



INTERPOL

SPEECH • DISCOURS • DISCURSO • خطابات



**SPEECH BY MR KHOO BOON HUI  
INTERPOL PRESIDENT  
OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 79TH INTERPOL GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
DOHA, QATAR  
8 NOVEMBER 2010**

---

*H.E. Sheikh Abdullah Bin Nassir Bin Khalifa Al Thani;*

*Ministers of Interior, Public Security and Home Affairs;*

*Secretary General Ronald Noble;*

*Fellow members of the Executive Committee;*

*Heads of Delegation;*

*Ladies and Gentlemen;*

*Good Morning:*

Welcome to the 79<sup>th</sup> INTERPOL General Assembly. I am heartened to see so many of you taking the time and effort to be at this important annual INTERPOL gathering in spite of your hectic schedule. This is also an indication of how our Organization has grown in terms of relevance and importance since the first INTERPOL General Assembly in 1923.

I understand that for many of you, this is your first time to Qatar. I have been privileged to have been a guest of this fascinating country four times since my first visit four years ago. Qatar never fails to impress me with her charm and exotic hospitality as well as her tremendous development especially in recent years.

At last year's General Assembly, I learnt that many of you were impressed by the safety and security that you enjoyed in Singapore. I can tell you that you will feel even safer and more secure in Doha. I recall that in 2006, when I was Commissioner of Police, the Qatari Ministry of Interior invited me to share our experience on security operations for major events as Qatar was hosting the Asian Games that year. I met the Director General of

Public Security Staff Major General Saad Bin Jassim Al-Khulaifi and he asked me about the crime situation in Singapore. I told him that, on average, there were around 100 offences reported each day. But there were some days when not even a single robbery or burglary was reported in a city state of five million. As he did not seem overly impressed, I asked him about the crime situation in Qatar. He walked over to get the crime report book where the details of the cases were recorded by hand and then read out the eight crime cases that had been reported the previous day. It soon dawned on me that the most serious crime was an assault case. I then wondered why I had been invited when Qatar was already so safe but soon realised that even though the Qataris are good, they want to be even better, if not the best. This strive for excellence is indeed the true mark of a professional police force.

On behalf of the entire INTERPOL family, I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the Qatari government for taking so much effort to ensure that this will be the best General Assembly ever held, and, on behalf of the Executive Committee and General Secretariat, our heartfelt gratitude for the pledge of USD 2 million to the INTERPOL Global Complex project. These are clear indications of your commitment to INTERPOL and INTERPOL's vision of 'Connecting Police for a Safer World'.

This vision is also the theme of this year's INTERPOL General Assembly.

So what does it take to 'connect police for a safer world'?

When the first General Assembly of the International Criminal Police Commission, the forerunner of INTERPOL, was held in Vienna in 1923, the keynote message was, and I quote, '*renewing police contacts among new countries in the Old Empire but also establishing new contacts between the peoples of the world*'. This recognized the importance of transnational police co-operation and still rings true today.

As we enter the second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, our law enforcement community is faced with increasingly sophisticated crime challenges. Organized crime and terrorist groups exploit advances in technology and abuse the global financial system for illicit gains. The United Nations has declared that 'stopping the operations of transnational organised crime has ... become a matter of international priority'.

In a short while, the honourable Ministers gracing the Ministerial Discussion will share their insights on the challenges of modern day crime-fighting. This session will provide us with the opportunity to learn about their strategic perspectives. It will

also allow us to understand the importance of adopting a holistic approach to combating transnational crime and terrorism.

Continuous innovation and adaptability to the operating environment are key to an effective policing strategy. In 2002, our Organization launched the I-24/7 global police communication system, linking all our member countries through a secured network to facilitate the exchange of vital police information. We then created the first global Stolen and Lost Travel Document database, the DNA database and a host of other criminal databases for use by frontline police and law enforcement units. The active use of the INTERPOL database and numerous positive hits recorded in these databases show that we are on the right track in providing value-added support to our member countries and facilitating international police cooperation.

Upon the request of our member countries, INTERPOL also provides on-site support to national authorities in major criminal investigations and in securing major international events. To better ensure the timely and effective delivery of INTERPOL on-site support, we are introducing the INTERPOL Travel Document (ITD). This is a state-of-the-art identity document issued by INTERPOL to officials carrying out INTERPOL-

related official duties, to facilitate their international travel. ITD holders may benefit from a special visa status which range from visa exemption, expedited visa to other forms of special visa treatment. A number of countries have already granted special visa status to ITD holders.

The ITD is an example of how we are working with the private sector to come up with innovations and together invest in the future for our members' benefit. To better prepare ourselves for future challenges, INTERPOL has established a clear strategic framework. The strategic planning process in our framework allows us to envision the future while strategic thinking enables us to seize valuable opportunities. We have since laid out our priorities but remain conscious of the need to be sufficiently flexible in dealing with uncertainties.

For the next three years, from 2011 to 2013, INTERPOL will focus on six priorities reflecting the dynamic changes on the international environment, the security implications of trends and changes and the strategic challenges in policing and security. Among these priorities is the early identification and detection of crimes and criminals. We will strive to identify crimes that have the potential to become a major crime challenge in the future. The proposal for an INTERPOL Global Complex, which will be

discussed tomorrow, seeks to enhance INTERPOL's infrastructure in various areas. Examples of such enhancements would be the identification of emerging criminal threats brought about by new technologies and the development of appropriate responses against these threats.

Equally important to the success of our collective effort is our partnership with strategic stakeholders, be it in the private or public sector. An excellent example is our fight against Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) crime. INTERPOL's Operation Jupiter in South America has expanded from just three participating countries in 2005 to cover all of South America as well as Panama this year. Over 600 arrests have been made from some 340 cross-industry law enforcement interventions this year.

At this General Assembly, INTERPOL will embark on a number of co-operation agreements with different organizations and groups. I am confident that these agreements will signal the start of equally fruitful partnerships that will help global law enforcement community fight crime.

Friends and colleagues, after more than eight decades, our Organization remains steadfast in upholding the ideals set forth by our founders. The basic principles in fighting international crime

have not changed. Stronger international police co-operation ensures that police all around the world are connected. Let this be our guiding principle as we confront and face the challenges of fighting crime in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. There are no better assets for INTERPOL than our 188 member countries working together towards our common vision of making the world a safer place.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to my colleagues on the Executive Committee who have worked closely with the General Secretariat in charting our future direction and proposing projects for your approval. I would also like to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of Professor Dr. Juergen Stock, our Vice-President for Europe and Chairman of our Strategic Development Sub-committee. We will all miss his insightful perspectives after his term ends at the end of this General Assembly and hope that he will be able to continue his involvement with our Organization in one way or another.

There is someone else whose term will end this year but we can as a General Assembly vote to allow him to carry on his tremendous contributions to INTERPOL. He is none other than our indefatigable Secretary General, Mr. Ronald K. Noble, whose tireless efforts have transformed INTERPOL into a 21<sup>st</sup> century international law enforcement organization which stands ready 24



by 7, 365 days a year to support our 188 member countries. The Executive Committee has unanimously agreed to present Mr Noble as its only candidate for the post of Secretary General and we look forward to his serving another term after the vote tomorrow.

In closing, I would like to once again thank our gracious and generous host, the organizing committee and support staff as well as all you, the delegates, observers and exhibitors for making happen this game-changing INTERPOL General Assembly in Doha. I urge all of us to make full use of this General Assembly to strengthen our global organization. For it is only through united action that we can make our world a safer place. Thank you.