



# Opening Speech

by

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Your Excellency, President of the Republic of Rwanda,

Honourable Ministers,

The Chiefs of Police and other security agencies,

Members of the diplomatic corps,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning,

Two years ago during the INTERPOL Annual General Meeting in Colombia, Rwanda was chosen to host this year's General Assembly. This was endorsed last year in Monaco, where we were honoured to receive the INTERPOL flag, as the next host country for the General Assembly. We would like to welcome you all, and thank INTERPOL Member States for entrusting us to host this AGM.

Your Excellency, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Rwanda is an active and engaged member of INTERPOL. For the past few years, we have worked together to organize a number of key events. These range from capacity building, to regional tabletop exercises, to international conferences, and awareness campaign on crime prevention among others.

In support of these initiatives, Rwanda has seconded 16 senior police officers to work with INTERPOL across the globe in various capacities.

INTERPOL has also supported the Rwanda National Police force, by equipping our borders with access to critical databases and policing tools. As a result, we are better able to detect and stop criminals:

- For example, since 2009, Rwanda has handled over 36 cases of human trafficking, involving 153 victims from various countries;
- Over the past year, we have arrested 10 transnational drug traffickers, and recovered 20 vehicles stolen from neighbouring countries;
- And of particular importance to Rwanda, INTERPOL has collaborated with Rwanda to issue 300 red notices for fugitives of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi. Several dozen suspects have since been apprehended, and handed over to justice.

Of course, challenges remain in addressing transnational crimes. We look forward to continued collaboration in building policing capacity, sharing of information and finding new ways to confront security challenges together.

Your Excellency, distinguished delegates,

In conclusion, I wish to thank His Excellency, President Paul Kagame, our Guest of Honour today, for his personal engagement, guidance and support of all our efforts in making this Assembly a success. Many thanks also to the INTERPOL Secretariat and my Brother and Sister Police Chiefs for your steadfast cooperation and partnership.

I thank you for your kind attention.

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