This Annual Report presents some of the highlights of our activities during 2018 to support our 194 member countries to fight transnational crime. More information about all our activities can be found on our website: www.interpol.int
SECRETARY GENERAL’S FOREWORD

I am proud to introduce the 2018 Annual Report, which presents some of the highlights of our work to support member countries.

Crime is increasingly global which means international cooperation between police, time zones and languages is more essential than ever. Criminals and terrorists often travel with false identities, making biometric data and information on stolen travel documents essential to detect and arrest them.

Our databases form the heart of our services to countries, with technology enabling real-time access to frontline officers, such as at borders. Police worldwide queried our databases 5.4 billion times this year, with 1.1 million ‘hits’, each one advancing an investigation somewhere in the world.

We provided operational support to countries across our global programmes of counter-terrorism, cybercrime, and organized and emerging crime. These operations are often preceded by capacity building and training, to ensure a lasting impact in each country.

Our activities are guided by our governing body, the General Assembly, which represents all our membership and which met this year in Dubai in November.

Crimes and criminals are constantly innovating; so we commit to always looking forward and striving to continuously improve our support and services to our membership. Together, we can make the world a safer place.

"The transnational threat landscape has evolved to pose new and increasingly complex challenges. Embracing and strengthening international law enforcement cooperation is the only way to stay ahead of the curve."

Jürgen Stock
Secretary General
DATABASE HIGHLIGHTS

1. DATABASE HIGHLIGHTS

172: The number of times per second that police worldwide query our databases. In 2018, there were 5.4 billion searches in total (+18% on 2017).

1.1m: The number of hits against our databases in 2018. Of these, 712,000 were hits on nominals, 289,000 were travel documents and 143,000 were stolen vehicles.

91m: The number of records in our databases (+11% on 2017)

170 COUNTRIES EXTENDING ACCESS

FRONTLINE ACCESS TO DATA

At the end of 2018, a total of 170 countries were extending access to our secure I-24/7 network beyond their National Central Bureau (NCB) to specialized national units or frontline officers. Border officials can then access our databases in real-time, for information such as wanted persons, stolen travel documents or stolen vehicles. Using either our mobile or fixed technology (MIND/FIND), this helps them to identify people attempting to enter a country illegally or returning foreign terrorist fighters, for example.

CURTAILING FOREIGN TERRORIST FIGHTERS

Databases are at the heart of our counter-terrorism operations, especially those which can restrict travel. Our database contains details of around 48,700 foreign terrorist fighters, which can prove vital in identifying returnees. Data is collected from a number of hotspots including borders, battlefields and prisons.

SUPPORTING SECURITY FOR MAJOR EVENTS

INTERPOL Major Events Support Teams assisted 10 major sporting and political events in 2018. These teams support security at the event by accessing our databases on biometrics, travel documents, trafficked vehicles and firearms and the IDs of foreign terrorist fighters. The knowledge transfer, best practices and training efforts involved in these - often short-term - events create a lasting legacy which can be put to use in the future.

STADIA Knowledge Management System was launched in October, supporting the security of major events, such as sporting and political events. It provides a dynamic platform for viewing videos, presentations, reports, media and social media feeds.
To make the most of criminal data requires analysis to convert it to actionable intelligence. In addition to harnessing data to identify suspects, cross-check reports and provide investigative leads, we manage dedicated crime analysis files. These combine information from databases and a variety of other sources to provide insight into the criminal landscape today - and tomorrow. Our Drugs Analysis File received input from 114 countries in 2018, while other files help provide intelligence on explosives, illicit goods, doping and organized crime.

**SUSPECTS IDENTIFIED BY FACIAL MATCH**

A Slovak national aged 33, wanted by the Czech Republic for a murder 10 years ago, was identified thanks to our new facial recognition database launched in 2016. Detained by police in Argentina as part of an investigation, his photo was sent to us for comparison, resulting in a match against the subject of a Red Notice.

INTERPOL’s Fugitive unit received intelligence from NCB Warsaw that a Polish woman wanted for money laundering and drug trafficking might be living under a false identity in Buenos Aires, Argentina. A photo supplied by NCB Buenos Aires matched one in our facial database, and she consequently confessed to her true identity.

