



Opening Remarks

by  
Senior Vice President KIM Jong Yang

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Your Highness, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, and Ruler of the Emirate of Dubai;  
Your Highness, Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior of the United Arab Emirates;  
Your Highnesses, Your Excellencies; Honourable Ministers from INTERPOL member countries;  
INTERPOL Secretary General, INTERPOL Executive Committee members;  
President and Board members of the INTERPOL Foundation;  
Distinguished Chiefs of Police;  
Heads of INTERPOL National Central Bureaus;  
Delegates from INTERPOL member countries worldwide;  
Observers, Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;

Assalam Aleykum, Good Morning, Buenos Dias, Bonjour.

It is an honour, as the Senior Vice President of INTERPOL to address this 87th session of its General Assembly here in Dubai today.

Your Highness, Ruler of the Emirate of Dubai, we are privileged that international police cooperation's largest event of 2018 is being hosted in this city. And INTERPOL is extremely thankful for receiving the very best of Emirati hospitality – Shukran Jazilan!

Dubai has only kept growing in its stature as a world-class city, which is even symbolised by the world's tallest building here. And Dubai airport's rise to becoming the world's busiest airport for international traffic underlines this city's role in helping 'dots' on the world map truly 'connect' today.

Establishing global connectivity is something INTERPOL also strives for – among law enforcement worldwide.

And thus, it is befitting that INTERPOL's membership converges here today to set the next course of its work in addressing transnational crime and terrorism.

The General Assembly's significance is paramount to INTERPOL's existence. Through it, the formation of our annual plans, governance policies or even constitutional amendments – are all made by you, INTERPOL's member countries.

And when INTERPOL was recently faced with an institutional challenge, it was the constitution and its provisions that led us through. It was a reminder that an organization's strength, after all, lies in establishing governance norms to lead itself through even unexpected scenarios.

I am referring to the sudden resignation of the Organization's President last month.

As INTERPOL's constitution spells out clear provisions for such a scenario, the Executive Committee along with the Secretary General were able to ensure that its governance and administration remained absolutely stable, and operational activity could continue without disruption.

At the time, as the Senior Vice President on the Executive Committee and in conformity with the rules, I temporarily took the place of the President to assume the duties that were his.

I undertook this responsibility for just a few weeks, until at the end of this General Assembly session when a President will be elected for the remainder of the former President's term, until 2020. This will also be followed by elections to other Executive Committee posts.

Highnesses and Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen; as this General Assembly session begins, it is important to remember that what we do here can be instrumental in supporting those at the frontlines of policing.

In the age of unprecedented information exchange, police the world over are increasingly facing new challenges. INTERPOL must evolve to continue strengthening its 'global early warning system' by means of policing capabilities, to detect and prevent the flows of transnational crime.

It is a swiftly transforming environment, not least in terms of scope and technologies. This is the era of artificial intelligence, cyberspace unknowns and intensive digital activity.

A highly innovative outlook to how police traditionally operate is rapidly being adopted by many governments at the national level. For gathering best practices into an international model, INTERPOL provides a neutral, well-connected platform.

Criminal data and the rules surrounding its processing have become critical contours for shaping the work of international police cooperation.

These will be fundamental elements of discussions at this INTERPOL General Assembly.

So will be the expansion and international outreach of this Organization. INTERPOL must adopt a systematic approach to establishing its global presence in the coming decade. This will resonate INTERPOL's growing role throughout the international security architecture. Operationally, it will enhance access to our policing capabilities in all parts of the world.

Alongside, partnerships continue to be at the fulcrum of INTERPOL's evolution. A new agreement with the African Union will be put up for adoption here, for setting out cooperation terms with the African Union's mechanism for police cooperation, AFRIPOL.

And to INTERPOL's wide, global membership of 192 countries, there are three more applications this year, submitted to this meeting for decision. This interest is only a reflection of the Organization's relevance, which has grown steadily since INTERPOL's constitution was adopted over 60 years ago in 1956, with just 57 member countries.

To help execute its global priorities, the financial health of the Organization has also remained a focus of the Executive Committee. These matters are all therefore reflected in this Assembly's agenda.

The Executive Committee also recognizes that at the helm of implementing the General Assembly's policy decisions remains INTERPOL's General Secretariat.

Thus, on the possibility of a second term in office for the current Secretary General, the Executive Committee had a comprehensive deliberation in June this year.

The conclusion we arrived at was that firstly, the Organization has embarked upon an extremely valued reform process under the able leadership of Mr Jürgen Stock. This process, title 'INTERPOL 2020' requires continuity for its complete and successful implementation.

Secondly, there have already been marked successes in dealing with a range of organizational challenges over the last four years by the General Secretariat. It is this experience which is likely to be needed in the coming years, given the operating environment on the horizon.

Consequently, the Executive Committee decided to recommend the re-appointment of Mr Jürgen Stock of the Federal Republic of Germany as INTERPOL's Secretary General for a second term, after the completion of his first term in 2019. This recommendation will be subject to a vote at next year's General Assembly session.

Your Highnesses and Your Excellencies; Ladies and Gentlemen; Delegates; there is no doubt that international police cooperation will require the continued involvement and guidance of INTERPOL's General Assembly, and indeed the governments of its member countries.

The presence here today of senior leaders such as Your Highness, Sheikh Al-Maktoum and Your Highness, Sheikh Saif is a very encouraging indication that governments are listening to the voice of INTERPOL, and supporting its work. Thank you very much.

In conclusion, allow me to also express my sincerest gratitude to all delegations, observers and partners who have made it to join us here.

This meeting is about law enforcement in the information age, this is about evolving international police cooperation in this very age – and it can only be done one way: Together.

Shukran jazilan. Thank you very much. Muchas gracias. Merci beaucoup.