



INTERPOL



**NEW DELHI, INDIA 2022
90TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

DIRECTIONAL STATEMENT

by

INTERPOL Secretary General Jürgen Stock

90th INTERPOL General Assembly

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Honourable Ministers from INTERPOL member countries;
Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation of India and Head of INTERPOL National Central Bureau of New Delhi Shri Subodh Jaiswal;
INTERPOL President Ahmed Naser Al-Raisi;
INTERPOL Executive Committee members;
Distinguished Chiefs of Police;
Dear Heads of National Central Bureaus;
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon. Bonjour. Buenas tardes. Assalam-aleykoum. Namaste.

It is an honour to stand before you here in New Delhi, India's power capital and global metropolis. We were humbled by the presence of Shri Narendra Modi, Honourable Prime Minister of India among us today, whose welcoming speech certainly inspired us.

I would also like to thank our gracious hosts, the *Central Bureau of Investigation* (CBI). For the second time in 25 years – India opens its doors to the global law enforcement community. To share its rich history, its thriving present, and its vision of the future.

It is a rare privilege, in a very special year. As Prime Minister Modi said: India celebrates 75 years of independence...

As INTERPOL celebrates 75 years since the publication of the first Red Notice. The Red Notice is the symbol of our collective response to a universal imperative: global security built on trust in multilateral action.

Action we just saw at play just last Thursday. With the arrest of a traveler crossing yet another border – from Chile into Argentina;
With information shared 20 000 kilometers away – from Seoul;
A violent crime awaiting justice – and finding it through INTERPOL channels.

For some, these successes may soon become a thing of the past. Multilateral action seems strained:

- By a world where geopolitical tensions are reaching new heights;
- And by an era of hyper-innovation boosted by technology.

Just last month, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned international leaders of “*a world in peril and paralysed.*”

Conflicts across our regions continue. We see them escalate. They add to the strain on global solutions like our Red Notice. Solutions that have taken generations to build, to strengthen, to be trusted.

Yet bridging global tensions is also part of the reason INTERPOL exists. Why it has grown four-fold in its members in 99 years.

This is why we meet in New Delhi, today.

This is when the world needs police cooperation the most.

Police records in our global databases have increased by 24 per cent, in less than three years... producing over 1 million hits, this year alone.

By the end of 2022, estimates show 60 per cent of all new INTERPOL Notices and diffusions will relate to fugitives - demanding urgent, international action.

Each of those records tells the same story.
Of a single, shared mission – and our commitment to achieve it through multilateral action.
Transnational crime is not paralyzed. And neither is our response.

But in addition to the conflicts across the world, we cannot ignore the other pressure that also surrounds us.

A fragile pandemic recovery, still ongoing;
A growing risk of global recession – taking away even more resources from policing; or
Unrelenting climate change – disrupting global flows, markets and criminality.

Yes, challenges abound from the outside. Therefore, police must evolve.
This imperative is also guiding INTERPOL's action.

We bridge the geopolitical divide by targeting the common, global threats that unite us all.

The *2022 INTERPOL Crime Trend Report* we are releasing today clearly identifies financial crime as one of them.

It is with this in mind that back in Istanbul, last year, I announced the creation of INTERPOL'S *Financial Crime and Anti-Corruption Centre*.

Today – INTERPOL is delivering on that promise:

- 14 countries across all of our regions exchanging intelligence and coordinating multiple strikes against *Black Axe* - an organized crime group responsible for cyber enabled fraud and becoming a global threat fast.
- 75 suspects arrested - and our global stop-payment mechanism – the *Anti-Money Laundering Rapid Response Protocol (ARRP)* deployed in the interception of 1.2 million euros.
- Over 60 million US dollars in criminal proceeds from cyber-enabled fraud intercepted globally with INTERPOL support since January.

These are just snapshots of the new capabilities at the service of your agencies. They follow a thread familiar to INTERPOL.

We share; we target; we connect; and we act. Together.
Because this is the mission of INTERPOL.

We saw it again last July. Our *Victim Identification Taskforce* trained experts from 12 countries in Latin America on INTERPOL's International Child Sexual Exploitation Database – leading to the rescue of three victims and the arrest of their abusers, within days.

One more success. And more must follow.

To date, together, we have supported the identification of more than 30 000 young victims across the world - a vast achievement. Too many are still out there, waiting to be rescued.

We must renew our commitment here in New Delhi. We must continue to grow.
And so we are. India joined ICSE last July and has already arrested over 50 suspects since.
We must therefore accelerate our work on the next generation of the ICSE database. Because we see how the threat keeps evolving, and we must evolve with it to save lives.

This is also why we must get better at connecting the dots – wherever they may be.
Our new INSIGHT analytical platform has started supporting operational actions by your agencies.

A cocaine seizure in West Africa; five criminal brokers linking the Americas and West Africa; and final markets in Europe.

The result: the dismantling of a transnational organized crime syndicate.

This is how we make *a difference* as police - no matter *how different* the views across the international community. This is what multilateral action brings to the table.

And the same applies to the digital divide we are called to bridge for police.

