



INTERPOL

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**12TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
EASTERN AFRICAN POLICE CHIEFS' COOPERATION
ORGANIZATION – EAPCCO
COUNCIL OF POLICE CHIEFS
(KHARTOUM, 19 OCTOBER)**

REMARKS

BY

**RONALD K. NOBLE
INTERPOL SECRETARY GENERAL**

Chiefs of police,
Distinguished guests,
Dear colleagues,
Brothers and sisters,

Thank you. It is a great pleasure to be here today. I last visited Sudan five years ago, and I can see that so much has changed in a relatively short period of time. The pace of development here and throughout East Africa is incredible.

It's easy to forget that the Blue Nile and the White Nile converge not far from where we are, slicing Khartoum into three parts. As it has done for millennia, the Nile flows leisurely, constantly – providing sustenance to the people and communities of this great country and region.

The Nile connects the farmer in Rwanda with the merchant in Ethiopia. It connects the rich waters of the Great Lakes in the south to the desert lands in the north.

EAPCCO was created 12 years ago in Uganda with this same recognition. All of the countries here are connected – by crime, whether as a source, a conduit or a target, but also by a shared sense of purpose. This, in turn, connects you to the rest of Africa and to the rest of the world.

The EAPCCO Constitution was signed in Khartoum a decade ago. It is fitting that we are back here today to discuss issues that will shape this organization tomorrow and for years to come.

During this meeting, you will elect a new chairman. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Colonel Abdillahi Abdi Farah, General Director of the Djibouti National Police, for his service as chairman. The organization has continued to flourish under his leadership.

Thanks to the efforts of EAPCCO, the INTERPOL Regional Bureau in Nairobi, which serves as your secretariat, and our network of National Central Bureaus throughout the region, police cooperation in East Africa has never been stronger.

Officers working together across disciplines.

A few months ago, the members of the East African Community – Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda – participated in the latest phase of Operation Mamba targeting pharmaceutical counterfeiting.

The operation involved police, customs and drug regulatory authorities, with support from the World Health Organization and forensic assistance provided by Singapore.

Through Operation Mamba, we removed 10 tons of counterfeit and smuggled medicines, including materials purporting to be life-saving vaccines, anti-malarial treatments and antibiotics, from distribution. Eighty individuals suspected of involvement in the illegal manufacture, trafficking or sale of the products were arrested.

Late last year, we saw the largest-ever transnational wildlife crime operation in Africa – which we code-named Costa in honor of the former Director of Tanzania’s Wildlife Division – with the above countries, plus Ethiopia.

More than two tons of illegal elephant ivory, other animal products, weapons, ammunition and vehicles were seized and more than 100 suspects were arrested during the operation.

Operation Costa, which brought together police, customs, wildlife authorities and intelligence agencies, was conducted under the auspices of our OASIS Africa program with funding from the German government.

Officers working together across borders.

Last June, Sudan asked INTERPOL to issue an international security alert following the escapes of four prisoners sentenced to death for the murder of an American aid official and his driver. One of the men has already been recaptured.

And one month later, Uganda requested the issue of INTERPOL notices to help identify the two men suspected of carrying out a suicide bombing on the night of the World Cup final. The attack left more than 70 people dead and at least another 70 seriously injured, and cast a dark shadow on your continent's shining moment.

You have shown your willingness to share information that may be of interest to law enforcement elsewhere. But I encourage you to take greater advantage of the information at your fingertips.

I met with the Director General of the Sudan Police Forces, First Lieutenant General Hashim Osman Al-Hussein Saad, last month at INTERPOL's General Secretariat in Lyon, France.

Among other things, we discussed the expansion of access to INTERPOL global databases to key sites throughout the country, including airports and seaports.

This would enable front-line officers to detect immediately if a traveler is wanted internationally or attempting to enter the country on a fraudulent document.

Kenya, Seychelles and Uganda have already put in the place the technical solutions developed by INTERPOL to do this. These solutions are called MIND and FIND for mobile or fixed network access.

I ask all of you to consider incorporating use of these powerful tools into your daily operations.

MIND/FIND, the I-24/7 global police communications system we developed in 2002 and our range of global police databases mark the biggest technological developments for INTERPOL – for international policing – over the last decade.

They represent our ongoing commitment to innovation in supporting law enforcement in our member countries.

What changes will we see in the years to come? You, as police leaders in your countries, will have a hand in this.

The last time I was in Sudan was to attend the graduation ceremony for a dog handlers' training course initiated by EAPCCO and supported by INTERPOL.

Dog handling is an age-old police science. It relies on a combination of skill, instinct and perception to help fill in the pieces of the puzzle we can't see.

It will always be critical to police work. But just as importantly, in the future, we are going to need advanced skills and expertise in other identification techniques to stay ahead of the criminals.

At our General Assembly next month in Qatar, we will submit a proposal to establish the INTERPOL Global Complex in a major innovation hub such as Singapore.

If approved, it will be a major step for INTERPOL as we move to provide better support to our member countries in areas where there is a serious need for more research and expertise, like forensics and biometrics.

IBM calls Africa the “next growth frontier.”

The continent has the highest global growth of Internet usage, up 1,100 percent since 2000. Countries in East Africa are posting increases for mobile phone use of 25 to 30 percent a year.

Clearly, advances we could make in Singapore in terms of capacity-building in investigating technology-facilitated crimes would benefit your countries.

And by setting ourselves within the diversity of perspectives and wealth of expertise in Asia-Pacific, we would be able to support our member countries in all regions more effectively.

We would also help overcome the uneven engagement of member regions in the contribution and use of our tools and services.

That is why I hope you will adopt a resolution supporting the INTERPOL Global Complex to be presented to you tomorrow.

Also at the General Assembly in Qatar, we will introduce the INTERPOL Travel Document initiative to our member countries for endorsement.

This document will enable INTERPOL to assist our member countries better during urgent incidents by giving our officials and officers in National Central Bureaus carrying the documents special visa status and thereby the same freedom of mobility that the criminals often have.

To date, almost 20 countries have either recognized the INTERPOL Travel Document or have expressed their interest in the initiative, including Rwanda and Uganda. I urge the rest of you to do the same.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Nile is timeless and unending. So are the tasks before us – and so is our need to work together as brothers and sisters.

I would like to close by thanking Awad Dahia, the Head of our Regional Bureau in Nairobi, his staff and all of my staff from the General Secretariat here with us for their hard work in making this meeting a success.

Thank you.