UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

UN Countering Terrorist Travel Programme

The **Countering Terrorist Travel Programme**, a flagship global initiative of UNOCT, assists beneficiary Member States in building their capabilities to detect and counter terrorists and serious criminals by using Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) to improve the use of international databases with known and suspected terrorists and criminals, such as with INTERPOL, and enhance international information exchange, in accordance with Security Council resolutions 2178 (2014), 2396 (2017), and 2482 (2019) and relevant privacy laws.

The Secretary-General officially launched the Programme on 7 May 2019. Since then, 39 Member States officially joined the Programme, with approximately 40 more Member States indicating strong interest to do so.
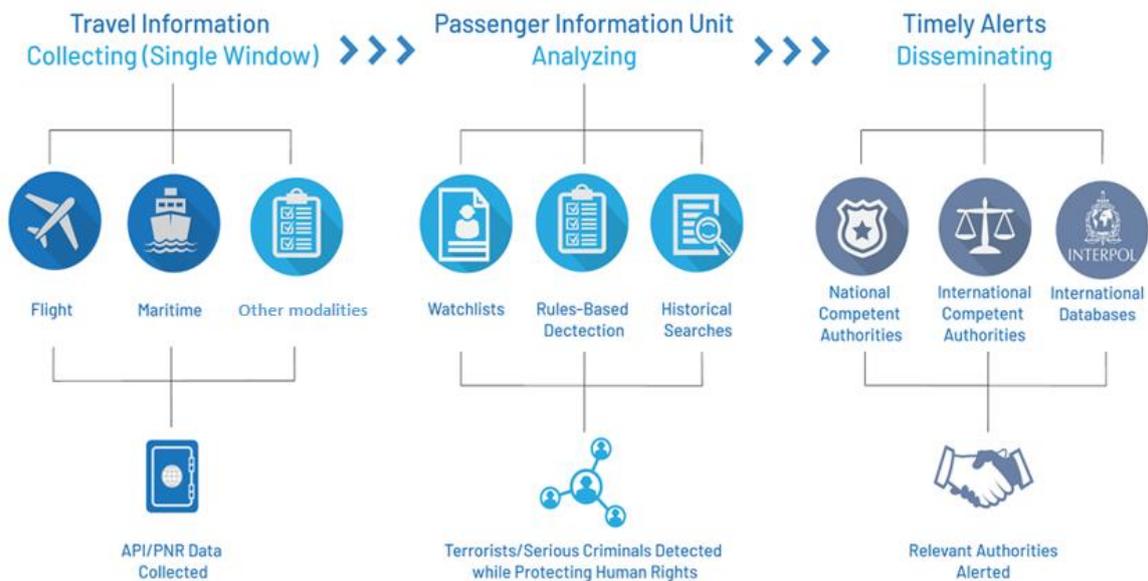
In an "All-of-UN" partnership with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the United Nations Office of Information and Communication Technology (UNOICT), and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the Programme comprehensively assists beneficiary Member States in legislative, operational, transport industry engagement, and technical areas. This includes the donation and deployment of the United Nations

goTravel software system. The Programme has been designed in accordance with human rights principles and United Nations policies in this regard.

The 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, Japan, and the Republic of India.

In tandem with awareness raising activities, CT Travel focuses on arranging and conducting prerequisite assessments of confirmed beneficiary Member States. After determining a state's existing level of implementation, the Programme produces a roadmap for the Member State that identifies steps for implementation across the areas of work:

First, legislative assistance to put in place a legal framework that regulates the collection, processing and protection of data.

Second, technical assistance to set-up a Passenger Information Unit, including training and drafting standard operating procedures.

Third, facilitating air carrier engagement and connectivity, thanks to close cooperation with the transport industry.

And fourth, providing technical support to deploy, free of charge, the goTravel software to collect and process passenger data.

Emphasis is shifting to implementation of the four areas of work of the Programme based on the needs of each beneficiary Member State as outlined in the post-assessment roadmaps.

A maritime component has been added to the Programme scope to address beneficiary Member States' need to secure coastlines, formulating recommendations and proposing a framework for each area of work of the Programme and improving future collection and analysis of passenger and crew data.

Additionally, to this national implementation, the Programme offers the formation of regional Informal Working Groups (IWG). IWGs allow states in a region to meet regularly to discuss and address common challenges and interests. This good practice brings a cross-border vision and knowledge of threats while promoting the exchange of information as well as close operational and technical collaboration between PIUs in a region.

The Programme has established the Collaborative Online Platform (COP), a password-restricted forum for Programme partners, beneficiary Member States as well as the various experts involved with the Programme. The COP currently features a wide array of resources and includes a Pool of Experts. The Pool of Experts includes international experts from ministerial/policy, legal and national detection capabilities backgrounds, including those from national competent authorities, who will - on a pro bono basis – help train, mentor and advise beneficiary Member States receiving assistance within the framework of the Programme. In addition, these experts advise, share experience and lessons learned, and help train the PIUs or competent authorities of the Programme's beneficiary Member States.

The Programme has finalized an entry level training course on establishing specific governance elements to ensure institutional commitment and support for PIUs, as well as the generic Terms of Reference for PIUs. This allows the delivery of personalized SOPs for each beneficiary Member State's PIU.