



INTERPOL

Remarks

by

Jürgen Stock

INTERPOL Secretary General

UNODC-INTERPOL JOINT ACTION PLAN: MAKING A STRATEGIC GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP OPERATIONAL

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Executive Director Fedotov,
Mr Chairman,
Excellences, Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon.

It is a pleasure to be here today to talk about the INTERPOL-UNODC Joint Action Plan, and how INTERPOL intends to support this strategic partnership and its operational components.

Great opportunities for alignment exist between governments and international actors like UNODC and INTERPOL, in addressing common, global threats.

For INTERPOL, this is being addressed through the recent launch of a new operating model, built around three global programmes focused on terrorism, organized crime and cybercrime.

The spheres of action of both UNODC and INTERPOL have expanded significantly over the last decade, and experience has taught us that the two organizations will likely continue to move in a similar direction in fulfilling their respective and complementary mandates.

Yet, even with both organizations active, in some cases the risk of overlooking gaps or overlap in areas covered by our work will remain.

The purpose of an enhanced partnership is about addressing these realities and making sure the international response to crime phenomena is as coherent and effective as possible.

Both Executive Director Mr Fedotov and myself spoke about the need to do this early last year in Qatar, and initiated a process in August 2015 to enhance our cooperation.

In this session, I would like to briefly walk you through the results of this process and what it means going forward for UNODC, INTERPOL and our respective member states.

INTERPOL and UNODC are committed partners in the global effort to disrupt illicit trafficking networks, suppress transnational organized crime, tackle cybercrime, and prevent counter terrorism.

The transnational and interconnected nature of those threats has drastically increased over the past decades, requiring all security actors to put in common their knowledge, expertise and resources to close the gaps criminals seek to exploit.

With our two organizations facing greater demands and more diverse responsibilities, to support the increasing challenges faced by our membership there was a growing need to collaborate and coordinate in order to optimize efficiency and impact.

To do so, greater strategic vision was needed to ensure our organizations remain coordinated wherever possible, and heading in the same direction.

The historical underpinnings of our relationship can be traced back to the Memorandum of Understanding between INTERPOL and the United Nations, signed in 1997.

Since then, both UNODC and INTERPOL have grown in terms of mandates, presence and infrastructure. Yet, cooperation between the two organizations had remained relatively ad hoc, and largely project-based.

This is the reason why our organizations have decided to develop a more complete framework for our cooperation.

This new framework includes three guiding documents - a Legal Agreement, which will be signed today, a Joint Action Plan, and an Activity Matrix.

Combined, these documents provide both the specific legal framework that clarifies the parameters unique to the cooperation between INTERPOL and UNODC, and a strategic, forward-looking orientation for our partnership that outlines current and aspirational cooperation between the two organizations.

This enhanced partnership has several objectives, including:

- To reinforce a coherent multilateral framework that develops and supports national crime prevention and criminal justice institutions, notably police, and assists them in their effort to cooperate internationally.
- To coordinate advocacy and engagement in targeted international forums, and develop joint initiatives which capitalize on the strengths of each organization.

The Joint Action Plan and Activity Matrix are particularly unique documents in this context, and in many ways are a first of their kind.

Together, they categorize joint or complementary activities of the two organizations across six common thematic areas – terrorism, illicit trafficking and organized crime, cybercrime, maritime and border security, forensic and criminal justice capacity, and institutional capacity.

In some cases, such as for cultural heritage, UNODC and INTERPOL are already working closely together; in other cases, such as on cybercrime, there is room to explore new avenues for further joint activities. These documents help to proactively organize and plan this potential cooperation.

Looking at 2016, we have selected 11 activities in the areas of terrorism, transnational organized crime, drugs, wildlife and forest crime, cultural heritage, forensics, information sharing, dark net research, and institutional cooperation, which will be our primary focus to start this enhanced partnership, and which will be closely monitored in their implementation throughout the year.

Mr Fedotov will discuss in more details those particular activities we are going to undertake this year.

INTERPOL's role and involvement in these activities will remain on 24/7 operational support, intelligence analysis and capacity building targeted at the law enforcement community.

The extension of access to our global police information system and the 60+ million records in our global databases; the population of our criminal analysis files (CAF) and their exploitation; and the development of innovative international policing solutions will complement UNODC's role and involvement in criminal justice support to best respond to the needs of our common membership.

Looking forward to the medium term, UNODC and INTERPOL will continue to collaborate in order to attract the resources necessary to implement the remaining activities identified under our framework.

However, before I conclude, I would like to touch on how this enhanced partnership helps better serve our common membership.

I will highlight four elements:

- I. **Efficiency**, through greater coherence in how UNODC and INTERPOL approach donors and implement their activities.
- II. **Accountability**: Enhanced communication and monitoring processes between our two organizations leads to a greater degree of accountability when carrying out joint projects, and ultimately improve the delivery of projects to member countries.
- III. **Visibility**: The forward-looking and strategic nature of our cooperation framework will help member countries to understand the thinking and direction of the two organizations. Consequently, we are taking a more proactive approach to addressing transnational organized crime and terrorism threats by leveraging our comparative advantages.
- IV. **Relevance**: Finally, we were also cognizant at this time of the important role that partnerships will play within the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (AGENDA 2030), and in particular, the implementation of Goal 16 over the coming years. We see our Joint Action Plan as a starting point for a discussion on how the two organizations see themselves working together to implement this ambitious agenda.

Thank you.