They were two of 288 faces identified this year, thanks to the system which matches the visual pointers of the face against images held in our criminal databases. It now contains more than 44,000 images from 137 countries.

**NOTICES**

Our colour-coded notices are international requests for cooperation or alerts allowing police in member countries to share critical crime-related information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Wanted persons</th>
<th>Missing persons</th>
<th>ALL NOTICES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Issued in 2018</td>
<td>13,516</td>
<td>2,397</td>
<td>21,025</td>
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<tr>
<td>Valid at end 2018</td>
<td>57,347</td>
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COUNTERING TERRORISM

PREVENTING HOMEMADE EXPLOSIVES ATTACKS

Project Watchmaker alerts law enforcement officials worldwide about people using or manufacturing improvised explosive devices. An operation in December saw officers in Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines exchange watchlists of suspected bombmakers to crosscheck their potential movement across borders.

FACT

Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) are the most widespread form of explosives in the world, killing and injuring thousands of people every year. The favoured weapons of terrorists, they are often made using common household products.

“Conflict zone battlefields can provide law enforcement with the information and evidence they need to identify and arrest foreign terrorist fighters who may be travelling to other conflicts or returning home.”
Our Battlefield Evidence Collection Project organized training for 40 Iraqi personnel on preserving the crime scene in a battlefield environment, backed up by guidelines and documentation produced in collaboration with the NATO Stability Policing Centre of Excellence.

FIGHTING TERRORISM THROUGH BIOMETRICS

Biometric data – such as facial images and fingerprints – can lead to the accurate identification of foreign terrorist fighters and other terrorist suspects using a false identity. Project First (Facial, Imaging, Recognition, Searching and Tracking) helps countries share this biometric data which can be captured by frontline officers using mobile equipment and searched against other databases.

In 2018, data collection operations at prisons in Djibouti, Iraq, Mali, Niger and the Philippines led member countries to issue 581 Blue Notices seeking additional information on terrorist convicts. Of these, six ‘hits’ revealed profiles known in INTERPOL’s databases.

MI-LEX: MILITARY TO LAW ENFORCEMENT DATA EXCHANGE
BRINGING BATTLEFIELD INFORMATION TO FRONTLINE OFFICERS

Our Mi-Lex exchange model is the first of its kind, allowing military first responders to share declassified information about foreign terrorist fighters collected from the battlefield with INTERPOL. Authorized frontline law enforcement users in our member countries can then access this information to identify them.

1. Military collects information from battlefield during operations
2. Information is declassified and shared with the relevant INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB)
3. INTERPOL NCB processes criminal data according to INTERPOL’s rules
4. Information is entered into our global databases and analytical files
5. Authorized frontline officers in member countries access the information via our secure communications network

1,000 fingerprints
14,000 facial images
Human trafficking, people smuggling, sexual abuse and forced labour are just some of the dangers that vulnerable sectors of the population face worldwide. Children in particular are in need of protection. We are committed to fighting all forms of exploitation.

**ANALYSING VIRTUAL CLUES TO PROTECT REAL CHILDREN**

Sophisticated software helps make connections between victims, abusers and places helping track down criminals and put an end to children’s suffering.

A new version of our International Child Sexual Exploitation database was launched in June, making it simpler to populate the database with new images and videos thanks to a standalone tool for uploads outside the database. Compatibility with national databases is being pilot tested to further boost data exchange possibilities.

“OUR operations show the power of INTERPOL providing a platform for participating countries - but behind the numbers is always a human story that is accompanied by a lot of suffering.”
OPERATION SAWYAN in Sudan saw 85 minors rescued from criminal networks involved in illegal migration, child labour and exploitation, and forced begging. Many were discovered working under extreme conditions in illegally operated gold mines. Fourteen suspected traffickers were arrested; 12 of whom were women.

