



Statement by INTERPOL at First Session of the Ad Hoc Committee on Mode of Work during Intersessional Periods

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

[Madam Chairperson],

On this special occasion of International Women's Day, INTERPOL is eager to celebrate the great achievements of women, especially those working in the area of cyber and in law enforcement.

Moreover, INTERPOL would like to express our deepest appreciation for you and your team's leadership in organizing the roadmap and mode of work for the Ad Hoc Committee. We echo the sentiments of many Member States that the perspectives of various stakeholders cannot be ignored.

The **intersessional consultations** provide an excellent opportunity for these perspectives to be discussed and formalized as part of the Ad Hoc Committee process. INTERPOL agrees that the agenda for each consultation should align with the themes of the upcoming formal meeting of the Committee as decided by the Member States. At each of the intersessional consultation, we can have several **expert panels zooming into particular topics of interest**.

Based on what we have observed thus far, INTERPOL would like to propose some possible topics of relevance for the panels. We also welcome other international and non-governmental organizations, civil societies, and relevant stakeholders to add to this non-exhaustive list.

Firstly, it is important to have one or more panels featuring **frontline law enforcement officials and judicial personnel**. Understanding the different process of preventing, detecting, investigating, and prosecuting cybercrime, and the current gaps is crucial to the negotiation of the Convention. INTERPOL stands ready to provide our expertise in law enforcement cooperation for transnational crime, including sending in expert speakers or coordinators for the panels.

At the same time, INTERPOL urges the Member States to take a Whole-of-Government approach and hold in-depth consultation with their national law enforcement and judicial authorities.

Secondly, there should be a panel focused on the **private sector**. There have been discussions surrounding if and to what extent private companies are obliged to cooperate with law enforcement to counter cybercrime. Cybersecurity companies and Internet Service Providers can provide their perspectives, including the constraints they face when it comes to sharing data. INTERPOL has the experience and an established legal framework for working with private partners, and would be more than willing to contribute.

Thirdly, the point of view of **human rights** activists should also be reflected. As many Member States have pointed out, safeguards need to be put in place to prevent arbitrary interference with human rights and fundamental freedoms. Similarly, Article 2 of INTERPOL's Constitution stipulated that we must act in the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Lastly, a panel discussing the **differential impact of cybercrime on women and children** would also be beneficial.

To conclude, INTERPOL would like to stress the need for the **meaningful participation of stakeholders**. This includes timely access to key documents; and having mechanisms in place for the intersessional consultation reports to feed into the text of the Convention.

Thank you, Madam Chair.