

Dear Ladies and Gentleman, estimate Colleagues,

at first, I would like to thank the UN organization and in particular UNODC for hosting this really interesting and precious meeting related to environmental crime in its different types or patterns.

Moreover, I would like to thank all the experts and panelists who spoke in these 3 days. Italy, for some time now has shown a particular sensitivity to environmental issues and the fight against related crimes. Our country is among the first to have equipped itself with a complex set of rules and regulations aimed at protecting the different and multiple aspects of the environmental problem.

Italian Ministry of Interior and the International Police Cooperation Service and single Police Forces engaged in the specific sector, have assumed a role of undisputed global importance, acting as a reference point and example for all countries committed to increasing their system of protection and contrast to such offenses.

In this regard, Italy currently takes part in numerous international initiatives under the aegis of EMPACT - Envicrime, EUROPOL, INTERPOL where, thanks to the know-how acquired in the activity of contrasting the national criminal phenomenon, it holds the roles of Leader, driver or co-driver, providing a notable contribution to the development of cooperation from an operational and information point of view as well as capacity building.

Globaly has now recognized environmental crimes as one of the growing and greatest threats to global stability, linked to transnational organized crime, constituting the fourth largest criminal business on a global scale by turnover, after drug trafficking, counterfeiting and human trafficking.

In this light, the UN, the European institutions, Interpol General Secretariat of Lyon and EUROPOL have recently reiterated the importance of the law enforcement action carried out by individual countries and even more the relevance of enhancing international cooperation, often culminating in the establishment of Joint Investigation Teams dedicated to specific transnational cases.

The national commitment in this pattern is strong and Italian Police Forces are giving their high contribution to Interpol and Europol International Operation for tackling environmental crimes.



Ministero dell'Interno

DIPARTIMENTO DELLA PUBBLICA SICUREZZA

DIREZIONE CENTRALE DELLA POLIZIA CRIMINALE

Also the international networking action recently carried out by all the involved institutions, among which this meeting plays a role of absolute importance, has made it possible to create a large table for discussion and sharing of information and operating procedures.

Now it's time to focus our attention on other two fundamental aspects due to keep in reality the efforts made so far to achieve a globally shared contrast to environmental crimes: It's the moment for capacity building, mentoring and training.

Several initiatives have been implemented in this sector and Italy already contributes to that with its know-how and its training institutes for the Police Forces.

An example, in this sector, is the initiative under the aegis of UNESCO named "Unite4environment", in which pattern Italy has created a national Task force of about 50 units, which is available at international level to intervene in that operational theaters identified by treaties, international conventions and bilateral or multinational collaboration agreements for the implementation of Monitoring, Mentoring and Advising (MMA) activities, or to take part into peacekeeping operations / missions resulting from UN Resolutions that give a specific mandate to UNESCO to protect the natural heritage.