



**SPEECH GIVEN BY
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Ministers of the Interior,
Mr Khoo Boon Hui, INTERPOL President,
Mr Ronald K. Noble, INTERPOL Secretary General,
Heads of Delegations,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning,

I am delighted to welcome you to Qatar, your second homeland, for the 79th session of INTERPOL's General Assembly being held here in Doha, our capital, from 8 to 11 November 2010. I would also like to convey the regards of the Emir of Qatar, HH Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani and the Heir Apparent, HH Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, who wish you all a very successful meeting.

We are also pleased to welcome HH Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, the Heir Apparent, who is honouring this Opening Ceremony with his presence.

I would also like to pay tribute to the International Criminal Police Organization-INTERPOL for the extraordinary energy it devotes to fighting all forms of crimes and the remarkable action it is taking to improve co-ordination and co-operation between all law enforcement agencies throughout the world.

I strongly believe that every one of you gathered here shares my point of view that this meeting is of primary importance, particularly given the topics to be discussed but also because it is being held at a time when the world is experiencing extremely difficult political, security, and economic challenges, requiring a concerted effort that is fully shared by the international community.

Just like all countries which strive towards peace and security in the world, Qatar has always invested considerable efforts in fighting crime, both nationally and internationally.

Indeed, our country has long focused on developing local human and material resources, using cutting-edge technologies to implement anti-crime measures.

Similarly, our country has equipped itself with a legal arsenal enabling it to bring criminals to justice. For example, I would cite the laws on combating terrorism, money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, and the rules on electronic crimes.

Qatar has already set up specialized entities and teams, particularly well-versed in dealing with new crime techniques. We have established the National Committee for Combating Terrorism, the National Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Committee, the Qatar Foundation for Combating Human Trafficking, the Economic and Electronic Crimes Prevention Unit, the Community Policing unit and other entities.

All this has translated into action the determination of the Qatar Government to effectively contribute the fight against crime in all its forms.

On the international scene, Qatar very quickly understood that the keys to success lay in closer co-operation and co-ordination between countries, in the sharing of information and best practices between experts from different countries and backgrounds, as well as in the signing of international conventions and treaties.

In this respect, the Qatari NCB is setting an example through the key role it plays in co-operating, both with the INTERPOL General Secretariat and with all the member countries' NCBs. Our office has built its human and material capabilities so it has excellent conditions in which to accomplish the tasks it has been assigned. The office has therefore fully met INTERPOL's requirements in terms of integrating the MIND and FIND systems, which have been operational for two years. This is why officers from the Ministry of the Interior have attended training sessions organized by INTERPOL Headquarters in Lyon, and designed to train the greatest number of officers possible in the use of these new systems.

Qatar believes in INTERPOL's mission and supports the many efforts made by the Organization. I would also like to take the opportunity afforded to me by this speech, to announce that Qatar is going to **make a donation of USD 2 million** to the Fund which has been set up for the initiative to establish the INTERPOL Global Complex in Singapore. We have also **entrusted a team of experts with studying the new INTERPOL travel document**, the purpose of which is to facilitate the international travel of law enforcement officials carrying out official duties on behalf of INTERPOL, and to grant its holders special visa status. This could take the form of visa exemption, expedited visa or other form of procedure to be established.

The purpose of all this is to facilitate and accelerate the search for and arrest of criminals with the aim of improving safety in our countries.

In closing, I would once again like to welcome you to Qatar, your second homeland, and hope that you have an enjoyable stay. I wish you every success in your work.
