



10th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

Item 2 (d). Firearms Protocol

Statement by INTERPOL

INTERPOL would like to congratulate the United Nations for the 15th anniversary of the entry into force of the Firearms Protocol. We also would like to thank the United Nations for extending the invitation to this important meeting to INTERPOL.

Through its work and initiatives worldwide, the INTERPOL Firearms Programme supports the implementation of the United Nations Firearms Protocol.

We do so by assisting Member States in developing national firearms recovery protocols in support to law enforcement investigations against firearms trafficking.

Moreover, proper marking of firearms, records keeping, tracing and forensic examination of firearms should be an integral part of any national strategy against firearms trafficking.

As such, INTERPOL has developed three global tools, namely the Illicit Arms Records and tracing Management System (iARMS) (funded by the European Union), the INTERPOL Firearms Reference Table (IFRT) and the INTERPOL Ballistic Information Network, allowing proper identification of firearms, records keeping of lost, stolen and trafficked/smuggled firearms, international tracing and international ballistic comparison.

Containing more than 3 million firearms records uploaded by member countries, these databases have proven their effectiveness in supporting regional intelligence-led operations against firearms trafficking in Europe, Latin America and Africa. Many of these operations were run in the frame of partnerships such as the powerful alliance we built with UNODC to develop intelligence-

led operations against firearms trafficking codenamed Trigger (III- Sahel; IV- MENA; V – Central America; VI- South America) and KAFO (I and II – West Africa).

However, despite the progress and achievements made by Member States, firearms trafficking remains a serious threat to public security and economic and social development worldwide. To combat it, firearms trafficking must be addressed, investigated and prosecuted as a crime of its own; and every recovered firearm must be considered as a part of a larger scheme, not just as an isolated piece of evidence.

INTERPOL therefore asks all Member States to join the fight against the global threat presented by firearms trafficking and get fully involved in initiatives led by INTERPOL and the United Nations.