

OUTCOME DECLARATION

INTRO: On 5 November 2012, in the context of the 81st INTERPOL General Assembly in Rome, Ministers from participating INTERPOL member States came together to engage in a high-level dialogue focusing on critical challenges for police facing contemporary criminal violence and on the sharing of best practice based on national and international experience, with the aim of identifying viable policies and strategies which might be subsequently adapted to the unique security situations of cities, nations, and regions.

P1: At the conclusion of the Ministerial Meeting on the “*Challenges for Police Facing Contemporary Criminal Violence*,” the following Declaration was adopted by the Ministers present:

P2: *We, the Ministers,*

P2A: *Condemning* all acts of criminal violence, and for the purposes of this Declaration, meaning all criminal acts which involve the threat, attempt, or intentional use of physical or psychological force by one or more persons and resulting in the injury, death, or harm to one or more other persons,

P2B: *Acknowledging* a decrease in the occurrence of inter-State armed conflict over recent decades, and expressing serious concern that national and transnational criminal violence has evolved and expanded in conjunction with various combinations of political, demographic, economic, technological, social and cultural developments, and, due to this, has increased in both occurrence and severity and, today, poses new and, at times, exceptional challenges to police and security forces throughout the world,

P2C: *Although upholding the right and responsibility of each State to maintain the security of its borders, denouncing specifically* among contemporary forms of criminal violence the appalling crimes of human trafficking, whether for sexual exploitation or forced labour, and people smuggling, which exploit and imprison for profit some of the world’s most vulnerable populations,

P2D: *Emphasizing* that the proliferation of criminal violence in urban centres, whether through sustained threats to public safety or in surges such as incident-related unrest, has profoundly deleterious effects on the social, economic, and political stability of communities and cities and is particularly detrimental to the lives and prospects of young people, who are both victims and vulnerable to being drawn into or reproducing the violence to which they are exposed,

P2E: *Acknowledging further* the severe threat to public safety and security as well as to national and regional authorities represented specifically by territorial gangs and organized crime groups who revert to increasingly violent methods when carrying out their illicit activities, and deploring, in particular, acts of violence perpetrated by criminal enterprises involved in the illicit trafficking and distribution of drugs and arms, both of which play a central role in aggravating violent crime,



P2F: *Condemning in particular* acts of terrorist violence, violent extremism, and violence inspired by ideology as well as the deliberate incitement to such acts and observing that, in light of the intrinsic complexity of these crimes, effectively countering them will require pioneering strategies, perseverance, and a truly coordinated approach from both within the security sector and beyond,

P2G: *Considering* that contemporary criminal violence not only menaces the safety and security of individuals but undermines state institutions, inhibits development, and destroys the social fabric of cities, nations, and regions, and

P2H: *Considering further* that law enforcement and other security forces, who face distinctive and substantial challenges in effectively preventing and combating these contemporary crimes, require innovative, integrated, and adapted counter-strategies,

P3: *We, the Ministers, therefore,*

P3A: *Endeavour* to define new policing strategies and principles in light of the evolution, augmentation, and aggravation of criminal violence in recent decades and with the aim of empowering law enforcement to more effectively prevent, suppress, and counter contemporary forms of criminal violence, keeping in mind not only the need for new and inventive national planning but also the importance of developing regional and international approaches,

P3B: *Further endeavour* to examine the possibilities for reorganizing and restructuring national police services according to internal priorities and where appropriate with a view toward implementing these new policing strategies, including taking into specific consideration the development of innovative and integrated methods such as the creation of rapid response forces, specialized police units, and law enforcement coordination mechanisms,

P3C: *Strive* to strengthen national and transnational police cooperation, in particular through the efficient sharing of crucial crime-related information, including making optimal use of the infrastructure of technical and operational support, tools, and services available to law enforcement worldwide, such as those which are offered by INTERPOL, and in this regard, consider the elaboration of bilateral and multilateral accords, where necessary and appropriate, in order to facilitate intelligence exchange, extradition, and other matters pertaining to mutual legal assistance,

P3D: *Affirm* that measures undertaken to prevent, suppress, and counter criminal violence as well as to apprehend, prosecute, or extradite criminal perpetrators fully comply with human rights principles and the rule of law,

P3E: *Call upon* all stakeholders to consider the development and delivery of relevant training and technical assistance for law enforcement, including at the micro-level, where police are familiar with local context and conditions and where efforts to detect, prevent, and mitigate burgeoning situations of violence might be most effective and contribute to building sustainably secure, resilient, and crime-resistant communities,



P3F: *Strongly encourage* research and analysis to be conducted by competent experts and institutions with the aim of better comprehending the conditions conducive to the escalation and occurrence of criminal violence, in particular, by identifying, where possible, relevant indicators, trends, and root causes as well as examining effective policies on the use of police force in their efforts to prevent, suppress, and counter contemporary forms of criminal violence,

P3G: *Urge* all concerned stakeholders, from both within the security sector and beyond, to join efforts and engage in a collective counter-response to criminal violence including partnerships between law enforcement, media, civil and religious actors, local communities, the business community and educational institutions with the aim of enhancing dialogue and understanding, promoting peaceful coexistence, and cultivating an environment favourable to ending the cycle of violence,

P3H: *Fully support* valued occasions such as the INTERPOL Ministerial Meeting which offer the international law enforcement community a unique opportunity to engage in a global dialogue at the highest level focused on sharing crucial national and regional policing experiences, exchanging best practices, and forging and fortifying partnerships between States for a safer and more secure world.