OPERATION LIBERTAD

Nearly 350 potential victims of sexual exploitation and forced labour were rescued as part of Operation Libertad in April, involving 13 countries in the Caribbean, and Central and South America. In addition to coordinated police raids, searches were carried out against our criminal databases, generating 30 hits, including 25 stolen or lost travel documents. Computer equipment, mobile phones and cash were also seized.

A BETTER LIFE?

People smugglers target the most desperate and vulnerable members of society who are seeking a better life. One of our priorities in 2018 was identifying new – and often very inventive – modus operandi. As we have been confronted with increasing numbers of cases of false employment to obtain visas and work permits, we published a Purple Notice to alert member countries to this.

VICTIM-CENTRIC APPROACH

Workshops designed to strengthen our Specialized Operational Network against People Smuggling in Central and South America featured scenario-based exercises to allow investigators to fine-tune their interview techniques for victims. Ever aware of the need for a holistic and international approach to combating people smuggling, we welcomed the active participation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Organization for Migration at these sessions held in 2018.
Our ASEAN Cyber Capability Desk works with the 10 countries that make up the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to support their investigations, operations and intelligence. Information is gathered from member countries and private partners who are cyber threat intelligence companies, and this is turned into actionable intelligence. We plan to set up similar desks in our other regions.

"A cyber aspect is interwoven into all facets of our lives, and unfortunately, also into the actions of criminals. The Cyber Capability Desk is a fundamental pillar of our commitment to fight cybercrime."

The Cyber Fusion Centre serves as a secure hub to analyse cyber data received from private sector partners, academia and member countries. During 2018, it produced 246 Cyber Activity Reports for member countries, containing actionable intelligence that led to many successful operations.
Virtual money can cross borders so fluidly that it is challenging for national police to investigate its use in criminal activities without international support. Altcoins – a rival to Bitcoins – were the focus of the INTERPOL Working Group on Darknet and Cryptocurrencies at its second meeting co-hosted by Germany’s Bavarian State Ministry of Justice.

There is an increase in cyberattacks targeting or using Internet of Things (IoT) devices (home devices connected to the Internet, such as televisions and video cameras). The Digital Security Challenge in February brought 43 cybercrime investigators and digital forensics experts from 23 countries together to investigate a simulated cyberattack on a bank launched through an IoT device.

The challenge simulates emerging modus operandi and the hurdles facing investigators, helping police to develop the necessary skills, such as how to collect evidence from connected devices. It was organized with INTERPOL Austria and two private sector partners.

A comprehensive cybercrime training curriculum combining e-learning and classroom training equips participants to deal with evolving crimes in the digital arena. In 2018, we delivered training courses to 164 participants from 61 member countries, including first responders, cybercrime investigators, cyber intelligence analysts, decision-makers, prosecutors and judges.

More than 2,000 cryptocurrencies already exist and the number is increasing every day.

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PROMOTING BORDER INTEGRITY

FACT

Our Stolen and Lost Travel Documents database was searched nearly 3 billion times in 2018 by officials worldwide, resulting in more than 289,000 positive matches.

SCREENING SUMMER TRAVELLERS

Under Operation Neptune, we deployed officers to 11 Mediterranean seaports to assist local authorities to screen travellers and detect potential terrorists during the summer tourist season.

This counter-terrorism sea border operation concentrated on maritime routes between North Africa and Southern Europe used by terrorists and traffickers. It involved six countries, and was supported by the World Customs Organization and Frontex.

Searches of our databases resulted in the detection of four suspected foreign terrorist fighters, one missing person and 23 people travelling on stolen or lost travel documents.

BORDER SECURITY TRAINING AFFIRMS WOMEN’S ROLE AT THE FRONTLINE

A 10-day integrated border management course brought together 20 female police and immigration officers from nine Association of Southeast Asian Nations who learned how to spot fake documents and identify human trafficking victims. Underscoring the importance of developing the skills of women in law enforcement, this was the first INTERPOL border management training course to be offered exclusively to female participants.

“When officers on the frontlines have access to critical information at their fingertips, they can quickly identify and react to potential threats, thereby increasing national, regional and international security.”
PREVENTING FOREIGN TERRORIST FIGHTER TRAVEL

Our Integrated Border Management Task Force helps member countries to enhance their border security. From August 2017 to December 2018 it supported Project Riptide, which aimed to prevent Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) transiting through land, air and sea border points in Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines.

