INTRODUCTION

Organized crime is transforming. Traditional structures headed by powerful kingpins controlling niche crimes are increasingly replaced by loose, flexible criminal networks that shift operations and modify their business models based on opportunities, incentives, profitability and demand.

The ease of international trade and travel, instantaneous access to information, advanced technology and widespread encrypted communication provide ripe terrain for transnational crime to flourish.

The detrimental effects of modern transnational crime are far-reaching, threatening people’s safety, states’ security, and the global economy, all while discrediting the rule of law and citizens’ confidence in law enforcement’s ability to provide protection.

SCOPE

As the world’s largest international police organization, INTERPOL has developed the Organized and Emerging Crime Strategy to support its 190 member countries to effectively combat the evolving changes in organizing and emerging crime in the modern era.

The two overarching aims of this five-year (2016-2020) strategy are to: enable member countries to target and disrupt transnational criminal networks; and to identify, analyse and respond to emerging criminal threats. To address this two-fold challenge, the strategy outlines four interconnected action streams.

ACTION STREAMS

INTERPOL will assist member countries to tackle organized and emerging crime threats through the following four action streams:

1. Identification of criminal networks
   Identify major figures engaged in serious transnational crime, the associated criminal networks and their key activities.

2. Illegal trafficking and illicit markets
   Combat the criminal networks involved in all forms of illegal trafficking and identify and address new trends and illicit markets.

3 Enabling crimes and criminal convergence
   Identify links between seemingly unrelated types of crimes and how one crime can be used to support another, and assist police in preventing such enabling crimes from leading to greater criminal activity.

4. Illicit flows of money and assets
   Disrupt the profits of organized criminal networks by tracing and preventing the movement of criminal assets, as well as freezing and confiscating them.

CAPABILITIES AND DELIVERY

For each action stream, the strategy identifies objectives derived from INTERPOL’s global policing capabilities and support functions for law enforcement: police data management; criminal intelligence analysis; training and capacity building; border security; forensic support; investigative support; prevention and awareness; and innovation.

Supporting all member countries to combat the multiple forms of organized transnational crime is vast and complex. This strategy focuses on the most serious criminal threats as well as emerging forms of crime. It
will build upon INTERPOL’s experience in leading and coordinating major transnational operations against multiple types of crimes and achieving meaningful results in terms of arrests and seizures of illicit commodities.

These operations will be supported by INTERPOL’s Regional Bureaus, and will strive to identify potential convergences among various crime types, such as trafficking in drugs, human beings, wildlife, and even terrorism. Such operations will be preceded by tailored training for officers in the field and will incorporate follow-up investigative support.

Investigative support will focus on developing cases for prosecution and also include parallel financial investigations into the illicit flows of money and assets with the objective of disrupting the criminal networks and their business models.
INTERPOL’S OPERATING MODEL

Today’s crimes are increasingly complex. They are interconnected and global, and they take place on both physical and virtual levels. More than ever, there is a need for multilateral police cooperation to address the security challenges affecting societies.

With its 190 member countries, INTERPOL is ideally placed to work with law enforcement agencies around the globe to strengthen their ability to prevent crime and identify and arrest criminals. Partnerships with other regional and international organizations strengthen the combined approach to tackle common challenges.

INTERPOL’s activities are centered around three global crime programmes: Counter-terrorism, Organized and Emerging Crime, and Cybercrime, each of which has a 2016-2020 strategy. These strategies, and the initiatives within them, will evolve to reflect the dynamic natures of the operating environment.

These programmes are all supported by a set of policing capabilities that the Organization provides member countries. These are police data management, criminal analysis, forensic support, fugitive investigate support, a Command and Coordination Centre, capacity building and training, innovation and special projects.