Newsletter

UN Countering Terrorist Travel Programme

1 October 2021 - 31 December 2021

High Level Advocacy

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing with Mongolia on 7 October: Under-Secretary-General of UNOCT, Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, and Director-General of the National Counter-Terrorism Council of Mongolia, Major General Peljee Odonbaatar, signed an MoU, allowing the United Nations to help the country enhance its capabilities to detect and intercept terrorists and serious criminals by using both advance passenger information (API) and passenger name record (PNR) data.

MoU signing with France on 1 December: Marking the foundation of a strategic partnership between the CT Travel Programme and France's "Service National des Données de Voyage (SNDV)".
6th and 7th MoUs: Mongolia was the 6th and France the 7th beneficiaries which signed MoUs after Sudan, CARICOM (Caribbean Community), Côte D'Ivoire, Botswana, and The Philippines.
Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) signing with Botswana on 18 October: CT Travel signed the second MoA with Botswana on the use of goTravel.

Highlights

Establishment of Regional Informal Working Groups (IWGs)
- Eastern Europe IWG: Inaugural meeting took place in a hybrid format with OSCE as Secretariat, Kyrgyzstan chairing with Mongolia, Albania, Georgia, and Montenegro as sub-chairs, covering a total of 43 Member States.
- West Africa IWG: Launched in December with the UNODC/Airport Communication Project (UNODC/AIRCOP) as Secretariat, and was attended by ten Member States in the region.

Member State Assessments
- Agreement on the use of methodology and criteria for desk reviews: One virtual consultation with the Democratic Republic of the Congo was held from 2 to 5 of November, and one desk review with Switzerland from 2 to 19 of November.

Capacity Building

Training Courses: Foundational and interactive training courses for The Philippines with 141 participants, and foundational course for DRC with 42 participants.
Legal: 15 Legal Working Group meetings with eight beneficiary countries. Additionally, the review and revision of three draft pieces of legislation for Azerbaijan, Côte d'Ivoire, and Sudan.

Operational: 15 Operational Working Group meetings for ten countries. In addition, one API targeting training with The Philippines was organized, as well as a three-day workshop for The Gambia that included two virtual study visits. Five further virtual study visits were arranged for the Philippines and Mongolia, and the PIU Terms of Reference (ToR) were shared with 19 countries.

Transport Industry: Eight dedicated carrier engagement Working Group meetings held with six beneficiary States, and working on test connectivity in Botswana and The Philippines.
Technical: Two Member States in pre-production, raising the number to 21 in total, organized seven technical working groups, six support/maintenance meetings, and two IT configuration training.

CT Travel: 2019 - Present

49 Benificary Members States
18 Members States assessed
18 Roadmaps developed
21 Countries testing goTravel through CARICOM

About CT Travel

The objective of the UN CT Travel Programme is to build Member States' capabilities to prevent, detect and investigate terrorist offenses and other serious crimes, including related travel, by:

- Collecting and analyzing travel information such as passenger data, namely Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR);
- Improving the use of international databases with known and suspected terrorists and criminals, such as the databases of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL); and
- Enhancing international information exchange, in line with UN Security Council resolutions 2178, 2396, and 2482.

The detection capabilities, commonly referred to as Passenger Information Units (PIUs), that the Programme helps establish are in charge of processing passenger data provided by the transport industry using the UN 'goTravel' software solution, based on solid legislation and regulations established with the Programme's assistance.

CT Travel Strategy

The Programme provides assistance to Member States across four key pillars of work:

Pillar I
Legislation support for API and PNR

Pillar II
Operational support for Passenger Information Units (PIUs)

Pillar III
Transport industry engagement

Pillar IV
Technical support for goTravel

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Ensuring an 'All-of-UN' Approach to Programme Implementation

MS Coordination
- **Master Implementation Plan:** National Implementation Sites have now been developed and agreed for a further six Member States, bringing the total to 14: Azerbaijan, Botswana, Côte D'Ivoire, Djibouti, Gambia, Ghana, Iraq, Maldives, Mongolia, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Togo.
- **Internal Coordination:** Five Programme Management Team meetings on implementation and one dedicated meeting for the francophone Member States. CT Travel focused on implementation in five dedicated PMT meetings, covering 11 Member States plus CARICOM .
- **Bilateral coordination:** CT Travel held six bilateral meetings with six Member States to progress implementation and support coordination efforts: Azerbaijan, Eswatini, Moldova, The Philippines, Sierra Leone, and Côte d'Ivoire.
- **CT Travel:** held six coordination meetings involving all Programme Partners and all focal points in specific Member States: Botswana, Côte D'Ivoire, Ghana, Kyrgyzstan, and The Philippines.

