



SPEECH

by

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INTERPOL Secretary General

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Your Serene Highness;
Madame la Présidente;
Distinguished Ministers;
Mr. President of the INTERPOL Foundation for a Safer World and Board Members;
My Dedicated INTERPOL Staff;
My Dear Special Guests;
Ladies and Gentlemen;

Bonjour, Good morning, Buenos Dias, As-salaam Alaikum

Let me begin by recognizing and saying hello to INTERPOL staff members who could not be with us here in person, but who are with us in spirit.

If you are watching this live, we miss you. If you are not watching, we still miss you.

Your Serene Highness, we are all humbled seeing how much time and energy you and the Monegasque authorities have devoted to hosting us, addressing us and making us feel so warmly welcomed.

You also have accepted the invitation by H.E. Elias Murr, the President of the INTERPOL Foundation for a Safer World, to become the first Honorary President of the INTERPOL Foundation, whose Board held its first meeting right here in Monaco yesterday.

On behalf of all 190 INTERPOL member countries, I thank you.

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These remarks will be my last as INTERPOL Secretary General at a Ministerial Conference, and will last roughly four minutes.

Gaining your trust, the trust of my staff and acting in the best interests of the Organization have been my number one priority as Secretary General.

I wanted each of you and your countries to place your trust in the fact that as long as I was your Secretary General, every ounce of energy that I had; every bit of my intellectual power; all of the

passion contained in me would be devoted to protecting and keeping your countries...your citizens...your businesses, and your visitors, safe.

I wanted your trust that if and when something went wrong and your country suffered a tragedy, whether criminal in nature or a natural disaster, that INTERPOL would be in contact with you and get there to help you as fast as possible. You would never be alone!

I wanted you to trust that I loved being the Secretary General of each and every one of your countries, as well as of each and every staff member – irrespective of their nationality, race, religion, gender or position.

I feel so proud and honoured to be Secretary General that you can likely see and feel my joy when I recognize you; give you an INTERPOL pin; hug you; take a picture with you and shake your hand.

This enthusiasm is why my staff made sure that over 14 years I would visit each and every one of your countries.

Because they knew, and as all of you found out, that I wanted to see what your country was like firsthand; wanted to learn from you and wanted to be there to make sure that your ministry, police and INTERPOL National Central Bureau would receive greater support because of my visit.

I was not going to step down as your Secretary General until I had visited each and every one of your countries.

It took me 14 years, but I completed this journey on the 7th of October in Iceland.

Now, not even a month later, we have travelled together to Monaco, where it is great to once again see your faces.

I hope that together we can make the tools and services of INTERPOL known and used throughout the world.

I believe that the input and participation we will receive from you over the next few days will help us counter the insidious nature of terrorism, undermine the motivation of organized crime, and paralyze cybercriminals in cyberspace;

And I know that your support for our new projects and innovations will be invaluable as we work to broaden our effort against these threats.

The driving force behind all of this work is the INTERPOL staff that you see standing before you; the staff watching this General Assembly live from INTERPOL offices around the world; the staff who have come and gone from more than 100 countries, and who are, above all, dedicated to the ideal and vision of INTERPOL.

They are the ones who have been there and will always be there for you in a time of need, and their sacrifices and dedication have made all of INTERPOL's achievements possible during my time here.

They are the ones to whom I dedicate the video that you saw, and each and every award and honour that I have received as Secretary General.

If I have achieved my goal of gaining your trust, then I kindly ask for the support of each of your countries in ensuring that Mr Jürgen Stock is unanimously voted as Secretary General to succeed me so that the successes that we have achieved together can continue.

And, I also ask that when I am gone, you and your countries give President Ballestrazzi, the Executive Committee, newly-elected Secretary General Stock, the dedicated staff of INTERPOL, your INTERPOL National Central Bureaus and the INTERPOL Foundation for a Safer World even more support and love than you have given me over the last 14 years as your Secretary General.

If you can do this for INTERPOL, then together we will all Turn Back Crime and be one step closer to a world safer for this and future generations.

Thank you, merci beaucoup, muchas gracias, shukran