

**In the framework of ways to *strengthening the use of digital evidence in criminal justice* I should like to remark the following:**

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Based on the findings of the meetings of the INTERPOL STRATalks or ‘Strategy Talks’ Futures Network, INTERPOL Innovation and Technology Advisory Group or ITAG, and the recently concluded INTERPOL Young Global Police Leaders Programme, digitalization is one of the biggest challenges law enforcement is facing. Nowadays, most police cases contain a digital evidence component.

Many of our day-to-day activities are now virtual, and as you may be aware, the Metaverse is being refined and seen as a crucial space for connecting and working together virtually.

This means that **TRUST** is an overarching principle that we need to keep in mind now more than ever.

Maintaining trust in an increasingly digitalized world will be one of the key overarching challenges facing policing in the next decade.

Trust directly impacts the ability of law enforcement to undertake its mission, affecting not just public compliance but also cooperation across jurisdictions.

In a digital era, building trust will remain a key strategic priority for law enforcement, as for example public levels of trust will determine if and how police can harness new technologies.

At the same time, digitalization and related advances are sure to bring new challenges, such as mis/disinformation, growing privacy concerns and the rise of synthetic media.

Faced with this evolving trust and information landscape, law enforcement may need new, cross-cutting strategies to build and ensure trust – with their communities, prospective partners and international counterparts.

Are we ready to face the impacts of **digitalization** and emerging technologies on law enforcement and crime? To answer this question, the Innovation Centre launched an **initiative to explore the future of policing**. This exploration is going to be held for a year and will culminate in the Centennial Celebrations of INTERPOL in 2023. With an eye to this important milestone, this year the INTERPOL Innovation Centre (IC) aims to co-create a global vision on the future of policing to explore possible future developments of international policing in a digitalized world. The year-long exploration is composed of the following:

- Interviews with Chiefs of Police and other relevant national experts, business leaders, civil society organizations and academia
- A series of exploratory virtual rooms on specific Futures of Policing topics

If you are interested or willing to contribute to any of these initiatives, please reach out to us at [innovation@interpol.int](mailto:innovation@interpol.int)