



INTERPOL

15th meeting of the COP-UNTOC Working Group on International Cooperation

Item 2. The role and impact of technology with regard to international cooperation in criminal matters: opportunities, challenges and capacity-building needs.

5 and 6 June 2024, Vienna

INTERPOL Statement

Mr Chair,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

INTERPOL is entrusted by its 196 member countries with the unique mandate to supporting international law enforcement cooperation. Our work relies on the continuous development and deployment of advanced technologies that facilitate seamless communication among law enforcement globally. As such, over the past 20 years, INTERPOL has served as a pivotal implementation mechanism of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) by fostering international cooperation, including the real time and secure exchange of critical police information globally.

One of the INTERPOL's primary tools, in use by law enforcement in all our 196 member countries, is the **I-24/7 Global Communication System**, which allows the sharing of urgent requests for international cooperation, such as MLA requests or the issuance **of INTERPOL notices**. A very recent example is how end of last year, Diego Nicolás Maset Alba, a reputed drug kingpin on the run for several years and subject of a Red Notice issued by Paraguay, was arrested in Brazil as part of a regional police operation involving INTERPOL NCBs in Brasilia, La Paz, Asuncion, and Montevideo.

Through the INTERPOL communication system, on average, some 30 million messages are exchanged every year among law enforcement, the INTERPOL General Secretariat and other authorized agencies. The sheer volume and importance of these messages necessitated a sophisticated management system, which has led INTERPOL to develop the Smart Case Messaging (SCM) system.

The **INTERPOL Smart Case Messaging system** is designed to streamline the handling of law enforcement messages shared through INTERPOL, by providing features such as message drafting, sending, receiving, and structuring. It incorporates safeguards to enhance data quality and compliance with national regulations. This includes confidentiality management, error identification, and advanced logging and auditing functionalities. By allowing users to categorize messages, visualize links between entities (persons, organizations, locations, events), and identify priorities, the INTERPOL Smart Case Messaging system ensures that urgent information is promptly addressed. Pilots for SCM are expected to be available by the end of 2024 for selected countries.

Another significant initiative by INTERPOL is **Project INSIGHT, a modern Artificial Intelligence (IA) platform** which allows INTERPOL analysts to process and analyze vast amounts of structured and unstructured data from multiple sources, including INTERPOL's databases, notices, police reports, and I-24/7 messages, all in compliance with data protection regulations. This platform uses advanced technology and analysis techniques to detect hidden connections and crime patterns, enabling member countries to coordinate responses to emerging threats more effectively.

The INSIGHT mobility team has already demonstrated the platform's value in high-profile fugitive investigations – such as during a drug operation in Cote d'Ivoire where the INSIGHT analytical system was able to process mass information including telephone data captured during the operation and ultimately led to identify and arrest one of the main suspects in Latin America. INTERPOL wishes to thank the United States for its generous funding to project INSIGHT.

In addition to these technological advancements, INTERPOL is also working on establishing a **Global Digital Identity for police officers**. This initiative aims to create a secure and recognized police identity management system, with a view to foster trust in cyber investigations and enable law enforcement with streamlined access to critical information.

Therefore, in line with the UN General Assembly Resolution 77/20 adopted in 2022, on the cooperation between the United Nations and INTERPOL, the Working Group may elect to recommend State Parties to:

- Make full use of the INTERPOL I-24/7 secure communications system to exchange information in a timely and secure manner;

- Ensure that law enforcement is adequately equipped, staffed and trained to handle the increased volume and complexity of international police communications, including by expanding access to the INTERPOL communication system at strategic locations, and leveraging on INTERPOL's operational, analytical and capacity building assistance;
- Use standardized protocols and existing systems established by INTERPOL to avoid duplication of efforts and ensure compatibility across different jurisdictions.

Lastly, I am pleased to invite you to attend this afternoon's INTERPOL Briefing at 14:00 in room CR-3, where we look forward to engaging with you on current and emerging criminal trends; and how Vienna-based multilateral frameworks can effectively support international law enforcement cooperation in the field.

Thank you.