Statement by INTERPOL at Third Session of the Ad Hoc Committee on Technical Assistance

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Madam Chairperson,

For member states’ consideration, INTERPOL – in its capacity as Permanent Observer to the United Nations – will offer some perspectives on the agenda item Technical Assistance.

We would like to begin by addressing guiding question 27 regarding the explicit inclusion of INTERPOL and UNODC in the provisions of the convention. It is relevant here to note that INTERPOL and UNODC are the only intergovernmental organizations with worldwide membership and that deliver Global Cybercrime Programmes.

INTERPOL is the only international organization with global law enforcement membership that offers concrete operational support to police services for the prevention, detection, investigation and disruption of cybercrimes. Such national law enforcement agencies will ultimately be the main entities driving, applying, and operationalizing the new convention through their investigations work. Mentioning INTERPOL’s role as well as its channels for communication in the new convention would be in line with what is contained in other global UN crime conventions.

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Regarding question 29, INTERPOL engages actively in capacity-building. We view capacity-building as enhancing the scale, breadth and magnitude of abilities that beneficiary countries’ police services are able to deploy to counter cybercrime. Included in this is more general training given to police officers on for example collection of electronic evidence. INTERPOL also offers capabilities development which can be seen as support to deepen or add specialized functions and abilities.

More widely, technical assistance can be both part of the specialized support given when developing capabilities and increasing capacities of police services, but also the more direct support given in operational matters. INTERPOL offers such technical assistance and support to member countries through, among others, our Digital Forensic Lab and the coordination of joint investigations by member countries as part of INTERPOL’s regional operations desk model. Recently at the request of our member countries, INTERPOL provided such capabilities development and technical assistance in a Cyber Surge event with AFRIPOL and African partner countries, which has led to several successful operational outcomes.
Regarding question 25, we remind Member States of the principles for capacity-building that were formulated by the Intergovernmental Expert Group on Cybercrime as well in the OEWG 2021 report (para. 56). Drawing from INTERPOL’s own experience, a focus on beneficiaries’ different identified needs and priorities is especially important. Through ongoing interaction and exchange with police services and law enforcement agencies across the world (including through our targeted Global Training Needs Assessment), INTERPOL is able to receive, understand and gauge the needs of our member countries. The aforementioned African Cyber Surge event was for example driven and devised by such exchange with our members.

Cyber capacity building has become an increasingly busy arena. We would emphasize the need for adequate coordination and de-confliction between the many efforts undertaken by countries bilaterally, by NGOs and by other international organizations in this area. INTERPOL engages with the Global Forum for Cyber Expertise and is part of its working group on cybercrime, which aims to enhance such coordination.

Finally, in regard to question 30 on resources for 24/7 points of contact, we can add that for these points of contacts (such as those administered by INTERPOL, the Council of Europe and the G7) to be effective, they should preferably be the national units responsible for cybercrime or equivalent. Therefore, it would be more useful to focus on enhancing the capacity and capability of national law enforcement to counter cybercrime per se and not set up new standalone 24/7 points of contact. The convention could focus on enhancing access of Member States to these existing mechanisms as a form of technical assistance.

Thank you.