



United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre

Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) Office

CTC Special Meeting on “International Judicial Cooperation in Counter-Terrorism Matters pursuant to Security Council resolution 2322 (2016) and Other Relevant Council resolutions”

Advance Passenger Information (API)



**New York
20 June 2017**

API Mandate

UN Security Council resolution 2178 (2014)

- OP 9: “Calls upon Member States to require that airlines operating in their territories provide advance passenger information to the appropriate national authorities in order to detect the departure from their territories, or attempted entry into or transit through their territories, by means of civil aircraft, of individuals designated by the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) (“the Committee”)...”

Mandate's continued increase in relevance

Presidential Statements:

- S/2014/23 – 19 November 2014
- S/2015/11 – 29 May 2015

Security Council resolutions:

- 2309 (2016) – 22 September 2016
- 2339 (2017) – 27 January 2017

API overview: API system

- An electronic communications system whereby required **data elements** are collected and transmitted to border control agencies **prior to flight departure or arrival** and made available on the **primary line at the airport of entry**.

Definition from Annex 9 of the Chicago Convention

API overview: what kind of data?

- A passenger's biographical data and basic flight details provided by an airline carrier.

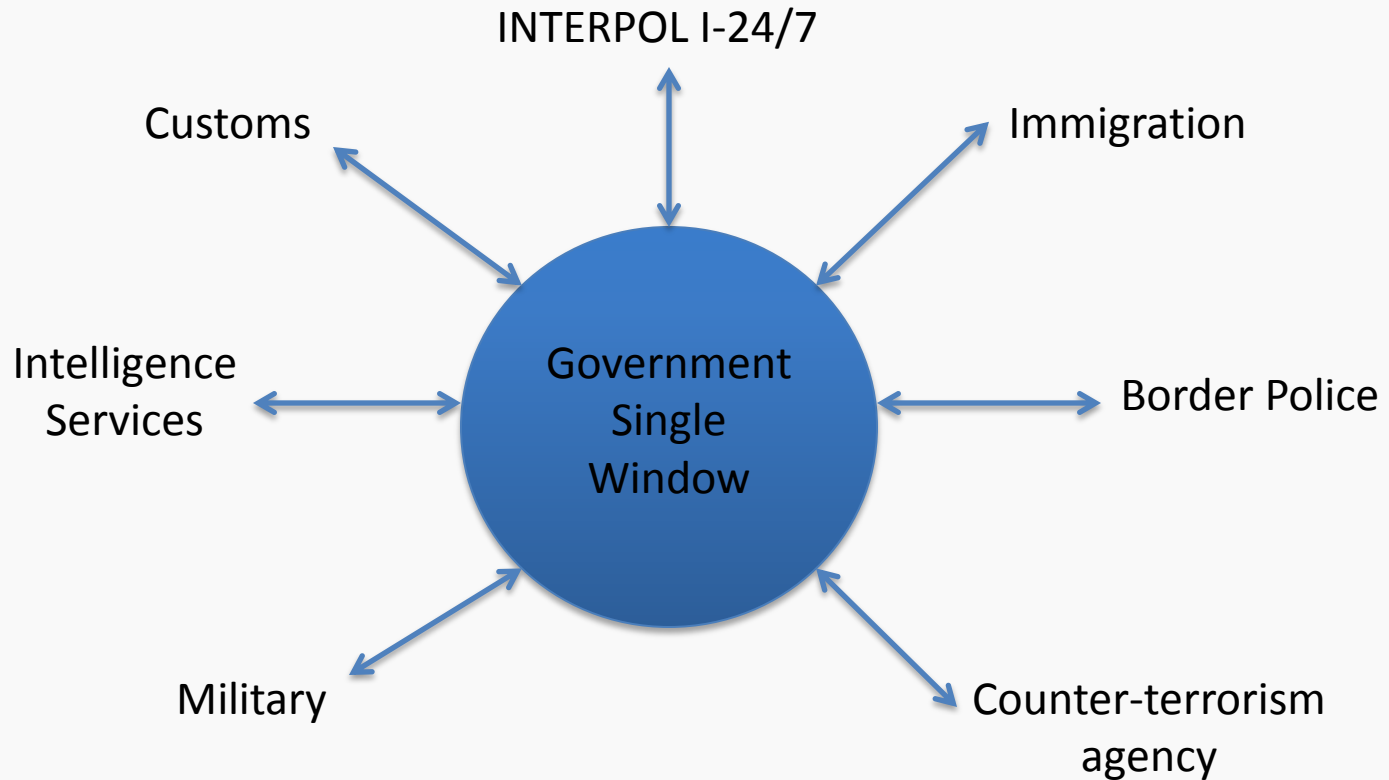
Passport swiped by airline at check-in



Government “single window” receives passenger data



Government screens passenger data against watch-lists and databases



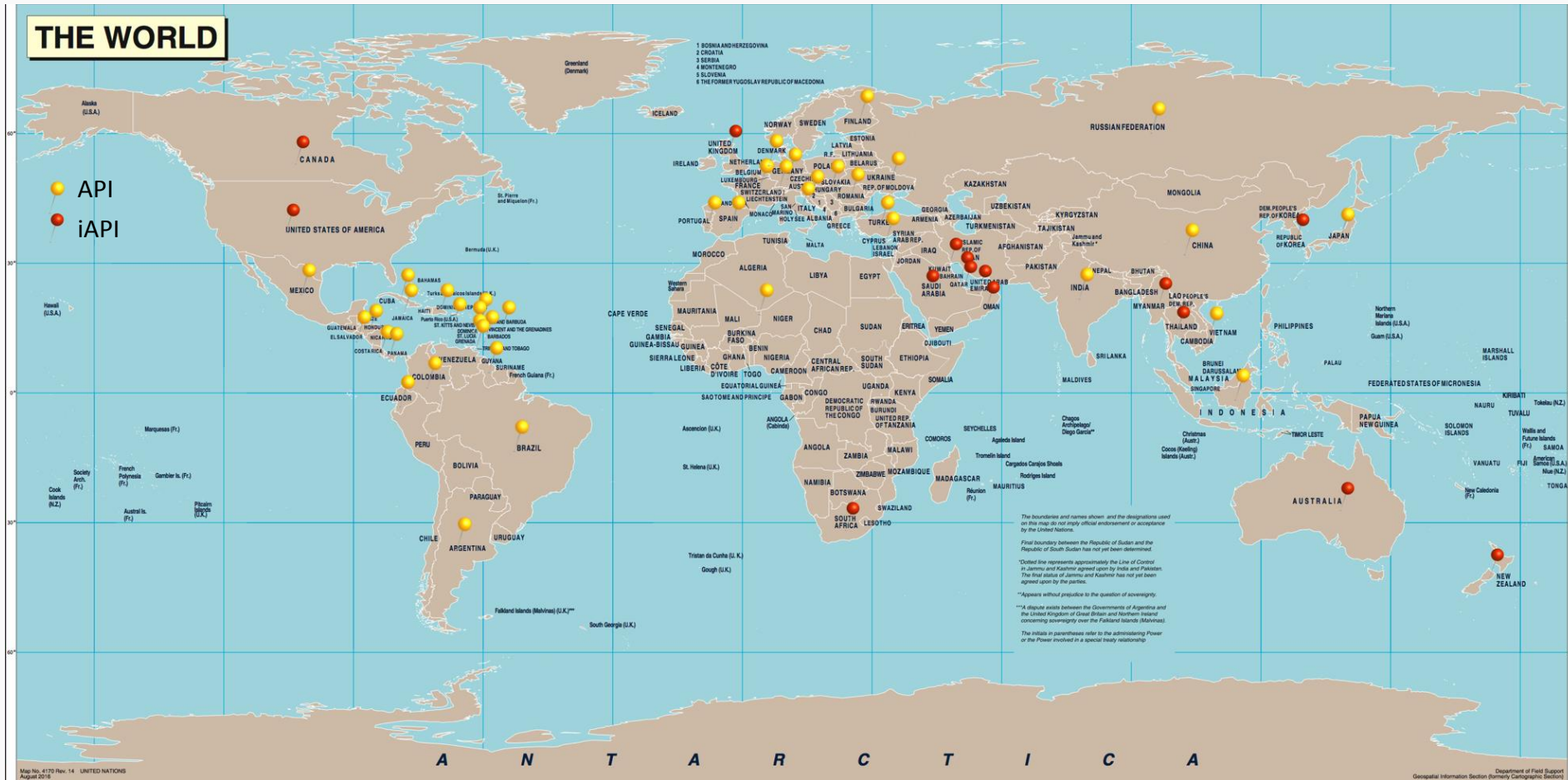
Benefits of using API

- Identify passengers who are a known immigration or security threat
- Screen passengers before their arrival
- Improve clearance at border controls
- Enhance border security and aviation security

Limitations of API

- Cannot identify unknown individuals who may pose a threat
- Cannot identify known individuals who are travelling on a forged passport
- Cannot identify whether a passport is forged

57 Member States currently use API



Key reasons for low API use

- Complexity of API systems and the high degree of technical capacity and skill required to use them
- Cost of purchasing, maintaining and operating API systems
- Privacy and data-protection concerns related to the collection and use of API

Thank you!

