

The Vienna Declaration: Challenging the rise of transnational organized crime

For over 100 years, INTERPOL has been helping its member countries catch some of the world's most dangerous criminals, bringing together law enforcement around the globe to share information, operations and best practice. Through our 19 databases, our programmes and operations, and our partnership with member states, the world is a significantly safer place thanks to INTERPOL's work.

However, transnational organized crime has grown and become more sophisticated, driven by advances in technology, the evolution of criminal activity and increased connections between criminal groups. Police chiefs, and frontline officers, have made clear how transnational, transcontinental, and increasingly networked crime has made their work much more difficult and more dangerous.

The global law enforcement community needs to be united and take decisive action. Through a new declaration – the Vienna Declaration – issued on behalf of police officers everywhere, INTERPOL is setting out a new approach to tackling the scourge of organized crime.

The Vienna Declaration sets our five priority actions:

1. Tackling transnational organized crime must become a global national security priority

Organized crime groups, working across borders, are undermining societies, communities and economies. Law enforcement in many countries cannot cope as criminals buy political influence, launch cyberattacks from different continents or operate transnationally. This transnational crime epidemic must be treated at the highest governmental level as a global priority. The world needs to work together to solve this security crisis.

2. Building greater cooperation to tackle criminal activity

Countries can no longer rely on just bilateral or regional exchanges. Information sharing across borders is fundamental and must be the norm, not the exception, if we are to defeat the significant rise in organized crime.

3. Increased information sharing

Decision makers responsible for policing, justice and national security need to align efforts in building a global response by removing roadblocks to greater information sharing.

4. Empowering frontline police

Each and every police officer is a link in the chain which protects their communities as well as the world. Every police officer, including those on the frontline and those securing our borders, must have access to the information they need from global databases to disrupt criminal activity and offering better technological support, training and information on tackling global crime.

5. Greater investment in innovation and technology

Global law enforcement's investment in technology and innovation is being outmatched by criminals. A significant increase in investment is needed in research, development and capacity building to ensure that police worldwide have the tools to defeat transnational organized crime.

We are at a tipping point. Action needs to be taken now.



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