



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

REMARKS OF UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL VLADIMIR VORONKOV

E-Signing Ceremony for MoA on the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme between the Republic of Botswana – United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism - 18 October 2021

I would like to praise Botswana for this excellent example of terrorism prevention and for your continued partnership with the UN team.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Advocate Ernest Mosate, Director General of the Counter Terrorism Analysis and Fusion Agency of Botswana, and his team for their hard work and efforts leading up to this signing ceremony between my Office and the Republic of Botswana.

As with the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding between our two Offices, today's Memorandum of Agreement is yet another symbol of the solid partnership and mutual commitment between the Republic of Botswana and UNOCT's Countering Terrorist Travel Programme to enhance terrorist detection capabilities using passenger data.

I am pleased to share that with this agreement, the Republic of Botswana will be supported in the licensing and deployment of goTravel AIR, which is a United Nations-owned software solution derived from the Travel Information Portal (TRIP), developed and donated by the Kingdom of The Netherlands. This solution helps in effective processing and analysis of passenger data.

In the context of this agreement goTravel AIR will support the end-to-end process for law enforcement in Botswana to obtain passenger data from airline carriers and conduct targeted analysis as well as share the findings of their data assessment.

I would like to particularly highlight the continued commitment and engagement of the Republic of Botswana throughout the past year and a half amid the global challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Botswana was the first programme beneficiary to take part in the programme's online training course late last year. And following the signing ceremony of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) held earlier this year, we are gathered here once again today, to further strengthen our mutual commitment to counter terrorist travel.

Indeed, much has been achieved under the Programme since its launch two years ago in May 2019. UNOCT has welcomed 49 Member States, including the Republic of Botswana, who have joined as beneficiaries of the Programme.

In regards to the technical support being provided to beneficiary Member States under the framework of the CT Travel Programme, I would like to recognize the role and efforts of the UN Office of Information and Communications Technology (OICT). I am happy to be joined today by Mr. Bernardo Mariano Jr., the Chief Information Technology Officer and Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Information and Communications Technology.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the donors of the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme, namely the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the European Union, the United States, the State of Qatar, Australia, Germany, Japan, India and Hungary for their generous contributions and in-kind support which enables the Programme's implementation around the globe.

Director General, thank you once again for continuing to strengthen this important partnership between the Republic of Botswana and the United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism.