

Video Statement (As delivered) by

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Mr Chairperson, Excellencies, distinguished guests, members of civil society,

It gives me great pleasure to take part in this *14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice* and greet you from INTERPOL Headquarters in Lyon, France.

A special thanks to the Government of Japan for making this event possible despite unprecedented circumstances.

COVID-19 has made us more innovative, more resilient, more adaptive - just like the criminal landscape we operate in.

Crime and criminals do not conform to confinement.

We saw this through the soaring use of INTERPOL notices as early warnings of COVID-related crimes. In the midst of the crisis:

- Law enforcement remained eager to share information and precious lessons learned with foreign counterparts.
- Channels remained open, operational support to 194 countries unabated.
- The wheels of justice remained in motion.

INTERPOL's I-24/7 secure, global network continued as the platform of choice to enable multi-lateral, intelligence-led investigations. And we're glad today's *Kyoto Declaration* recognizes this essential role.

COVID-19 brought an unprecedented number of citizens online. Against a parallel criminal pandemic still unfolding, we secured operational solutions to:

- Protect citizens from COVID-related, online scams;
- To counter illicit production and marketing of fake COVID vaccines and related products;
- And to let threat intelligence flow from industry to police.

Protecting the most vulnerable, INTERPOL's international child sexual exploitation database in the last year enabled the identification and rescue of some eight young victims every single day.

Frontline access to high-yield data – from hubs in the Americas and the Schengen zone, to the Sahel battlefields and the ports of Southeast Asia, remains at the heart of what we do.

Real-time biometric data matching in the field, respecting strict personal data protection standards, is a future we have in sight - particularly against terrorist mobility.

Underlying these and future efforts are sustainable partnerships with UN agencies. Together we must keep delivering meaningful solutions to prevent and fight transnational crime and terrorism in all its forms.

Development, justice and security are threads in our shared future.

UN General Assembly Resolution 75/10 reminds us of this imperative, and of the integral contribution INTERPOL's Global Policing Goals makes to Agenda 2030, our shared roadmap for a safer world.

As crime evolves, as the balance of justice is threatened, INTERPOL stands ready as ever to support law enforcement and the international community in meeting our shared future challenges.

Thank you.