

TRACIT and the Universal Postal Union intensify collaboration to address security threats from illicit trade

Bern, Switzerland, 7 February 2023 - The Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade (TRACIT) today participated in the Universal Postal Union's (UPU) Postal Security Group meeting and reported on activities related to the MoU between the two organizations on mitigating illicit trade. The UPU is a specialized UN agency representing national postal services operating in 192 member countries.

TRACIT emphasized the important role of postal operators in safeguarding global mail supply chains from illicit trade and criminal exploitation. TRACIT also commended the notable progress made by the recently instituted 'Illicit Goods Mitigation Expert Team (IGMET)', which was formed to support designated postal operators' ability to address vulnerabilities that permit illicit trade to proliferate throughout their networks.

"The UPU has demonstrated valuable leadership in the efforts to combat the abuse of postal channels for the circulation of counterfeit and other illicit products," said TRACIT Director General Jeffrey Hardy. "The output of the Postal Security Group has considerable potential to advance the capabilities of national posts to defend their systems against illicit goods."

The IGMET is a sub-group of the Postal Security Group which is currently implementing a work program that includes a toolkit to detect and detain illicit pharmaceuticals, awareness raising campaigns and pilot projects in key national posts to support their ability to fight illicit trade.

"The work of the IGMET will drive the improvement of postal security standards and promote responsible practices by postal operators," said Suriya Padmanaabhan, TRACIT's representative to the Expert Team.

On the sidelines, Mr. Hardy met with UPU Director General Masahiko Metoki to discuss the critical importance of the public-private partnerships and agreed to further intensify collaboration to mitigate illicit parcels in the postal supply chain.

"There is immense value in the work of the IGMET in contributing to our overall mission to ensure the safety and security of the postal sector," said Mr. Metoki. "We appreciate the partnerships and contributions from the private sector in achieving this objective."

About TRACIT

The Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade (TRACIT) is an independent, private sector initiative to drive change to mitigate the economic and social damages of illicit trade by strengthening government enforcement mechanisms and mobilizing businesses across industry sectors most impacted by illicit trade.

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