

Advance Passenger Information (API) Workshop



Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)
United Nations

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API Mandate

- In resolution 2178 (2014) (*Acting* under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations), the SC

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”), and further *calls upon* Member States to report any such departure from their territories, or such attempted entry into or transit through their territories, of such individuals to the Committee, as well as sharing this information with the State of residence or nationality, as appropriate and in accordance with domestic law and international obligations;

- In resolution 2309 (2016), the SC *further calls upon* all States to require airlines to provide API to the appropriate national authorities, as part of their efforts to prevent and counter terrorist threats to civil aviation and acting consistent with relevant international legal instruments and framework documents.

API Approach

- To strengthen our risk assessment and reduce the flow of foreign terrorist fighters, States need to make full use of existing tools and instruments.
- One of these is effective border management. This is essential in countering terrorism because it constitutes the first line of defence against the cross-border movement of terrorists and of illicit goods and cargo.
- Security Council resolution 1373, which was adopted immediately after the 9/11 attacks of 2001, requires States to prevent the movement of terrorists or terrorist groups by effective border management and controls on the issuance of identity papers and travel documents.
- To effectively screen travellers at their ports of entry, States need a combination of mechanisms, depending on whether the border is an air, maritime or land border.
- At airports, key tools include Advance Passenger Information (API), Passenger Name Record (PNR), biometric technology, and access to INTERPOL databases.

API Approach

- During the CTC's recent special meeting, participants highlighted the urgent need for States to strengthen efforts to introduce to strengthen API and/or PNR systems as a means to identify individual terrorists and FTFs.
- The low level of implementation of API systems creates a worrying security gap. Only 57 States – or slightly more than a quarter of the United Nations membership – have implemented API systems - urgent need to strengthen the sharing of information by airlines and Governments through the use of API systems that enable States to detect the arrival or departure of FTFs.
- Compliance with existing international standards, supplemented by passenger name records (PNR), would assist in the detection of FTFs attempting to cross borders by air.
- Need to acknowledge that implementation of API is extremely challenging for many Member States deriving from lack of financial and human resources, lack of equipment and specialized skills.

CTED efforts to enhance API implementation

- Included in the dialogue with Member States during CTC assessment country visits
- Included in the updated CTED Technical Guide
- Promotion of the importance and benefits of API through CTC Special meetings and open briefings
- Identifying challenges faced by States in implementing API and where technical assistance would be needed
- Promoting efforts of other relevant entities, in particular ICAO and its guidance material; supporting INTERPOL and ensuring States' connectivity and access to its databases

API Project

- UNCCT, together with CTED's strategic participation, implements a project to support Member States to establish API systems through the development of a national API implementation "roadmap"
- The roadmap identifies and analyses gaps between the current capacity of the State to implement API and what is required to achieve it so that it's effective and fully compliant with the requirements of SC resolution 2178
- Roadmap provides recommendations on how to address the gaps and identifies technical assistance needs
- In order to develop the roadmap, the API project team, during and in follow-up to their capacity building consultation, seeks to, *for example*, gain an in-depth understanding of the current legal, financial, infrastructural and technical capacity of the State to implement a national API system

API Project

- The API project team consists of :
 - Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)
 - 1267/1989/2253 ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee
 - International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)
 - International Organisation for Migration (IOM)
 - INTERPOL
 - International Air Transport Association (IATA)
 - UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
 - Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

API Project

- **Elements critical to API system implementation:**

Legislation

IT infrastructure

Technical requirements

Programming requirements/risk assessment

System connectivity

Programme test phase requirements

- The project has carried out regional workshops and capacity building consultations

Thank you.
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