

re-examines itself promptly and fundamentally, it could lose a large part of its relevance in the 21st century. The challenges Interpol must meet to remain the pre-eminent leader in fighting transnational crime appear to have two dimensions: (1) evolution of international crime (including the all-too-obvious cases of terrorism and violence), and (2) proliferation of different crime-fighting institutions.

Regarding the first, the increasingly global and complex nature of crime makes it more difficult to detect and collect evidence for prosecution and hence requires a different law enforcement response. High-tech crime and money laundering are a clear illustration of these challenges. Unless we keep reviewing our priorities, management systems, finance and organizational structures, Interpol will have difficulty in keeping pace with the rapidly changing environment and the criminal activities within it.

Now the second: in the past, there were only a few fora, like the United Nations, the World Customs Organization and Interpol, where counter-measures to combat international crime were discussed. Recently, however, other organizations have begun to take up the problem of crime as an important political issue. These include the G8, the FATF and the increasingly important regional initiatives. While the proliferation of different institutions helps raise public awareness of the danger of international criminality, it also risks producing duplication of effort and waste of already scarce resources. It is imperative, therefore, to create appropriate mechanisms for co-ordination. To do so, Interpol must be fully committed to following the discussions concerning anti-crime measures being pursued by other fora, and to offering our co-operation, expertise and professional skills in the operational domain. Unless Interpol seeks out such strategic alliances with other institutions, it risks being displaced in the fight against transnational crime.

Against the background of these thoughts and the rapidly changing

environment, it has become obvious to me, to the Secretary General and the Executive Committee that Interpol must have a clear vision of its role and purpose in the 21st century to retain its relevance and effectiveness to its Member States.

To this end, we have initiated the formulation of a Strategic Development Plan for Interpol. Through this Plan, the Executive Committee intends to lay out the direction and road map through which Interpol can continue to develop as a truly viable law enforcement organ for the 21st century. The plan which has been developed with the help of external professional assistance and expertise from the private sector requires your full attention and your debate because, together with two other items, i.e. the question of finance and the succession of the Secretary General, it will form the three most important decisions that you will be required to make before the turn of the century. Interpol, like every organization, needs three essential elements to grow and succeed, namely strategy, money and leadership, on which hinge the future of Interpol, and hence the future of us all.

May I conclude my opening address, Mr Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen, by thanking you in advance for making this General Assembly a great success. Thank you very much.

### **Speech by Mr Habib El Adely, Minister of the Interior of the Arab Republic of Egypt**

Mr President of the ICPO-Interpol, Mr Secretary General, Honourable Ministers, Delegates,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Cairo for the 67th session of the ICPO-Interpol's General Assembly, the very month in which Egypt and the Arab world are celebrating the anniversary of the glorious victory of October, when we crossed our country in a bid to open up new horizons of peace and progress.

Egypt has always firmly believed that the defence of values such as

law, justice and peace, is the only possible option for mankind, and we reaffirm that belief today. By its victory that October, Egypt regained its position of influence and reasserted its importance in the region and its central role in promoting peace and development.

The issues of peace and development are, in effect, issues of national, regional and international security and stability.

This is why, in the area of international co-operation, politicians are placing matters of security above all other considerations. The machinery for such co-operation is becoming more and more effective every day, and reflects an increasingly strong commitment on the part of the international community.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I should like to take this opportunity to assure you that we hold the ICPO-Interpol in great esteem and to let you know the extent to which we appreciate the role played by your Organization, which is a vital instrument of international co-operation in fighting crime and bringing offenders to justice.

The importance of this role continues to grow, particularly at a time when criminal activities such as international terrorism and organized crime seriously threaten to undermine human rights and the interests of peoples the world over, and to jeopardize the values and political systems of democratic societies.

As stability and equality have gained ground, they have become an essential basis for humanity to give a free rein to its creative energy and strive towards the improvement of society as a whole.

The international community has undertaken to act decisively and with foresight in facing up to the future. It stands ready to take up the challenges it faces effectively and confidently, and to achieve its objectives.

It unequivocally accepts its international responsibility, which is to