

Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates;  
Ladies and Gentlemen;  
Good morning.

I am honoured to address the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as it celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we meet at very challenging times for the international community, and for the citizens it seeks to protect. Much of our lives, as we knew them, may seem on hiatus.

The COVID-19 pandemic has struck hard worldwide, especially among the most vulnerable in our societies.

And as our lives have shifted even more into cyberspace, so too have the opportunities to prey on our economies, our households and our children.

Excellencies,  
Against this grave backdrop, INTERPOL shares with the United Nations the conviction that security and justice are key to ensuring a sustainable future.

We remain committed to the objectives of the Agenda 2030, by assisting our membership against new and emerging criminal threats through our Global Policing Goals.

Secure, real-time criminal information sharing through our global I-247 communication network and 18 databases is at the core of that role, and the backbone of all INTERPOL-coordinated operations.

Last month, a criminal network trafficking women for the purposes of sexual exploitation and active across three continents was taken down across the Atlantic.

And the “30 Days at Sea 3.0” Operation, conducted with our partners across sixty-seven (67) countries saw an unprecedented 34,000 inspections to detect marine pollution violations.

Over the years, INTERPOL’s cross-regional Operations such as Weka (WÉKA) and Turquesa have seen the rescue of thousands of trafficking victims and smuggled migrants.

In cyberspace, we combine our national footprint, global reach and direct access to industry to help member countries identify and disrupt the criminal actors behind cyber-criminal incidents.

Excellencies,  
At a time when the international community is under exceptional pressure, collaboration and inclusion are the only way forward.

For close to a century, this has been at the core of INTERPOL: building bridges between police, nations and partners, to make international law enforcement cooperation in our 194 member countries the foundation for a safer World.

Thank you all for your perseverance in striving to get us closer to that vision, even in the most challenging times.

I wish you all successful deliberations.