



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

Press Release

Launch of the United Nations Programme on Threat Assessment Models for Aviation Security

NEW YORK, USA, 7 September 2021 - Today the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) launched a new programme on Threat Assessment Models for Aviation Security (referred to as the "TAM Programme"). The virtual event brought together UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities, Member States, international and regional organizations, as well as aviation industry representatives.

During his opening remarks, Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, Mr. Vladimir Voronkov noted, "As we approach the 20-year anniversary of the attacks of September 11, civil aviation remains an attractive target for terrorist groups. Indeed, terrorist threats to civil aviation and related critical infrastructure continue to evolve with ever-inventive ways to circumvent security controls. Faced with this reality, it is of critical importance that Member States collectively face the challenges and keep pace with the ever-evolving threats and that we do everything in our power to ensure that our security infrastructures are acute and agile enough to anticipate and counter these threats."

The TAM Programme contributes to global counterterrorism efforts by providing technical assistance and capacity-building tools to Member States for risk-based decision-making to secure global civil aviation systems as called for by Security Council resolution 2309 (2016). Concretely, the TAM Programme strengthens the nexus between counterterrorism and aviation security by fostering national cooperation between siloed organizations in support of safe and secure air travel.

Led by UNOCT, the Programme has integrated expertise from the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL).

The launch event featured remarks by the African Union, CTED, the Government of Botswana, the Government of the United States, ICAO, INTERPOL, the Southern African Development Community (SADC), UNOCT, and UNODC. During the proceedings, experts highlighted the importance of national cooperation on terrorist threats to aviation and discussed practical ways to support these information exchanges.

The event also marked the beginning of the TAM Programme's cooperation with the Government of Botswana as the first participating Member State.

H.E. Mr. Collen V. Kelapile, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Botswana shared "The Government of Botswana recognizes that Terrorism comes in many forms and manifestations and that counter-terrorism efforts should thus reflect the multi-faceted nature of threats. We are

therefore pleased to sign up for the TAM Programme and look forward to benefiting from technical assistance and capacity building on threat prevention in civil aviation. This is yet another significant milestone in the Government of Botswana’s partnership with the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism”.

Ms. Thanyani Gumede, Senior Officer Police/SARPCCO, SADC announced that as part of the TAM Programme, SADC and UNOCT are partnering on the first TAM regional workshop, which will be held on 19-20 October 2021. It will gather for the first time, representatives from national government organizations with mandates for civil aviation security and counterterrorism to deliver foundational tools addressing the key elements for effective interagency cooperation on terrorist threats to civil aviation.

The TAM Programme is funded by generous contributions from the State of Qatar and the Government of Hungary.

For more information:

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