



PRESS RELEASE

VANUATU LAUNCHES NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON ADVANCE PASSENGER INFORMATION (API) AND PASSENGER NAME RECORD (PNR)

Port Vila, Vanuatu – 29 April 2025 – Vanuatu has officially launched a three-day National Consultation Workshop on the implementation of Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) systems, marking a major step toward strengthening border security and modernizing travel processes. Hosted at the Warwick Le Lagon Hotel in Port Vila, the workshop is held in partnership with the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel (CT Travel) Programme and is generously supported by the Government of Japan. A key highlight is the formal signing of an agreement between the Governments of Japan and Vanuatu, underscoring Vanuatu's commitment to enhancing immigration and border control systems.

Opening remarks were delivered on behalf of the Hon. Andrew Solomon Napuat, Minister of Internal Affairs, by Director General Veremaito. He emphasized the importance of the Integrated Border Management Strategy as a guiding framework for modernizing the country's border operations. He also highlighted that API and PNR are vital tools that will allow authorities to receive and analyse passenger information in advance, strengthening security, detecting risks early, and aligning with international best practices.

The implementation of API and PNR systems is crucial for improving Vanuatu's ability to assess passenger information before arrival, enabling early detection of potential risks and enhancing national security. By joining the Countering Terrorist Travel Programme, Vanuatu stands ready to benefit from the experience and technical expertise of partners such as UNOCT, INTERPOL, UNODC, and ICAO.

The workshop brings together a team of UN experts and representatives from key government sectors—including immigration, customs, biosecurity, ports and marine, civil aviation, justice, and police—alongside stakeholders from the aviation and maritime transport industries. Participants are collaborating to develop a concrete roadmap for API and PNR implementation.

Director General Veremaito expressed his sincere appreciation to the Government of Japan for its invaluable support and emphasized the importance of continued international assistance. He reaffirmed that, while the journey toward full implementation presents challenges, the Government of Vanuatu remains confident that, with sustained support from its partners, the country will successfully strengthen its border management capabilities and achieve this important national objective.

Signing Agreement between Government of Japan and Vanuatu



Sign by: Motaz Al-Rababah – UNOCT and Leith Veremaito – Director General, Ministry of Internal Affairs



Photo: Carl Adams, H.E Naohisa Okuda, Jeffrey Markson, Motaz Al-Rababah and Leith Veremaito.