



# UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

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

### **Official Launch of the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme**

Tuesday, 7 May 2019  
General Assembly Hall

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour to welcome you this morning to the official launch of the new United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme.

This is a very important day for us here at the United Nations and I am very excited that there are so many distinguished guests – from New York and the capitals of so many Member States across the globe – who have been able to join us this morning.

I would like to thank all my colleagues from the various United Nations Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities that are here today. I am very proud of this ‘All-of-UN’ approach that we are taking to better support Member States in their efforts to prevent and counter-terrorism.

I would also like to thank the regional and international organizations that are represented at this meeting.

We will be joined shortly by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. António Guterres, who has taken a personal interest in this important initiative, which is reflective of our capacity to deliver more meaningful, concrete and impactful capacity-building support.

In the meantime, it is my pleasure to take you through the agenda that we have put together for this event.

Following the key-note address by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, we will hear remarks from the distinguished representatives of Sri Lanka and Iraq, given their recent confirmation to benefit from this Programme, as well as from the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the key contributors to this initiative.

We will then proceed to the second session on our agenda, which will focus on Member States that have expressed their interest in becoming partners, under different modalities, to our Travel Programme. We will hear remarks from the distinguished representatives of Morocco, the European Union, Australia and the United States of America.

We will conclude the high-level part of the event with a third and final session, which will feature remarks from our 'All-of-UN' Programme partners, who will be instrumental in delivering this comprehensive package of support to beneficiary Member States.

As previously mentioned, this high-level launch event will be followed by a series of technical interactive sessions that will take place later this afternoon and tomorrow morning at the Millennium Hilton Hotel.

The interactive sessions will entail an in-depth technical presentation on the various legal, operation and technical components of this Programme, including a detailed demonstration of our 'goTravel' system.

I would like to place the utmost emphasis on the promotion and protection of human rights, which underpins the work of the United Nations and the assistance we will provide to Member States through this Programme.

This will be followed by a third session, which will focus on good practices in using API and PNR data as an effective intelligence tool to conduct passenger screening and risk assessments.

The fourth and final session will be an opportunity to hear from some Member States about their experience in developing and implementing Advanced Passenger Information and Passenger Name Records (API/PNR) systems capability.

There is already a lot of interest among Member States to benefit from this initiative. Given the wealth of knowledge and expertise that is represented here today, I would encourage each of you to make full use of these interactive sessions to better understand the requirements introduced by Security Council resolution 2396 (2017) and seek ways to strengthen our cooperation to prevent terrorist travel.

Thank you for your attention.