



## INTERPOL statement

### UNTOC Working Group on Trafficking in Persons: 12-13 September

**Topic:**

**a) Successful strategies for addressing the use of technology to facilitate trafficking in persons, and to prevent and investigate trafficking in persons;**

Dear Chairperson,

Distinguished delegates,

Nowadays criminals engaged in the illicit business of trafficking in persons tap into the potential of the Internet, just as many of their victims and clients use the very same technologies.

INTERPOL is taking effective actions to support its Member Countries in combating these trends. For instance, INTERPOL's Child Sexual Exploitation database (also called "ICSE") allows specialized investigators to share data on cases of child trafficking and sexual abuse. By analyzing digital, visual, and audio data, victim identification experts can retrieve clues, identify any overlap in cases, and combine their efforts to locate victims. In total, ICSE has assisted in the identification of above 26,000 victims worldwide and more than 12,000 offenders.

In addition, INTERPOL will soon launch a new project to tackle the use of technology for the financing of trafficking in persons. This project is set to develop tools and trainings which support law enforcement to monitor the Darknet and track cryptocurrency asset flows in order to uncover and disrupt human trafficking networks. To further this project, INTERPOL's reference documents for law enforcement - including the *"Guidelines for the seizure and sale of virtual assets"* and the *"Guidelines on the darknet and cryptocurrencies"* will be broadened to also cover the use of technologies in relation to trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling.

The Working Group may elect to recommend that the Conference of the Parties considers the following recommendations:

- State parties should promote the creation and/or development of specialized units focused on the prevention and investigation of cyber-enabled crimes such as trafficking in persons;
- State parties should develop and strengthen the collaboration between cybercrime and counter-trafficking units, as well as between specialized units and INTERPOL National Central Bureaus;
- State parties are encouraged to nominate law enforcement officers from specialized units to participate in INTERPOL's Human trafficking Expert Group (HTEG) and the INTERPOL Global Knowledge Hub on Cybercrime;
- State parties are encouraged to make use of INTERPOL channels, databases and technological tools to counter trafficking in persons.