



ICAO enhances UN cooperation to advance counter-terrorism initiatives in international civil aviation

For immediate release

Montréal, 14 February 2022 – ICAO Secretary General Juan Carlos Salazar recently signed a new cooperative agreement with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Office (UNOCT) to further advance joint counter-terrorism cooperation to strengthen the security of international air transport, trade, and border management.

Formalized on 12 February 2022 with UNOCT Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Vladimir Ivanovich Voronkov, the agreement builds on ICAO's key role in supporting the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/RES/75/291) and numerous Security Council resolutions on counter-terrorism, aviation security, and facilitation (identity and border control management). It is additionally expected to maximize related deliverables to Member States in a variety of areas of ICAO/UNOCT focus, including initiatives pertaining to unmanned aircraft systems (drones) and cybersecurity.

Highlighting ICAO's commitment to continue working with UNOCT in the implementation of the UN Global CT Strategy, Mr. Salazar noted the particular importance of "future capacity-building efforts under the Threat Assessment Models Programme to support States in the enhancement of their national information-sharing mechanisms, threat assessments, and risk-based decision-making."

"This Agreement on Cooperation exemplifies the 'All-of-UN' approach to supporting Member States in implementation of critical counter-terrorism projects. It further strengthens the exchange of information between the two partners and harnesses each other's expertise to optimize the impact of capacity-building efforts in countering the terrorist travel and protecting civil aviation and critical infrastructure," Mr. Voronkov said.

The UNOCT agreement was the result of a series of bilateral engagements Secretary General Salazar undertook at UN Headquarters this week to strengthen cooperation and enhance alignment with UN-wide counter-terrorism initiatives.

Related discussions with United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (UNCTED) Acting Executive Director Weixiong Chen focussed on the protection of soft targets and critical infrastructure, border management and law enforcement. ICAO is notably assisting CTED by participating in on-site visits to assess States' implementation of counter-terrorism related to the United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Mr. Salazar highlighted the tremendous significance and positive influence of these activities, while Mr. Chen noted the critical importance of ICAO's support and specialized expertise "to determine the efficacy of States' regulations and policies, and provide recommendations to enhance capacity building, in particular related to aviation security and API and PNR provisions."

In an additional meeting with UN Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) Chair, Ambassador T.S. Tirumurti, Mr. Salazar stressed the importance of invaluable support of the CTC to ICAO in reaffirming ICAO's leadership role and raising the understanding of the vital importance of aviation security and facilitation among Member States.

While ICAO has also established strong and effective partnerships to effectively respond to threats posed by terrorists, conduct cooperative activities, and exchange information and expertise, the Secretary General stressed that these may be insufficient without the support of Member States.

“Countries must be equally willing to cooperate with each other and share necessary information. The successful implementation of ICAO’s security-related Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) depends on common and consistent approaches to dealing with threats by governments,” he highlighted.

The success of these meetings builds on several years of close cooperation between ICAO and UN counter-terrorism related organizations that has evolved to ensure ICAO meets its commitments under the *United Nations Charter, Chapter VII: Action with Respect to Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace, and Acts of Aggression*, relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, and the aforementioned UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.



On 12 February 2022, ICAO Secretary General Juan Carlos Salazar and UN Counter-Terrorism Office (UNOCT) Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Ivanovich Voronkov signed a new cooperative agreement. The agreement builds on ICAO’s key role in supporting the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/RES/75/291) and numerous Security Council resolutions on counter-terrorism, aviation security, and facilitation (identity and border control management).

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About ICAO

A specialized agency of the United Nations, ICAO was created by governments in 1944 to support their diplomacy on international air transport matters. Since that time, countries have adopted over 12,000 standards and practices through ICAO which help to align their national regulations relevant to aviation safety, security, efficiency, capacity and environmental protection, enabling a truly global network to be realized. ICAO forums also provide opportunities for advice and advocacy to be shared with government decision-makers by industry groups, civil society NGOs, and other officially-recognized air transport stakeholders.

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