



PRESS RELEASE

UNOCT AND BENIN SIGNED A LETTER OF AGREEMENT TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION ON COUNTERING TERRORIST TRAVEL

New York, 13 December 2024 – The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the Government of Benin signed a Letter of Agreement to strengthen cooperation against terrorist travel, deepening their partnership in preventing and countering terrorism and its nexus with transnational organized crime.

The agreement will enable the delivery of technical assistance to the national authorities of Benin under the [United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel \('CT Travel'\) Programme](#), strengthening national capacities and supporting efforts to detect and address threats, as well as providing a framework to cooperate, leverage respective expertise, and share best practices, challenges, lessons learned and recommendations with regard to the implementation of Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) systems.

The effective processing and analysis of passenger data is essential to the identification, detection, and interception of suspected terrorists and other serious criminals. Within the framework of this agreement, UNOCT and Benin will cooperate on capacity-building activities to strengthen national capabilities in line with requirements established by United Nations Security Council resolutions regarding the collection, processing, and safeguarding of API and PNR data, as well as international standards and recommended practices, and human rights principles, particularly those relating to privacy and data protection.

This agreement marks the beginning for the implementation of a joint roadmap spanning four key cooperation areas between Benin and the CT Travel Programme. These 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;
2. The institutional set-up and development of operational capacity for a national API and PNR system in Benin, also known as a Passenger Information Unit;
3. Engagement and cooperation with the transport industry to ensure technical connectivity; and
4. Technology support, including the licensing and deployment of the United Nations' specialized 'goTravel' software system and interoperability with national watchlists and international databases, including those of INTERPOL.

The CT Travel Programme was launched in 2019 to support Member States in responding to the growing threat posed by the movement of foreign terrorist fighters. The Programme is a global initiative that aims to build Member States capacities to prevent, detect, investigate and prosecute terrorist offences and

other serious crimes, including their related travel, by collecting and analyzing passenger data, both API and PNR, in line with United Nations Security Council resolutions [2178](#) (2014), [2396](#) (2017), and [2482](#) (2019), international standards and best practices and human rights principles.

A flagship global initiative led by the [United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism \(UNOCT\)](#), the Programme follows an “One-UN” approach to provide comprehensive, yet tailored assistance to beneficiary Member States, with the support and expertise of six implementing partners: the [United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee 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 \(OICT\)](#), the [International Criminal Police Organization \(INTERPOL\)](#), and the [International Organization for Migration \(IOM\)](#). The Programme is currently working closely with 82 Member States - 61 of which are beneficiaries of comprehensive technical assistance, and six Member States (Austria, Belgium, France, Hungary, Ireland, and the United States of America) and one regional organization (CARICOM on behalf of 15 countries) have become strategic partners.



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