Developing Training Structures
In close cooperation with the programme partners and donor countries, including certification, online training platforms, train-the-trainer (ToT) modules, etc.

CT Travel Training Course Delivery
- **Pre-training:** The Philippines from 8 October to 8 November 2021.
- **CT Travel, Interactive training course:** The Philippines from 8 to 12 November 2021.

CT Travel Training development
- **Translation:** CT Travel has been translating both foundational and five-day training courses into French, Arabic, and Russian.
- **Strategy:** CT Travel is working together with the Implementing Partners on the draft of a Training Strategy and will finalize it in Q1 2022.
- **Development:** CT Travel is developing new e-Learning modules on Maritime, Human Rights and Gender, goTravel and Security Environment.
- **Cooperation:** CT Travel has developed, with cooperation from Partners, four self-paced eLearning modules (in all UN languages) as part of the Programme's training strategy.

Programmatic Expansion - Maritime
Significant progress was made across all pillars in Q4/2021 for the provision of API and PNR technical assistance to Member States in the maritime domain.
Together with other Partners
Organize and participate in Informal Working Groups (IWGs) on the use of API and PNR.

Cooperation with other International Organizations
- **CEPOL:** On 24 November, UNOCT, together with CT Travel implementing partner OICT, held meetings with officials from CEPOL and the Hungarian Police in Budapest, Hungary. UNOCT and OICT together visited the ITC premise that hosts various CEPOL cybercrime training activities, meeting the course manager and CEPOL officials.
- **IATA:** CT Travel continued its quarterly PMT coordination meetings with IATA regarding implementation, and the PMT on 26 October discussed implementation in Azerbaijan, Botswana, CARICOM, Côte D'Ivoire, Mongolia, Norway, and The Philippines.
- **IOM:** CT Travel and IOM finalised the draft MoA, the description of outcomes and activities, the list of selected Member States, and the budget for the financing of a position in IOM dedicated to collaboration with the CT Travel Programme.
- **OSCE:** CT Travel continued its close collaboration with OSCE, culminating in the jointly organised Eastern European IWG on API and PNR on 27 and 28 October and the Passenger Data Seminar on 28 and 29 October.
- **WCO:** On 12 November, CT Travel held in-person consultations in Brussels to discuss ongoing cooperation under the framework of the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme.

Bilateral Outreach (Three)
- **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia:** On 6 October, at the request of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)/NTSC, the CT Travel Programme provided a two-hour comprehensive briefing on the Programme structure and methodology.
- **Ethiopia Outreach:** Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)'s National Capacity Building Workshop from 11 to 13 of October 2021.
- **Republic of Korea:** Visit and discussions with the Korean National Police Agency (KNPA) on 2 December.

Upcoming Activities

- **February - March:** Desk review of API and PNR systems in France, and in Moldova.
- **April:** Interactive training course for the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- **May:** Interactive training course for Ghana.

Training Approach

CT Travel Programme has designed a week-long online blended learning course that covers all aspects of the training syllabus, which are:

- The threat environment;
- An introduction to the CT Travel Programme;
- International legal and regulatory framework related to API and PNR data;
- The operationalization of a Passenger Information Unit (PIU);
- State and industry engagement;
- Technological support and the 'goTravel' software; and
- Maritime passenger data.

Participants will be able to engage through a mix of live sessions and prerecorded lectures at their own pace and even come back to the information once the course is finished. Every video also offers a PDF file for reference after the course. Recently, a new legal case study was added to the programme. Each training is preceded by a pre-training week, 3 hours of self-study, where we explain the terms API and PNR.

Here is the link to the brochure on the website.

Beneficiary Member States

Azerbaijan	Kazakhstan	Sierra Leone
Benin	Kenya	South Africa
Botswana	Kyrgyzstan	Sri Lanka
Côte d'Ivoire	Mauritius	Sudan
Djibouti	Moldova	Switzerland
DRC	Mongolia	Tajikistan
Eswatini	Morocco	Tanzania
France	Namibia	The Gambia
Ghana	Niger	The Maldives
Iraq	Nigeria	The Philippines
Israel	Norway	Togo

CARICOM (representing 15 Member States)