

## The INTERPOL–United Nations Ministerial Meeting

Remarks by Alain Le Roy, UN Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations  
Singapore – 11 October 2009

Monsieur le Premier Ministre Adjoint Wong, Messieurs et Mesdames les Ministres, Monsieur le Président Khoo, Monsieur le Secrétaire Général,

Je suis très heureux d'être parmi vous ce soir pour assurer, avec le Président de Singapour, le Premier Ministre Adjoint et M. Noble, l'ouverture de la réunion ministérielle d'INTERPOL et des Nations Unies. Cette réunion illustre la coopération croissante entre les organisations internationales et représente également une étape importante dans le partenariat entre INTERPOL et les Nations Unies. Comme le rôle des opérations de maintien de la paix conduites par les Nations Unies est de plus en plus complexe et multidimensionnel, l'engagement des Etats Membres et des autres partenaires est absolument indispensable notamment pour faire face aux défis rencontrer pour résoudre certains des conflits les plus difficiles du monde et ramener la paix. Il n'y a hélas à cet égard aucun signe qui puisse nous laisser penser que ces défis vont diminuer. L'absence de bonne gouvernance, la corruption et le crime transnational sont les trois facteurs majeurs qui contribuent à l'instabilité politique et à l'insécurité internationale en général.



UN Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Alain Le Roy said that the clear link between crime and conflict underlined the need for greater co-operation with INTERPOL.

### Le rôle des Nations Unies dans le maintien de la paix

L'activité de la police des Nations Unies est devenue également beaucoup plus complexe et a évolué de façon extraordinaire en termes d'ampleur et de couverture depuis le début des opérations de maintien de police dans les années 1960. Aujourd'hui, plus de 12 000 policiers des Nations Unies originaires de plus de 100 pays et 116 000 casques bleus sont déployés au sein de 15 missions à travers le monde. La demande globale pour la police des Nations Unies est sans précédent et illustre parfaitement le bénéfice de sa présence, dans les pays en guerre.

Dans le cadre de nos efforts pour rétablir la primauté du Droit, la police des Nations Unies travaille pour développer des institutions pérennes de police et de justice. En sus de la protection des personnes, la police des Nations Unies assiste la société dans son ensemble en redéfinissant le rôle de la police dans les pays émergeant d'un conflit et en rétablissant la confiance des populations dans la police. De cette manière, la police des Nations Unies contribue à renforcer la confiance dans les processus de paix, ouvre la voie à la création de sociétés démocratiques où les populations brisée par la guerre peuvent à nouveau profiter d'une paix durable et créer les fondations nécessaires d'une stratégie conduisant à la fin de l'opération de maintien de la paix. De la même manière, le rôle d'autres éléments du Bureau de l'Etat de Droit des Nations Unies, en particulier la justice et les services pénitentiaires, est de plus en plus important et ces services méritent également un soutien accru de la communauté internationale.

### Interpol-United Nations Partnership

The challenges we face in these complex missions require partnerships. This meeting focuses on peacekeeping and on new initiatives in the area of international police cooperation, where United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations and INTERPOL are natural partners. Based on principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter, our cooperation began in the field, where United Nations police increasingly crossed paths with INTERPOL officers working in a conflict area. Cooperation has been reinforced by the recognition that there is a clear link between crime and conflict and the fact that serious and organized crime is prevalent in many conflict areas. This presents a growing challenge for the United Nations. Criminal elements are increasingly fuelling wars by providing belligerents with the resources to finance their expensive military activities. They undermine the rule of law and threaten human security. Past conflicts have clearly shown that when they are not fed by criminal profits, they tend to end sooner. In these situations, and at the request of host Governments, United Nations police work with host state police to build a capacity and enhance their ability to combat serious and organised crime.

