



Opening Address

by

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INTERPOL President

10th Summit of AMERIPOL

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Santiago, Chile

Your excellency, President of Chile, Michelle Bachelet Jeria;
Director General of Carabineros, Mr Bruno Arnaldo Villalobos Krumm;
President of AMERIPOL, Mr Manelich Castilla Craviotto;
Executive Secretary of AMERIPOL, Mr Ramiro Mantilla Andrade;
Honorable Chiefs of Police;
Distinguished guests;
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning, it is my pleasure to be the officiating guest of the 10th AMERIPOL Summit and deliver the opening remarks as INTERPOL President. First of all, I would like to express my appreciation for your determination in combating crime. The solidarity of police forces in the Americas has contributed significantly to both local as well as global safety and stability.

I would also like to thank President Bachelet and Chile for their kind hospitality. Ladies and gentlemen, as you may know, during the 2017 INTERPOL General Assembly, Chile was selected to be the host country of the 88th INTERPOL General Assembly in 2019. After hosting the 86th General Assembly in Beijing, China, I know that organizing the General Assembly is a complex undertaking and it will involve a lot of planning and resources. I once again express my sincere gratitude to Chile for their dedication and contribution to INTERPOL.

Amid the globalization, technological advancements and exponential growth of the Internet, as well as the convenience of international travel, crime of any kind can escalate from a local problem to a global issue within a short period of time. As with other continents, the Americas is under substantial pressure from the global trends of transnational and organized crime, such as cybercrime, financial crime, illegal immigration etc. The continent is also facing a terrorist threat. Transnational terrorists or lone-wolves may attack at anytime and anywhere.

To counter the sophisticated threats, we need to remain united to create a global battle line for combating crimes. INTERPOL, as the world's largest organization of international police cooperation, is willing to work closely with different regions and police organizations to contribute towards world security and peace. This year is the 10th anniversary of AMERIPOL's creation. In these 10 years, AMERIPOL has grown stronger and stronger and plays an important role in fighting against transnational and organized crimes in the region and beyond. There is a close and supportive relationship between INTERPOL and AMERIPOL and we vow to further our strategic partnership.

In fact, INTERPOL, through its General Secretariat Headquarters in Lyon and our regional bureaus, has been coordinating a number of high profile operations in Americas to combat drug trafficking, environmental crimes, human trafficking, corruption and crimes involving firearms. We have achieved good results, including Operation MADRETIERRA (Mother Earth) organized by our Regional Bureau in San Salvador in June 2017.

Operation MADRETIERRA targeted environmental crimes in Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama. With the joint efforts of INTERPOL and the law enforcement agencies in these 10 countries, we made 691 arrests and seized 76 firearms, 162 vehicles, 32 machinery and 10,000 endangered animals and timber worth more than USD1.6 million. Our action against criminals and syndicates will continue. I hope our Americas counterparts will remain supportive to each other and work closely with INTERPOL by their side.

As INTERPOL President, I can assure you that INTERPOL will continue to play a key role in safeguarding security in the Americas as well as across the globe. I believe that it is not sufficient or sustainable for the police alone to address global crime. It is necessary to strengthen international cooperation across different spectrums, including police, law enforcement agencies, governments,

academia and the private sector. This is the fundamental way to combat transnational crimes in the new era and in particular for cybercrime, where the number of cases and monetary losses have reached an alarming level. This threat is expected to persist and grow to become even more serious.

With a view to coordinating worldwide efforts to counter cybercrime, INTERPOL took a very important initiative to bridge the law enforcement agencies, governments, banks and financial institutions. In July this year, INTERPOL convened the "High-level Dialogue for Countering Cyber and Financial Crimes" in Lyon. The two-day high-level conference saw exchanges on the various strategies in place and ways to address gaps in cooperation between the different stakeholders. This conference in fact was just a first step and INTERPOL is now coordinating global operations in order to put our words into actions. I appeal for your full support to this imperative step of INTERPOL.

To counter the ever-growing global threats, INTERPOL should become a more strategically-based organization. During the 86th General Assembly of INTERPOL in Beijing in September 2017, I announced my vision for the future roadmap of INTERPOL, which includes two phases. The first phase is from the present until 2023. INTERPOL will build up the preliminary framework defining the role of the organization, develop platforms against emerging crimes and ensure a sustainable funding system. The second phase is from 2023 to 2030. INTERPOL will become a global police organization which can ride the flow of the future and sustain our role as crucial member in global security governance.

I would like to highlight that the 86th INTERPOL General approved a resolution for a feasibility study to be carried out for setting up the "INTERPOL Strategic Studies Institute". The strategic studies institute aims to develop modern policing models at the strategic level. The institute will comprise elites from police, law enforcements, governments, academia and private partners from around the world. They will conduct high-level strategic research on core and vital policing issues and provide solutions or recommendations to the various actors which have a role in global security. I hope the strategic studies institute can become an internationally renowned think-tank and provide a blueprint for future policing.

The success of this strategic studies institute requires the support and participation of police organizations worldwide. I am very much looking forward to the active participation of AMERIPOL and police organizations, governments and scholars from different countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Latin America and the Caribbean is a promising land. The global economic balance has started to shift towards the emerging economies. In the first 50 years of the 21st Century, we will see the resurgence of Latin America. It is anticipated that the AMERIPOL will become stronger and police throughout the region will make a greater contribution to the world's safety and peace.

In the coming two days, I know that AMERIPOL will have in-depth discussions on a number of keys issues which are crucial on the safety of the continent. I wish the summit every success.

Thank you.