Task force members supported 15 operations, trained 835 frontline officers on how to identify FTFs using our databases and technology, and helped strengthen cooperation among maritime and border agencies in this tri-border region. It led to the arrest of 61 transnational smugglers and fugitives and sharing of information on 105 FTFs.

CRACKING DOWN ON TRAVEL DOCUMENT FRAUD

INTERPOL and Frontex are joining forces through Project Fields, to see how document checks at EU border points can be improved and tackle the misuse of travel documents by connecting INTERPOL’s Dial-Doc initiative and Frontex’s Quick Check Cards. Operational and technical experts from seven countries met to review and shape future best practices and standards for travel document verification.

STRENGTHENING POLICE INFORMATION EXCHANGE IN AFRICA

The I-ONE initiative launched in April 2018 to upgrade equipment in 31 African National Central Bureaus. With border points serving as critical locations for detecting criminals on the move, I-ONE will help newly modernized NCBs give frontline police at airports, seaports and land border crossings access to our secure 1-24/7 network and pave the way for systematic and automatic traveller screening.
People tend to associate trafficking with drugs and weapons but there is no limit to the number of illicit goods inundating the market. Some are genuine products which have been stolen while others are dangerous counterfeits – food, medicines, spare parts and even toys. Nothing is sacred: there is also a lucrative black market in cultural property with strong links to organized crime.

ORDINARY CONSUMERS AT RISK
No product is safe from being falsified, counterfeited, adulterated or substandard.

FACT
The supply of illicit drugs around the globe is more abundant, more sophisticated and more diverse than it has ever been before.

E-LEARNING ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY IP CRIME
The International Intellectual Property Crime Investigators College is an online training facility for investigators, covering different levels and aspects of IP crime. New courses added in 2018 specialized in counterfeit automotive components and illicit medical products. At end of 2018, it had 17,133 users from 600 agencies in 150 countries.
PROTECTING CULTURAL PROPERTY

UN resolution 73/130 of 2018 underlined the need for countries to establish specialized police units dedicated to the protection of cultural heritage. We provide both tools and training to help officers identify genuine and fake artefacts, make the best possible use of the stolen works of art database and trace trafficking routes.

In 2018, 200 experts from law enforcement and customs agencies, as well as NGOs, public prosecutors, ministries of culture and museums were trained in “Fighting the Illicit Traffic of Cultural Property” workshops.

IDENTIFYING DRUG PACKAGES

Criminals are constantly devising new types of synthetic drugs and creative ways of disguising them for transport. We provided training on our Relief database which stores information about the markings on drug packages and tablet logos, helping law enforcement make the connection between drug shipments in all parts of the world. The Relief database was integrated into INTERPOL’s systems during 2018, in preparation for its formal launch in 2019.

HITTING TRAFFICKERS HARD ON ALL FRONTS

Our multi-country operations have proven very successful over the years at targeting a range of illicit goods leading to seizures, arrests and investigations. In 2018, these included:

- **OPERATION LIONFISH**
  - **SCOPE:** 93 countries
  - **PARTICIPANTS:** law enforcement
  - **SEIZURES:** cocaine, heroin, cannabis, captagon
  - **AMOUNT:** 55 tonnes
  - **OUTCOME:** 1,300 arrests

- **OPERATION PANGEA XI**
  - **SCOPE:** 117 countries
  - **PARTICIPANTS:** police, customs, drug regulators, private sector
  - **SEIZURES:** illicit medicines and medical devices
  - **AMOUNT:** 500 tonnes
  - **OUTCOME:** 36 arrests, 3,782 websites shut down

- **OPERATION OPSON VII**
  - **SCOPE:** 67 countries
  - **PARTICIPANTS:** police, customs, food regulators, private sector
  - **SEIZURES:** counterfeit and substandard food and drink
  - **AMOUNT:** 3,620 tonnes and 9.7 million litres
  - **OUTCOME:** 749 arrests, 66 illegal factories shut down

