitment of UN-OICT to support and continuously further enhance goTravel in the coming years, to ensure that Norway remains an efficient and effective global partner in advancing our collective fight against the scourge of terrorism.”*

The Kingdom of Norway is one of more than 50 beneficiary countries and the first European member state to join the CT Travel Programme and deploy goTravel since its launch in May 2019.

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 five 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 \(IOM\)](#).



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