



## Anti-corruption

Corruption is a major obstacle to the rule of law, good governance, sustainable development and economic growth. It fuels transnational crime, since terrorists and organized criminals cannot carry out their illegal activities without the complicity of corrupt public officials. It is a particular concern for the world's police and judicial systems, as corruption in one country can compromise an entire international investigation.

### *An INTERPOL priority crime area*

In recognition of the serious threat that corruption poses to global security and public safety, INTERPOL identified corruption as a priority crime area in 2007. The Organization aims to be the global operational focal point for anti-corruption initiatives in support of all law enforcement agencies, organizations, authorities and services whose mission is preventing, detecting, suppressing and prosecuting corruption.

Given its global membership and secure police communications network, INTERPOL is well-positioned to centralize global anti-corruption activities and to add value to member countries' own efforts. This support takes the form of anti-corruption strategies, new initiatives, international and cross-sector interaction, capacity building and operational assistance.

### *Multi-dimensional approach*

INTERPOL carries out a broad range of activities to support police and other specialized anti-corruption authorities in its member countries:

- developing a global information exchange platform for national anti-corruption entities and a technical and strategic anti-corruption knowledge database (UMBRA);
- encouraging and co-ordinating the international flow of information and corruption-related data via INTERPOL's I-24/7 secure police communications system;
- conducting high-level reviews of member countries' functional and strategic capabilities, and providing expert advice and capacity building;
- forming high-level working groups, forums and conferences in various technical and specialist disciplines (such as covert operations, human source management, counter intelligence and witness protection);
- promoting best practice and institutionalizing global standards in combating corruption through the delivery of high quality information and learning sessions in support of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and assisting with the implementation of anti-corruption legislation under UNCAC provisions.

### *Major initiatives*

#### *INTERPOL Group of Experts on Corruption*

The INTERPOL Group of Experts on Corruption (IGEC) was established in 1999, at the request of INTERPOL member countries. It meets twice a year and is mandated to develop and implement new anti-corruption initiatives to maximize the efficiency of the law enforcement community in the fight against corruption. The IGEC is a leading policy and advocacy group on anti-corruption with members drawn from different professional disciplines and from all the regions of the world, involving all the major stakeholders and the international community at large.



### ***Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative***

In September 2007, the World Bank and the United Nations launched the Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative to facilitate the return of stolen assets. INTERPOL contributes its technical and administrative expertise to the StAR Initiative and was instrumental in launching the StAR Focal Point List in January 2009. This List serves to strengthen co-operation and the exchange of best practice on asset recovery between law enforcement bodies, enabling them to work effectively towards the return of funds looted from public resources.

### ***International Anti-Corruption Academy***

Recognizing the need for formal, collaborative and broadly distributed training in the field of anti-corruption, INTERPOL is creating the world's first International Anti-Corruption Academy, due to open at the end of 2010. This global centre of excellence will provide a real-world curriculum designed and taught by experts in the field of anti-corruption. Courses will be open to participants from a wide range of backgrounds – law enforcement, judiciary, government agencies and the private sector – and will offer practical knowledge and skills to enhance the prevention, investigation and prosecution of corruption.



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*For matters relating to specific crime cases, please contact your local police or the INTERPOL National Central Bureau in your country.*