



Ministerial Address

by

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INTERPOL Secretary General

‘Unity for Security’ Forum

28 March 2017

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Your Highness, Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior;

Highnesses, Honourable Ministers, President and Board Members of the INTERPOL Foundation, INTERPOL Executive Committee Members;

Excellencies; distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;

S A Y Y I D A T I , S A D A T I ;

Assalam Aleikum. Buenos Dias. Bonjour. Good morning.

A sense of togetherness across borders evokes a very powerful human ability. It unites us to take on responsibilities we may not be able to undertake alone.

Time and again, world events remind us of how increasingly important it is to stand united in the face of challenges to global security. This audience is well acquainted with this reality.

'Unity for Security' provides a timely and valuable opportunity for senior leaders from INTERPOL member countries to come together. It is a forum to reflect on the role of a globally united leadership towards making ours a safer world.

The International Criminal Police Organization - INTERPOL thanks the United Arab Emirates for hosting this forum under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al Nahyan, President of the UAE.

In fact, the origins of holding this event also lay in the related decision by the Emirati government for a voluntary contribution to advance INTERPOL's work, as just indicated by the President of the INTERPOL Foundation.

This contribution has come at a time when the world's largest police organization – INTERPOL – is being encouraged to play a larger role in improving global security. In parallel, however, stand acute challenges of resource limitations for law enforcement across most of INTERPOL's membership.

This is where one member country has stepped in to provide significant assistance in addressing these shortcomings. On behalf of our entire membership, INTERPOL is indeed grateful for the generosity of the UAE towards strengthening the work of law enforcement worldwide. This extraordinary contribution is the first of its kind in the history of international police cooperation.

INTERPOL is also thankful for the efforts of the INTERPOL Foundation's board members in playing a leading role in helping our organization reach this milestone. In particular, 'Unity for Security' would not be a reality if it were not for the individual efforts of the INTERPOL Foundation's President, His Excellency Elias MURR.

As leaders responsible for security matters, you know well that complex threats continue to engulf the working environment of law enforcement agencies worldwide. If we are to remain effective, we have to constantly evolve in how we face such threats.

This needs ideas, innovation, enhanced capability sharing, and yes – resources.

Therefore, a voluntary contribution from a member country is an extremely positive step. But now we collectively have to make sure this translates into effective solutions for the benefit of police forces in our member countries.

This is why, Highnesses, Excellencies, your presence here is a welcome sign for the unity much needed to face the threats posed by transnational crimes of today and tomorrow. May I thank you wholeheartedly for taking out the time to attend this INTERPOL event, hosted with such perfection and brilliance by our hosts in Abu Dhabi.

This forum could serve to identify further areas where your respective countries' contributions will help enhance international policing efforts. In turn, this enables INTERPOL to better assist your police forces in countering crime and terrorism transcending national borders. INTERPOL's initiatives are designed to serve all regions of the world.

The planned sessions of the forum will provide an insight into INTERPOL's initiatives funded by the UAE for a period of five years, while the workshops will showcase some of INTERPOL's global policing capabilities.

These are capabilities that help create real impact on the ground by aiding the work of frontline police officers. Let me share just one example.

In 2015, police agencies in two member countries – Australia and Denmark – started sharing material related to an unknown victim of online child sexual abuse with INTERPOL. Such data in the form of videos, images or sound files is stored and shared through INTERPOL's International Child Sexual Exploitation database.

Some months later in 2016, using this database, analysis of school uniforms and language sounds in the videos started pointing towards a probable location of the abuse: in Japan.

The identification was accurate. Five men in Kyoto, Japan had been approaching young boys in parks and on streets, and then raped and abused them. They recorded their crimes and used applications to circulate the videos.

As a result of this one identification, the Japanese police was able to dismantle an entire network, and rescue 47 children from further abuse. The offenders have been brought to justice, and in February this year the ringleader was sentenced for a term of eight years.

In fact, more than 10,000 child sexual abuse victims have been identified to date through the cooperation encouraged by INTERPOL's Child Sexual Exploitation programme.

Highnesses, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;

Achieving such results in tackling transnational crimes would not be possible by an individual entity acting on its own. Of course, this requires concerted efforts of law enforcement agencies in member countries, and steadfast support for their cooperation as reflected by the UAE's voluntary contribution.

However, it also needs political entities and actors to value the significance of international police cooperation in global security.

In fact, the recent past has seen a lot of recognition and encouragement for INTERPOL's work in different fora. This includes the unanimous endorsement of a resolution by the United Nations General Assembly on cooperating with INTERPOL in November 2016.

Eventually, national level ministerial support is essential for the timely decision making on the use of INTERPOL's global policing capabilities, particularly for ensuring that information sharing through INTERPOL is continually improved.

Meanwhile, the very means of preparedness for and response to threats also need to be further strengthened. This might require stepping out of 'comfort zones' for law enforcement.

An imminent necessity that leaders worldwide are familiar with is identifying the areas of convergence between the work of governmental and private actors.

There has to be a common understanding for the indispensable role that the private sector must play in fighting crime. Expectations and limitations – on both sides – must be understood to define collaborative frameworks of work.

How could this actually be done to serve at least the minimum common denominators of law enforcement needs worldwide? What part can INTERPOL play? How can the leadership for police and security matters contribute towards such convergence?

In finding answers to these questions, also lies the key for uniting our efforts with the private sector towards making ours a safer world.

Highnesses, Excellencies; Sayyidati, Sadati;

Before I conclude, allow me to express my heartfelt regrets on behalf of the INTERPOL President, Mr MENG Hongwei at being unable to join us today, owing to unavoidable commitments.

He joins me in wishing us all a very fruitful meeting ahead.

On behalf of INTERPOL, Shukran Jazilan.

Thank you very much.