



IMPLEMENTATION OF ADVANCE PASSENGER INFORMATION (API) SYSTEM – THE NIGERIA EXPERIENCE

Introduction



Advance Passenger Information (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.



REGULATION

Civil Aviation Act (CAA) 2022 Section 42 has provided the grounds to implement API system and to be captured in the legislation officially.



ACHIEVEMENT

- ▶ United Nation Office of Counter Tourism (UNOCT's) CONSULTATION VISIT TO NIGERIA
 - ▶ In February, 2021 Nigeria expressed interest in UN Countering Terrorist Travel Programme, a United Nations Counter Terrorism Executive Directorate (UNCTED) programme.
 - ▶ Over the course of 2021 and 2022, CT Travel held series of consultation meetings with relevant National Aviation stakeholders to familiarize on the Programme's objective and areas of support, both virtually and in-person;



ACHIEVEMENT

- ▶ On 18th -19th July 2022, CT Travel facilitated a two-day consultation workshop in Transcorp Hilton, Abuja on API/PNR with representatives from National agencies involved in border management and passenger processing in Nigeria. This included participation of DGCA, Comptroller General of Immigration along with participants from Immigration Service (NIS), Department of State Security (DSS), Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN), Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA), International Organisation for Migrants (IOM), INTERPOL and Aircraft operators;



ACHIEVEMENT

The purpose of the consultation meeting was to assess Nigeria's current readiness and capability to use passenger data (air, maritime and land) to detect and interdict foreign terrorist fighters and serious criminals in accordance with Security Council resolutions 2178 (2014), 2396 (2017) and 2482 (2019).

THE 4 PILLARS

- ▶ **Legislation (Pillar 1)**
- ▶ **Operations (Pillar 2)**
- ▶ **Transport Industry Engagement (Pillar 3)**
- ▶ **Technical (Pillar 4)**



Legislation (Pillar 1)

- a. Develop the necessary legislative framework regulating the collection, transmission, use, retention and sharing of passenger data;
- b. some elements in draft API regulations should be revised or considered in light of ICAO Annex 9 Standards, human rights and fundamental freedoms (e.g., cross references to national legislation, establishments of a PIU under the appropriate body, definition of terrorist offences and serious crime, purpose limitations etc.).
- c. UNOCT and IOM are to provide additional legal technical assistance with legal working group;
- d. Finalize and adopt the data protection bill of 2020 in line with international standards and good practices;
- e. Ensure that a whole of government approach is followed and that additional relevant agencies are added to the legal working group to review and finalize the API legal/regulatory framework.



Operations (Pillar 2)

- a. Define the dataflow for the collection, processing and sharing of passenger data;
- b. Continue the discussion on the use of a Passenger Data Single window;
- c. Clarify the national and international watchlist process specifying the action to be taken
- d. Include all relevant agencies in an operational working group and continue working on the development of SOPs defining the roles and responsibilities of a passenger Information Unit and the participating agencies and;
- e. Ensure that all the basic requirements to establish a PIU are clarified (Location, cost, staff etc.)



Transport Industry Engagement (Pillar 3)

- a. When developing implementation plan, Nigeria should ensure that aircraft operators are engaged throughout, including with their industry representation (IATA) and local airline groups (AOC); and
- b. The engagement should include the sharing of draft legislation and implementation documentation with aircraft operators for feedback;



Technical (Pillar 4)

- a. Design and installation of the supporting ICT infrastructure;
- b. Design and configuration of information security and cybersecurity services for the PIU;
- c. Implementation of the connectivity and interconnectivity frameworks;
- d. goTravel deployment in the pre-production and production environments; and
- e. Delivery of technical trainings.

CURRENT POSITION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF API IN NIGERIA



Pillar 1

- ▶ Nigeria has given the API System official legislation with its inclusion in Section 42 of the Civil Aviation Act (CAA) 2022;
- ▶ The data protection law and sanctions has been captured in the Civil Aviation regulations ;;
- ▶ Nigeria has developed its legislation for the purpose of implementing an API system and the Nigeria Immigration Services serves as the Single Window for API data on behalf of all other agencies.
- ▶ The Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority on 20th June, 2024 issued a Civil Aviation Order on the implementation of Advance Passenger Information and Passenger Name Record (API/PNR) in Nigeria effective 10th July, 2024.



PILLAR 2

- As agreed at the UNOCT two (2) day consultative meeting, Passenger Information Unit (PIU) will be coordinated by the Office of National Security Adviser (ONSA). This is so because ONSA by virtue of the Counter-terrorism Act 2020 was given the mandate to coordinate and manage all matters on security and terrorism. Moreover, by virtue of this Act, a Counter-terrorism center was established;
- The Nigeria Immigration Service is the Passenger Data Single Window facility for each data category that allows airlines involved to lodge standardized information with a common data transmission entry point for each category to fulfil all related passenger and crew data requirements for that jurisdiction. Only data elements that are available in machine readable form in travel documents conforming to the specifications contained in Doc 9303. All information required shall conform to specifications for UN/WCO/IATA/ICAO API Guidelines.



PILLAR 2

- UNOCT developed questionnaires which was distributed to airlines so as to get vital information from them in determining the type of reservation systems in use amongst others.
- Air peace has accepted to be the pilot airline to test run the implementation of API/PNR in Nigeria.



MEETING OF STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT (PILLAR 3)

- ▶ Series of meetings were held on transport engagement to update aviation stakeholders on the progress made in the implementation of the API system in Lagos and Abuja, Nigeria where stakeholders raised questions based on operations and interoperability of the project. The concerns are brought up and addressed in the respective pillars.



PILLAR 4 (INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY)

- A Data Centre is close to completion at the NIS Command Centre ready and available.
- E-gate installed at Abuja Airport and Lagos Airport while Kano and Porthartcourt Airport is in Process.
- Presentation on API/PNR solutions and border control management technologies to deliver API/PNR to the Airlines by Collins Aerospace's solutions in Nigeria.in partnership with the Nigerian Government
- Agreement on the need for further exploration of the solutions and their potential integration into Nigeria's border control management system

CONCLUSION



The various steps taken by Nigeria towards the implementation of API/PNR were done under the guardian and advise of the UNOCT , ICAO and and IATA representatives, this include the development of the legislation, industry engagement and the activities of the other Pillars.

THANK YOU.