



INTERPOL

**SUPPORT OFFICE FOR THE PRESIDENT
AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Opening speech

by

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President of INTERPOL

**84th session of the ICPO-INTERPOL
General Assembly**

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Kigali, Rwanda

Mr President of the Republic of Rwanda,¹

Mr Minister of Internal Security,²

INTERPOL Secretary General,³

Inspector General of Police of Rwanda,⁴

Excellencies,

Members of the INTERPOL Executive Committee,

Chiefs of Police, heads of delegation, Heads of National Central Bureaus, and delegates of INTERPOL member countries,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a tremendous honour for me to express, on behalf of the INTERPOL community, our most sincere gratitude to the authorities of the Republic of Rwanda for hosting this 84th session of the General Assembly.

Your presence here, Mr President, testifies to the firm commitment and the ongoing and steadfast support of Rwanda at the highest level for the benefit of the international police community gathered here in Kigali.

INTERPOL's General Assembly sessions have always represented key milestones for our Organization. But this year's session holds special significance for our Rwandan hosts because we are also commemorating the 15th anniversary of the National Police of Rwanda,⁵ and I commend the work that Inspector General Mr Emmanuel Gasana has accomplished both nationally, and for the Organization and its Executive Committee.

Here in this extremely modern and attractive city of Kigali, I wish to salute the women and men of this country for the extraordinary resilience they have shown in the wake of the genocide 21 years ago that left the country in mourning.

While paying tribute to the memory of the victims of this barbarity, I also wish to highlight the long way Rwanda has come since, and the concrete results it has achieved in progress and development.

Several weeks ago, at the United Nations summit to adopt the Post-2015 Agenda, I had the opportunity to speak on behalf of our Organization and for our common action for development and security.

¹ S.E. Paul KAGAME, Président de la République du Rwanda

² S.E. Sheikh Mussa Fazil HARERIMANA, Ministre de la Sécurité Intérieure de la République du Rwanda

³ Monsieur Jürgen STOCK, Secrétaire Général d'INTERPOL

⁴ Monsieur Emmanuel K. GASANA, Inspecteur Général de la Police nationale du Rwanda

⁵ La Police Nationale du Rwanda a été créée par la loi n° 09/2000 du 16.06.2000

Development and security are dependent on each other and they mutually reinforce each other.

Having to confront rapid and increasingly complex changes, and providing the appropriate responses, are an integral part of the development of any country and, of course, of any organization.

This is precisely what we will be discussing in the coming days.

The theme of this General Assembly session is in perfect keeping with the Organization's *raison d'être* to ensure a safer world; but above all, it also responds to the expectations of the international community as a whole at a time when – in our globalized environment – a threat for one of us constitutes a threat for all of us. International cooperation is essential for each and every State to guarantee its security. And if I may borrow the words you spoke, Mr President, at the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, “cooperation is the only way forward”.⁶

This cooperation is crucial at a time when the upsurge in violent extremism is presenting new and complex security challenges.

The determination of certain people to cross borders into conflict zones that have become major hubs of attraction; the terrorist attacks these people commit when they return to their countries of origin; the radicalization of other individuals; the illicit traffic and the destruction of Humanity's cultural heritage: all these actions facilitate the spread of these threats, as recent events have tragically reminded us.⁷

None of us can remain indifferent to this, and so we must unite and foster solidarity.

This General Assembly will provide an additional opportunity to move forward together to combat the threat of foreign terrorist fighters, one year after the unanimous adoption of Resolution 2178 (2014) by the United Nations Security Council, of which Rwanda is a member.⁸

I would like to pay tribute to all those women and men who, in each of our countries, wage battle every day against these misdeeds which hinder development and force populations to migrate beyond borders and seas, subjecting themselves in the process to the despicable exploitation by criminal human-trafficking networks.

Development is the first line of defence in a system of collective security, because it gives States the means to combat not only terrorism, which I just mentioned, but also the varied forms of organized crime that exacerbate this scourge: environmental crimes; drug trafficking; crimes against children; corruption and financial crimes that undermine the rule of law; as well as cybercrime, against which INTERPOL has strengthened its action through the Global Complex for Innovation inaugurated this year in Singapore.

⁶ “Responding to these changes will put the United Nations at the center of global affairs, as never before, in the generation ahead. Cooperation is the only way forward”: President Kagame's speech at the United Nations General Assembly, New York, 29 September 2015.

⁷ Une attaque terroriste a touché Ankara, en Turquie le 10 octobre dernier (97 morts, plus de 500 blessés). France, Nigeria, Lybie, Pakistan, Danemark, Mali, Tunisie, Yemen, Kenya, Koweït, Egypte, Irak, et Cameroun ont notamment fait l'objet d'attaques terroristes sur leur sol depuis le début de l'année 2015.

⁸ Le Rwanda avait été élu le 18.10.2012 membre non-permanent du Conseil de Sécurité des Nations Unies pour un mandat de 2 années débutant le 1^{er} janvier 2013.

I am pleased to see that these topics have been included in the agenda of our work which will guide us in adjusting our strategies so as to offer the most appropriate police response to overcome these challenges.

The rapid changes taking place in our world have repercussions on our Organization's programmes, projects and operational tools by forcing us to be innovative, and INTERPOL must take steps to remain at the forefront of international police cooperation.

Governance plays a key role in the management of the Organization's strategic, financial and reputational risks.

A presentation will be given to you on the progress and timeline of the INTERPOL 2020 initiative, led by Secretary General Mr Jürgen Stock, whose first year of term of office I would like to applaud. Your contributions to the development of this ongoing project, which aims to review INTERPOL's environment, strategy, priorities and activities, will be particularly valuable for establishing a "road map" for a strong, effective and transparent Organization, capable of responding to the ever-changing needs of the international police community.

The activities of the Working Group on the Processing of Information regarding INTERPOL's supervisory mechanisms and the work of the Commission for the Control of INTERPOL's Files, which will be presented to you during this Assembly session, are also major factors in redefining the framework of our Organization's action.

Further changes concern your representatives on the Executive Committee. Seven Committee members – each of whom we will be able to thank individually during this session – will see their terms of office expire this year. You will be called on to elect your new delegates on the last day of the Assembly.

A draft resolution will also be submitted to you to improve the geographical representation within this governing body.

The challenges are becoming more numerous, as are the demands, including the demands for resources. During this General Assembly session, you will have the opportunity to discuss financial matters and thus enable the Organization to continue to allocate its resources efficiently in order to pursue its goal of cooperation.

Mr President,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Just as the Rwandan National Police was able to create close ties with its citizens based on trust in order to promote peace and security, your participation in such large numbers here in Kigali today assures me that this 84th session of our General Assembly will contribute towards reinforcing this climate of trust that is conducive to the success of our work.

I wish you all an excellent General Assembly.

Thank you for your attention.

Murakoze⁹

Thank you

Gracias

Shukran

Merci

⁹ « Merci » en kinyarwanda, troisième langue officielle du Rwanda avec l'anglais et le français. Prononcer « Mourakozé »