

INTERPOL STATEMENT: GROUP 11-18

Chair,

Thank you for granting us the floor. INTERPOL is deeply appreciative of the opportunity to be involved in this pivotal mechanism.

Our statement and proposals are consistent with [INTERPOL' written contribution to the Sixth Session](#), which is available on the UNODC Ad Hoc Committee website.

Allow me to start thanking Member States for their support in relation to **Article 37, paragraph 10, and Article 47, paragraph 1(a)**. INTERPOL welcomes the introduction of additional language referring to its capabilities and channels, as well as recognising other existing channels; which will empower the future Convention in strengthening custodial mechanisms and the necessity of the urgent transmission of such requests; as well as in encouraging greater law enforcement cooperation.

Further, in **Article 54, Technical Assistance and capacity building, paragraph 8**, we **note with appreciation the use of the terminology “technical assistance and**

capacity-building” OR “technical assistance including capacity-building”. We believe that this will ensure language consistency between the title of this Article and the other paragraphs; – while also enabling a more comprehensive recognition of the full spectrum of existing and potential capabilities of all international and regional organizations committed to this area.

Finally, in addition, we would like to offer **one concrete proposal** in line with INTERPOL’s written contribution to the Sixth session:

In Article 40 on General Principles relating to Mutual Legal Assistance, paragraph 12 (d): we suggest the removal of the words **“in urgent circumstances”**. This is in line with the suggestion made by a Member State to remove the language “in urgent circumstances” from **Paragraph 13 in Article 40**.

INTERPOL’s position is based on the following considerations:

- The expression “urgent circumstances” is not defined in the text of the convention, which could lead to contrasting and restrictive interpretations.
- Also, by removing the reference to “urgent circumstances”, the text would still explicitly include two conditions to be met to address requests for

mutual legal assistance and communications through INTERPOL's channels.

These are "where the State Party agree" **and** "if possible".

With this minor edit, the Convention would reflect even more accurately and consistently an important mechanism of cooperation on mutual legal assistance.

By mandate, INTERPOL's tools and channels are available and used by its 195 Member Countries; Through the prevention; detection; investigation; and disruption of cyber criminals, their networks and infrastructures, we are **all** able to reduce the harm and impact caused by them within our communities globally.

Chair,

We would like to thank the Member States for their continued support, and we thank you for giving us the opportunity to speak here today.