

66th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

13 March 2023. Vienna, Austria

INTERPOL statement

Mr. Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

The role of INTERPOL in assisting Member States in fulfilling the obligations arising from the Drug Treaties has been acknowledged at an early stage. As the 1961 and 1988 Conventions were adopted, the UN Conferences already called on State parties to make best use of INTERPOL's tools and channels in relation to technical assistanceⁱ and information sharingⁱⁱ respectively, to achieve the goals of these Conventions.

Over the years, INTERPOL has remained on the side of law enforcement to facilitate international cooperation and information sharing in a fast-changing threat landscape.

This is how in June last year, a major international drug trafficker, the Brazilian Sergio Roberto de Carvalho, was arrested in Hungary where he lived on a fake Mexican passport, two years after simulating his own death in Spain. This arrest is the result of the tireless efforts of law enforcement in Brazil, Hungary, Spain, Portugal and the United States – with support and coordination from INTERPOL.

International law enforcement cooperation is a daily reality that INTERPOL is able to sustain thanks to the trust and support of its 195 member countries.

A few years ago, Czech Republic provided such an example of trust as it handed over to INTERPOL a high-tech forensic tool called RELIEF - for the shared benefit of our 195 member countries. RELIEF allows the comparative analysis of the tool-marks, logos and chemical composition of drug packages for law enforcement to uncover the routes and origin of compressed drug deliveries and shipments.

The RELIEF database comes as a clear demonstration of how law enforcement can leverage new technologies to tackle illicit drug trafficking. It also exemplifies the power of international cooperation - and how one country can use INTERPOL to empower others.

Beyond RELIEF, INTERPOL hosts 18 other databases containing over 126 million records on wanted individuals, stolen property, weapons, threats, etc., accessible to our member countries in real time through INTERPOL's secure communication system, I-24/7. Last year almost 6 billion searches were performed by law enforcement across the world in these databases – in addition to the many notices and diffusions that we published at the request of countries to alert others on new concealment methods, new modus operandi, and dangerous drug traffickers on the run.

INTERPOL will celebrate its centennial this year, here in Vienna, where the Organization is born from the practical necessity of police to get united against transnational crime. In line with the mandate it has been entrusted with by its 195 member countries to facilitate international law enforcement cooperation, INTERPOL stands ready to continue to assist State parties in achieving the goals of the Treaties.

I thank you for your attention.

ⁱ Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961. Resolution I “Technical assistance on narcotic drugs” adopted by the United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs.

ⁱⁱ United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances 1988. Resolution II “Exchange of Information” adopted by the United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Convention Against Illicit Traffic In Narcotic Drugs And Psychotropic Substances.