



**COOPERATION AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN  
THE UNITED NATIONS  
AND  
THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL POLICE ORGANIZATION (INTERPOL)**

The United Nations and the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol),

Considering the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations which call inter-alia for the promotion of regional and international cooperation to solve political, economic and social problems and to ensure respect for human rights in the world,

Bearing in mind the goals of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, which specifically include the reduction of crime, more efficient and effective law enforcement and administration of justice, respect for human rights and the promotion of highest standards of fairness, humanity and professional conduct,

Fully aware of the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as the principal policy-making body of the United Nations in crime prevention and criminal justice, as determined in General Assembly resolution 46/152 (annex) and Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/22;

Recognizing the functions of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division which is the only office within the United Nations Secretariat with responsibilities in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice;

Considering the provisions of the Constitution of the International Criminal Police Organization, which provides that Interpol's aims are to ensure and promote the widest possible mutual assistance between all criminal police authorities within the limits of the laws existing in the different countries and in the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and to establish and develop all institutions likely to contribute effectively to the prevention and suppression of ordinary law crimes,



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Further noting that under its Constitution it is strictly forbidden for Interpol to undertake any intervention or activities of political, military, religious or racial character,

Recognizing the importance of further strengthening the cooperation which has developed over the years between the United Nations and Interpol in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice,

Considering that it is essential, in order to improve efficiency and effectiveness and to prevent overlapping of activities and duplication of efforts, to develop more effective, coordination in the field of crime prevention and administration of justice between the organs and bodies of the United Nations and Interpol and to provide ways and means for such coordination;

Taking into consideration the specific methods and character of the activities of each organization as determined by their statutory objective, their mandates and the provisions of the relevant international instruments;

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 51/1 of 15 October 1996, and Interpol General Assembly resolutions AGN/64/RES/11 and AGN/65/RES/14 calling for the promotion of cooperation between the two Organizations,

Have agreed as follows:

**Article 1**  
**Areas of cooperation**

The United Nations and Interpol undertake to cooperate in the following fields, through their appropriate bodies:

- (a) Responding to the needs of the international community in the face of both national and transnational crime;



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(b) Assisting the international community in achieving the goals of preventing crime within and among States and improving the response to crime, in particular, through police training and public awareness campaigns aimed at alerting the public to the considerable threat posed by certain types of crime;

(c) Assisting States, in particular in their efforts to combat organized criminal groups involved in such forms of crime as money-laundering, illicit traffic in human beings, offenses against minors, drug trafficking, as well as violations of international environmental and humanitarian laws;

(d) Cooperating, where appropriate, in the implementation of the mandates of international judicial institutions such as the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 and the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994, which have been or may be established by the United Nations;

(e) Cooperating, when requested by the United Nations and as appropriate, in respect of carrying out investigations and any other police-related matters in the context of peace-keeping and similar operations;

(f) Examining the possibility of establishing through special arrangements with Offices and Programmes concerned common or linked computerized databases relating to penal law, to avoid undesirable duplication between them with respect to the collection and analysis of such information.

## **Article 2**

### **Consultation and cooperation**

1. The United Nations and Interpol shall exchange views, when appropriate, on policy issues within their respective competence and consult regularly on matters of common interest with a view to achieving their objectives and coordinating their



positions and activities. When appropriate, they will also hold consultations on the most effective way of organizing particular activities of common interest related to their respective mandates and on the optimum use of their resources in connection with such activities.

2. To this end, the United Nations and Interpol shall set up appropriate structures for such consultations as and when necessary.

### **Article 3**

#### **Exchange of information and documents**

The United Nations and Interpol shall make every effort to achieve the best use of available information related to the issues of common interest. To that end, and subject to necessary limitations and their internal regulations concerning the safeguarding of confidential or semi-confidential material and information, they shall arrange for the exchange of information and documents of common interest.

### **Article 4**

#### **Technical cooperation**

1. Should the activities of the United Nations and of Interpol in fields of common interest so dictate, either Organization may request the cooperation of the other whenever the latter Organization is in a position to help develop the former's activities.

2. The United Nations and Interpol shall endeavour, insofar as possible and in compliance with their constituent instruments and the decisions of their competent bodies, to respond favourably to such requests for cooperation in accordance with procedures and arrangements to be mutually agreed upon.

3. The United Nations and Interpol shall cooperate, when appropriate and to the extent possible, in evaluating projects and programmes of common interest that relate to the areas of their respective competence. Interpol agrees in this regard to assist the United Nations upon request in reviewing national, regional or global crime prevention and criminal justice projects and programmes falling within the area of its expertise.



4. The United Nations and Interpol shall deepen their dialogue and promote the undertaking of joint studies and the provision of advisory services and technical assistance, regarding the mutually-reinforcing interrelationship between crime prevention, administration of justice and respect for human rights.

**Article 5**  
**Joint action**

The United Nations and Interpol may, through special arrangements, decide to act jointly in the implementation of projects that are of common interest. The special arrangements shall define the modalities for the participation of each Organization in such projects and shall determine the expenses payable by each of them.

**Article 6**  
**Reciprocal representation**

1. In conformity with General Assembly resolution 51/1 of 22 October 1996, Interpol may participate in the sessions and work of the General Assembly of the United Nations as an observer.

2. Subject to such decisions as may be taken by its other competent bodies concerning the attendance of its meetings by observers, the United Nations shall, subject to the rules of procedure of the bodies concerned, invite Interpol to send representatives to United Nations meetings and conferences where observers are allowed, whenever matters of interest to Interpol are discussed. The provisions of this paragraph shall, in particular, be observed with regard to United Nations meetings and seminars and conferences on the prevention of crime.

3. Subject to such decisions as may be taken by its competent bodies concerning the attendance of its meetings by observers, Interpol shall invite the United Nations to send representatives to all its meetings and conferences where observers are allowed, whenever matters of interest to the United Nations are discussed.

4. The United Nations and Interpol shall make every effort to ensure that if one of them is involved in organizing an international meeting for the consideration of the



issues which fall within the competence of the other, representatives of the latter will be invited to attend that meeting.

**Article 7**  
**Cooperation between the Secretariats**

1. The Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of Interpol shall consult from time to time regarding the implementation of their respective responsibilities under this Agreement and other issues of common interest.
2. The Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of Interpol shall make appropriate administrative arrangements to ensure effective cooperation and liaison between the Secretariats of the two Organizations.

**Article 8**  
**Personnel arrangements**

Subject to their relevant internal regulations, the United Nations and Interpol shall examine the possibility of organizing the exchange of personnel on a temporary basis. They will enter into special arrangements, if necessary, for that purpose.

**Article 9**  
**Implementation of the Agreement**

The United Nations and Interpol may, if necessary, enter into supplementary arrangements for the implementation of the present Agreement.

**Article 10**  
**Entry into force, amendments and duration**

1. This Agreement shall enter into force following the exchange of written notifications confirming the completion by both Organizations of their internal requirements in this respect.
2. This Agreement may be amended by mutual consent between the United Nations and Interpol expressed in writing.



3. Either of the Organizations may terminate this Agreement by giving six months' written notice to the other party.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the undersigned duly authorized representatives of the United Nations and Interpol, have signed the present Agreement.

Done at New York on 8 July 1997 in two copies in English and French, each text being equally authentic. One of the original copies in English and French will be deposited with the United Nations and the other will be deposited with Interpol.

**For the United Nations:**

**For the International Criminal  
Police Organization - Interpol:**

Kofi A. Annan  
Secretary-General

Toshinori Kanemoto  
President