This divide is widening across your agencies, with the accelerating rate of technology and innovation. Cyber vulnerabilities are increasing: for citizens, governments, industry, for police agencies. Experts estimate cyber-related crime to cause over 10 trillion US dollars in damages by 2025.

For INTERPOL – wanted fugitives for digitally-enabled crimes are *already* the fastest growing dataset in our systems.

This is the defining dilemma of our time: *How to reap the benefits, while tackling the threats of a digital era?*

We answered this last year, in Istanbul, together. We must invest if we are to prevail. That commitment was decisive. It was timely. It was necessary. And it must continue.

Supporting the digital transition for police means a stronger information backbone – able to support the 250 searches per second you are conducting in our databases, no matter what.

It means keeping our defenses high, against ransomware attacks and other cyber threats that may impact *our* global network and *your* data.

It means having the right tools to protect our Notices and diffusions system at an average rate of 5 000 requests reviewed per month.

And it means looking ahead.

To the progress achieved by the I-CORE Programme; our technological blueprint for the future; three years since its launch in Santiago, from biometrics to structured police messaging.

To the matching of biometric information against INTERPOL datasets via a mobile app – through the power of artificial intelligence.

To a new, encrypted INTERPOL police-messaging app – to finally switch off *Whatsapp* for police work; and switch to INTERPOL's own encrypted I-talk app instead.

These are a few examples of our own digital transition. A transition INTERPOL and your agencies are living together - as we help police make sense of a new world.

One where physical and virtual reality will be merged.

And with a new frontier: the Metaverse.

A term many of us have heard, but few of us can explain. A lot like “the Internet” back in 1992.

A world INTERPOL has already entered, together with partners such as the World Economic Forum and Microsoft. And where INTERPOL will carve a space for police – through an expert group – as you will witness this week.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear Chiefs of Police,

I took my oath as a police officer 44 years ago.

Through those eyes, the pace of change around us is startling.

But through the eyes of a police leader, change is inevitable.

To fight tomorrow's crimes we need tomorrow's technology.
And we need to build it starting today.

New technology like artificial intelligence means we need new policing standards to ensure responsible use in our investigations.

It is also why INTERPOL will establish its own *Responsible AI Lab*, to develop guidelines and standards of reference your agencies can use in implementing AI-based technology.

Capacity building and training therefore is more critical than ever to face these challenges.

INTERPOL's Global Academy prepares current and future generations as it continues to expand with Argentina, Colombia, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia and Spain. We hope to count India among them soon.

At the same time, the *INTERPOL Virtual Academy* will expand its offer and delivery. This is how we prepare the future of law enforcement cooperation.

And colleagues...that future starts now.

The modernization of global policing capabilities must go hand-in-hand with the modernization of our global outreach efforts and of our governance and data processing frameworks – the kind of bedrock bedrock of trust in our multilateral solutions.

The purpose remains unchanged. It remains simple: increase frontline support, to build synergy with new regional actors.

To be closer to your agencies and operational needs – we continue shifting our center of gravity to the regions. To the frontlines.

Many of your governments are seeing opportunities where INTERPOL's strategy, presence and their regional priorities converge.

Our new Liaison Office for the Caribbean in Barbados opening last July – at the crossroads between the Americas, Europe and Africa – is a case in point.

We are seizing other opportunities – in regions like Latin America, and partners like AMERIPOL.

Yet our support to the frontlines and our global role can only be as strong as our fundamental principles of neutrality and transparency.

Principles at the heart of our Constitution; at the heart of several items on our agenda here in Delhi this week.

It is the General Secretariat and the Executive Committee's view that these matters are best addressed when they can be thoroughly and carefully considered - through the *Working Group on Governance*.

I take the opportunity to thank Chairperson KHOO Boon Hui for his leadership and unique guidance in identifying common ground across the membership.

Common ground, colleagues, we need today more than ever - for relevance and impact in the global security architecture.

This is how INTERPOL gets access to internal security, diplomatic and political decision makers.

And this is how the voice for police reaches major international fora - such as the United Nations, the G20, the G7 and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization – as police deserves.

Ladies and gentlemen, colleagues,

We are here today, gathered under one roof. As one INTERPOL. United by our mission for a safer world. United by the oath we all took when we first wore that uniform.

Since ancient times, there is a precept here in India that teaches us – *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* – *the world is one family*.

We are all in this together.

As we prepare to consider fundamental questions relating to membership, let us look to our past for guidance. What would the world look like:

- If a global police cooperation platform had to be created today?
- If multilateral action had been abandoned for self-reliance?
- If geopolitical tensions had torn our network apart - and therefore taken its energy away?

As we answer these questions, as we move towards a historical milestone of 100 years of INTERPOL...

- We must remain united to pursue our mission for a safer world.
- We must remain united to fight transnational crime.
- We must remain united and guided by the principles that brought us here together today, as they brought INTERPOL to life almost a century ago.

Our new strategic initiative *INTERPOL 2030* has been designed to get to us there. To guide us. To unite us. To build 100 more years of international police cooperation. Together.

Thank you. Merci beaucoup. Muchas Gracias. Shukran jazeelan. Dhanyavaad.