



INTERPOL: an overview

Connecting police

INTERPOL is the world's largest international police organization, with 188 member countries. It facilitates cross-border police co-operation, and supports and assists all organizations, authorities and services whose mission is to prevent or combat crime.

The General Secretariat is located in Lyon, France. INTERPOL operates seven regional offices – in Argentina, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Kenya, Thailand and Zimbabwe – and a representative office at the United Nations in New York and at the European Union in Brussels. Each member country maintains a National Central Bureau (NCB) staffed by highly trained law enforcement officers. The NCB is the designated contact point for the General Secretariat, regional offices and other member countries requiring assistance with overseas investigations and the location and apprehension of fugitives.

Core functions

INTERPOL has identified four core functions on which to concentrate its efforts and resources:

Secure global police communications services - INTERPOL manages a global police communications system known as I-24/7 which enables police in all of its member countries to request, submit and access vital police data instantly in a secure environment. A number of technical solutions are being implemented in order to expand access to law enforcement officers in the field.

Operational data services and databases for police - INTERPOL manages a range of databases with information on names and photographs of known criminals, wanted persons, fingerprints, DNA profiles, stolen or lost travel documents, stolen motor vehicles, child sex abuse images and stolen works of art. INTERPOL also disseminates critical crime-related data through its system of international notices. There are seven kinds of notices, of which the most well-known is the Red Notice, an international request for the provisional arrest of an individual.

Operational police support services - INTERPOL has six priority crime areas; corruption, drugs and organized crime, financial and high-tech crime, fugitives, public safety and terrorism, and trafficking in human beings. INTERPOL also operates a 24-hour Command and Co-ordination Centre to assist any member country faced with a crisis situation, co-ordinate the exchange of information and assume a crisis-management role during serious incidents.

Police training and development - INTERPOL provides focused police training initiatives for national police forces, and also offers on-demand advice, guidance and support in building dedicated crime-fighting components. The aim is to enhance the capacity of member countries to effectively combat serious transnational crime and terrorism. This includes sharing knowledge, skills and best practices in policing and the establishment of global standards for combating specific crimes.

INTERPOL



A truly global organization

INTERPOL has grown into an extremely diverse organization since its creation in 1923, employing staff from around 80 countries, including specialists from all fields of law enforcement who are seconded to INTERPOL by their national administrations. INTERPOL's four official languages are Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

Rules and governance

INTERPOL's Constitution prohibits 'any intervention or activities of a political, military, religious or racial character.' The intention is to assist international police co-operation even where diplomatic relations do not exist between particular countries. Action is taken within the limits of existing laws in different countries and in the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

INTERPOL's supreme governing body is the General Assembly, which meets once a year to take all major decisions affecting general policy and comprises delegates appointed by member countries. Each country represented has one vote and all votes carry equal weight.

The Executive Committee oversees the execution of the decisions of the General Assembly and the work of the Secretary General. It has 13 members, elected by the General Assembly, who represent all regions of the world. The president, who chairs the committee, serves a four-year term; three vice-presidents and nine delegates serve for three years each.

The Secretary General, the organization's chief executive and senior full-time official, is responsible for overseeing INTERPOL's day-to-day work of international police co-operation and for implementing the decisions of the General Assembly and Executive Committee. Nominated by the Executive Committee and confirmed by at least two-thirds of the General Assembly, he serves a five-year term, which can be renewed.

Financing

INTERPOL is primarily financed by member countries, whose governments pay annual statutory contributions calculated using a framework agreed on by members. INTERPOL's budget in 2010 was 48.6 million euros.



www.interpol.int

Contact information

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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.