Organised crime is a complex phenomenon that not only requires cooperation across all components of a peacekeeping mission, but also cooperation with other partners. A good example of how partnerships can take shape at the operational level is the West African Coast Initiative. The initiative was motivated by concern about the destructive effect that serious and organised crime has on our efforts to consolidate peace in West Africa. Together with UNODC and INTERPOL, the United Nations is assisting the Economic Community of West African States to implement their Regional Action Plan on transnational organized crime and drug trafficking. The initiative was launched to the Member States of the United Nations on 8 July this year and involves the deployment of organised crime experts to the United Nations Office in West Africa.

The INTERPOL-United Nations partnership is clearly important and will be cemented when we sign the supplemental agreement tonight.

### **Doctrine and Guidance Development for Police Peacekeeping**

In order to meet future challenges in the area of policing, we ask you to join us in another partnership: to develop an action plan on international police peacekeeping. The recent New Horizon project of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations that reviewed current and future challenges for United Nations peacekeeping underlined the need for partnerships and for concrete steps to engage Member States. Such an action plan could provide an opportunity for Member States, for current and future police-contributing countries, to enter into a dialogue with the United Nations on the essential question of what international police peacekeeping in the 21st century can and should be.

The development of doctrine and guidance for United Nations police has not kept pace with the evolution of activities in the field. The Police Division in the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations has launched an important initiative to develop a Strategic Doctrinal Framework which will identify core functions of the United Nations police. We have recognised that expanding mandated police tasks require more sophisticated and more professional guidance. Not least, this is necessary because we have realised that international policing differs fundamentally from the job that United Nations police officers perform in their home countries.

Better guidance will make it easier for Member States to recruit, train and prepare their police officers before deploying to a United Nations mission. The Member States of the United Nations and INTERPOL are key partners in the development of this guidance and together will ultimately ensure implementation in the preparation and deployment of police in peacekeeping operations.

The issue of capabilities was also highlighted in the New Horizon non-paper as a key challenge for the future. New peacekeeping tasks require a high number of police specialists. At the same time, we realise that these specialised skills – especially in the area of organised crime – are often in limited supply in home countries. But if we are to be successful, United Nations police need to recruit more specialised personnel, in accordance with the core functions and tasks identified in the future United Nations police doctrine. Specialized personnel can include forensics experts, trainers, senior police managers and other

thematic experts. Formed Police Units also provide specialized capacity for public order management and security support to the operations.

In line with Security Council Resolution 1820 on Women, Peace and Security, which was adopted in 2008 in response to the increasing use of sexual and gender-based violence in conflict and post-conflict situations, the United Nations is also actively working to recruit more women for deployment in peacekeeping operations.

This type of violence is a common tactic of war that targets the civilian population, mostly women and children. Thousands in Haiti, Liberia, the Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo have been affected and continue to be at risk of abuse and violence. The perpetrators are often men in uniform – the untrained or undisciplined, poorly commanded armed forces, police, or militias and other armed groups. Even when the conflict subsides, women fear turning to uniformed forces for assistance. As the experiences of female United Nations police officers have shown, their professional presence usually helps create trust in uniformed police as the United Nations works to rebuild, reform and restructure host state police and law enforcement services.

On behalf of the United Nations, I would like to urge you, the Member States, to increase your efforts to nominate qualified men and women for deployment to international peacekeeping missions.

## **Conclusion**

The draft Outcome Declaration calls for your support in the three areas that I have just described:

*first*, helping rebuild police capacities in post-conflict situations in support of United Nations peace operations and in compliance with human rights principles;

*second*, developing guidance for more professional and more effective delivery of police assistance, including by the United Nations; and

*third*, drafting an action plan that demonstrates your commitment and the commitment of your Governments, which can create a structure for your enhanced engagement with the United Nations and contribute to guidance development and implementation.

The United Nations is only as strong and effective as the will of its Member States and its level of cooperation with partners. Our efforts to become more effective and professional through the development of a strategic doctrinal framework for international police peacekeeping depends on your commitment to provide well-qualified men and women who can contribute to fulfilling our core police functions and to train them in accordance with United Nations standards and values. We have a real chance of making real improvements and I am counting on all of you to support us in these efforts.

Thank you.