



## **ADDRESS**

by

INTERPOL Secretary General Jürgen Stock

**18<sup>th</sup> EAPCCO Annual General Meeting**

**EAPCCO Council of Police Chiefs (CPC) Meeting**

31 August 2016

Kigali, Rwanda

Your Excellency, President Kagame;

Honorable Ministers;

Inspector General Gasana;

Members of the INTERPOL Executive Committee;

Chiefs of Police, and Heads of National Central Bureaus,

Distinguished Representatives from International Organizations and Partners Agencies,

Dear Colleagues;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

A very good morning to you all.

I am delighted to be back in East Africa, and have the honour of attending this meeting of Police Chiefs. This is a region known in the world for its dynamism and vitality, and known in INTERPOL for its strong drive for cooperation.

Across the region, countries are working together on common interests to harness East Africa's unique resources, and this is reflected in the achievements and ambitions of the Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization.

EAPCCO is a motivating force in the region, heading demand-driven initiatives and actions. The challenge of cyber-enabled crime, which now underpins so many criminal activities, was recognised as a blight to be met head on, together. Thanks to the strong commitment of the Rwandan government, combined with the decisiveness of EAPCCO, we laid the foundation stone for the new regional cybercrime centre nearby this morning.

As well as laying the physical foundations for combatting cybercrime in the region, we are also building capacity amongst our officers. I am extremely pleased to be launching the Cyber Tracks Exercise here in Kigali this morning.

This course was designed and implemented by INTERPOL specialists at the request of the Rwanda National Police, who identified the need for this training on cyber-enabled crime and digital forensics, with a focus on the use of these tools in cases of human trafficking and gender-based violence.

As criminals also take advantage of new technologies and cyber-enabled crime becomes more pervasive, it is essential that the law enforcement community shares information, resources, and skills to stay ahead of the curve.

I hope that the exercise helps to strengthen international links and national investigative capacities, through the use of new skills and INTERPOL's policing capabilities. I look forward to seeing this innovative training model and fresh subject matter being deployed elsewhere across the world.

I applaud the Rwanda National Police for their excellent initiative in organising this exercise, and I wish the participants – all of you who have come here from across the continent – a productive week of training.

The training course participants are not the only attendees who have made long journeys to be here today. I know from my years working in and with law enforcement, that it is not easy to call busy Police Chiefs away from their work to sit in a faraway room, having discussions which can sometimes seem a world away from daily imperatives.

I am sure that all of you here today have urgent matters to resolve and pending issues awaiting your attention. That you have made the effort to be here is a testament to the importance of EAPCCO and the importance of international police cooperation.

Since you met last year in Naivasha, I know that a great deal of progress has been made on the fifteen resolutions adopted. The Counter-Terrorism Working Group was formed and has begun sharing information and expertise. The EAPCCO Gender Training Manual was drafted and is being launched later today, while the Manual on Counter-Terrorism has been put to the test in practical simulations in conjunction with the Institute for Security Studies. The Human Rights Training Manual has been adopted and a number of countries have incorporated it into their respective national curricula.

The results of this kind of concerted cooperation can be seen in the improvements in the maritime security situation in the Gulf of Aden and the Western Indian Ocean. INTERPOL is

currently implementing three key programmes in East Africa on different aspects of maritime piracy and organised crime.

With support from the EU, investigators are being trained in evidence exploitation, and how to track money laundering, ransom payments, and illicit financial flows. Countries are working together to exchange information and good practices on common investigations, and to explore ways of coordinating efforts to target leaders and organizers.

I am proud that INTERPOL has supported EAPCCO in these endeavours, and that we were able to offer our expertise and databases in operations, too. These included the second FAGIA OPSON operation, which was conducted last year and resulted in significant seizures of counterfeit products and illicit goods. The third annual USALAMA operation was held just over a month ago with 11 EAPCCO member countries, and led to excellent results in disrupting regional transnational criminal networks. Human trafficking victims were rescued in Namibia, Rwanda, and Uganda; and drugs, guns, ammunition and gold were seized.

Tens of thousands of checks were conducted against INTERPOL's databases during these operations, and I believe that the results speak for themselves. In Sudan, one of these checks revealed a fugitive wanted by Jordan for the crimes of counterfeiting and forgery. The man was arrested, and a range of currencies, fake passports, and computers were recovered. Subsequent investigations by the Sudanese police led to the discovery of ammunition and arms linked to the case.

It is through the information contained in our databases and the network we have created that these kinds of arrests are made possible. I therefore strongly encourage all Chiefs of Police and Heads of NCB here today to take greater advantage of these databases, which exist for your use.

They can be deployed through INTERPOL's FIND technology to your borders, Criminal Investigation Departments, and other agencies where you believe checks could be usefully conducted. I also invite all EAPCCO members to consider systematically contributing information to INTERPOL's databases, and raising awareness of their potential among your national police forces.

INTERPOL is constantly seeking to innovate and adapt in order to better serve our members. As part of our INTERPOL 2020 initiative to review our core business and our role in supporting the global law enforcement community, we have launched programme strategies to tackle cybercrime, terrorism, and organised and emerging crime. Through our Global Complex for Innovation in Singapore, we are providing cutting-edge research and capacity building on new forms of crime. Our capabilities, our infrastructure, and our network, are available and responsive to our members; I urge you to make use of them.

INTERPOL applauds EAPCCO's endorsement of the creation of a Regional Centre of Excellence on Counter-Terrorism in Nairobi, to complement the African Union's Counter-Terrorism Centre. The region's initiative to pool its specialised law enforcement skills offers an excellent model for crime fighting in a fast changing world.

In keeping with our unique global operational structure, we welcome the chance to support the strengthening of counter-terrorism efforts in Africa, through INTERPOL's hub in Nairobi. I look forward to discussing with you how INTERPOL can enhance law enforcement cooperation both within the region, and with other regions, to combat the increasingly global terrorist threat.

It only remains for me to commend Inspector General Boinnet for his achievements over the past year. I applaud the tireless efforts of the officers involved, and the extraordinary work of the INTERPOL Regional Bureau in Nairobi.

I am also grateful for the excellent cooperation we enjoy with partner organisations, many of which are present here today.

Your Excellency,

Please allow me to convey my gratitude to the Government of Rwanda for continuing to spearhead initiatives such as the cybercrime centre. My thanks to the Rwanda National Police for hosting this meeting, as they did impeccably last November for INTERPOL's annual General Assembly. I congratulate Inspector General Gasana on his appointment, and wish him great success over the coming twelve months.

Lastly, if I may I would like to offer my sincere condolences to our Somali colleagues here today, following the tragic act of terrorism at the Somali Youth League Hotel in Mogadishu yesterday. The Al-Shabaab attack on the security conference being held there was a heinous reminder of the menace which we are fighting against.

In closing, I hope that we can harness the forward-looking spirit of Rwanda to make ambitious recommendations at this 18<sup>th</sup> EAPCCO Annual General Meeting. Knowing the capacities for innovation and cooperation of the EAPCCO members, I am convinced that the year will be a productive one.

Thank you for your attention.