



INTERPOL's General Statement

Thank you, Mr Chair.

For the past 100 years, INTERPOL's efforts have been to support our 196 member states' law enforcement to prevent, detect, and disrupt transnational crime for a safer world. This remains our focus as we move on to our next century of global law enforcement.

When we think about criminal networks today, we have to forget what we are used to, and refocus on emerging criminal threats and contemporary law enforcement techniques to confront them. The traditional structures of criminal networks are eroding, changing so quickly, and criminals becoming more flexible – while law enforcement tries its hardest to adapt to these rapidly evolving developments.

Financial motivation lies at the heart of transnational organized crime, and corruption is prevalent in every predicate crime. The criminals of today, and of the future, are able to circumvent detection and disruption by taking advantage of digitalization, which allows them to transcend borders easily.

As the only global law enforcement cooperation organization, this is where INTERPOL's enduring and century-long support for our member countries becomes more relevant than ever.

Through the INTERPOL I-24/7, which is the law enforcement community's only existing global secure communication systems, our member countries are equipped with a proven tool to exchange information securely with one another on any crime types and in real time. This enables member countries to coordinate operational activity round the clock, and call on INTERPOL's resources in urgent cases at any time.

INTERPOL's 19 databases, Notices and other critical tools are trusted tools and capabilities that are widely used by our member countries – and can be expanded to financial intelligence units and anti-corruption entities to empower them with access to additional intelligence and action. In 2022 alone, law enforcement entities across different countries and regions have made almost 6 billion searches on our databases containing records on individuals, stolen assets, travel and identity documents, amongst others. This is essentially 16 million searches on our databases each day.

The I-24/7, Notices and databases remain a cornerstone of our operational efforts, ensuring that member countries have access to various types of crime-related information and intelligence that will maximize law enforcement efforts for targeting corruption effectively.

Yet, we cannot fight corruption alone. Since the creation of the dedicated INTERPOL Financial Crime and Anti-Corruption Centre (IFCACC) in 2022, and beyond our operational tools, INTERPOL has stepped up our strategic engagement with key stakeholders such as the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units, International Anti-Corruption Coordination Centre (IACCC), and the United Nations on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), to enhance our multilateral efforts in this very important topic.

The truth is that criminals are moving at the speed of money, while law enforcement is moving at the speed of law. INTERPOL remains highly committed to support our global membership in combatting the threat of corruption. Our approach is a holistic one. We can move faster if we come together as a collective – whether we represent law enforcement, criminal justice, private sector, academia, civil society, non-governmental organizations, or any other key players. As a whole, we will be more than the sum of our parts.

Thank you.