- **OPERATION TRIGGER IV**
  - **SCOPE:** Middle East and North Africa region
  - **PARTICIPANTS:** land, air and sea border police
  - **SEIZURES:** firearms, drugs, cash
  - **AMOUNT:** 57 firearms, EUR 1.5 million cash and drugs
  - **OUTCOME:** 17 arrests

- **Going global on drugs**

- **Stamping down on illicit online pharmaceuticals**

- **Unravelling links between organised crime and terrorism**

- **Protecting the unsuspecting public**

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- **Protecting the unsuspecting public**
Operation Thunderstorm was the first multi-agency law-enforcement operation targeting marine pollution crime on a global scale. It revealed hundreds of violations and exposed serious cases of contamination worldwide: illegal discharges from vessels, ocean dumping, ship breaking, land-based marine pollution (runoff from land and rivers), as well as violations of ship emissions regulations. In all, 58 countries worldwide participated in the tactical phase throughout October. Some 15,000 inspections revealed more than 1,500 marine pollution-related violations and led to 701 investigations being initiated with many resulting in subsequent fines and prosecutions.
ANNUAL REPORT 2018

REGIONAL TRAINING LOOKS AT BIGGER PICTURE

A training course on environmental crime held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso was attended by 30 representatives of various security agencies and highlighted the fact that environmental crime often occurs hand in hand with other offences such as travel document fraud, corruption, money laundering and even murder.

FORESTRY CRIME: NOT YET OUT OF THE WOODS

Our environmental crime investigations have pinpointed multiple ways in which criminals break the law throughout the logging chain: from bribes, corruption and fake licences to illegal land conversion and timber export.

A multi-stakeholder initiative backed by the Norwegian government launched in 2018 will take advantage of shared expertise and networks to assist countries in Latin America and Southeast Asia in addressing forestry crime.

We are also reaching out to the private sector to explore how best to harness the potential of modern technology, for example to remotely monitor and identify logging concessions and illegal logging sites.

This was high on the agenda of September’s INTERPOL Global Forestry Crime Conference, attended by 200 experts from multiple sectors.

We issued four Purple Notices in 2018 to alert police worldwide about fisheries crime modus operandi; one was on fraudulent abuse of flag state registries for fishing vessels, and three were to provide information on protected species.

FACT

An INTERPOL survey showed that 84% of responding countries reported convergence of environmental crime with other crimes.

Fishing vessel STS-50 was seized in Indonesia in August following two years of investigation into its illegal toothfish cargo and movements. The vessel had changed name and country flag several times in a bid to evade justice. Our Global Fisheries Enforcement Unit coordinated the investigation, supporting law enforcement in 11 countries in the tracking, arrest, investigation and prosecution stages.

DIGITAL FORENSICS ON SHIPS

Electronic equipment on vessels can reveal important digital evidence to support investigations into crimes as diverse as fisheries crime, maritime piracy, and trafficking in drugs, firearms and people. It can provide information on the criminal networks involved, trafficking routes and modus operandi.

In December, we held our first Digital Forensics on Shipborne Equipment seminar, which included case studies and hands-on exercises to help investigators better understand the challenges and opportunities.
“Our world is facing unprecedented changes which present huge challenges to public security. To overcome them, we need to build a bridge to the future.”

**KIM JONG YANG, PRESIDENT.**

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**INTERPOL’S SUPREME GOVERNING BODY**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**194 MEMBER COUNTRIES**

**DETERMINES**
- Policies
- Resources
- Working methods
- Finances
- Programme of activities

**ELECTS**
- The Executive Committee

**DECIDES**
- Decisions are made through Resolutions
- Each member country has one vote, each carrying equal weight

**WHO ATTENDS?**
- Senior law enforcement officials including Ministers and Chiefs of Police
- Observers from partner organizations
- Keynote speakers from academia and the private sector
87th General Assembly

The 87th session of the INTERPOL General Assembly took place in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 18-21 November 2018. It brought together some 1,000 senior law enforcement officials from 180 countries. They discussed a range of policing issues such as the threats and opportunities posed by technology for police, as well as taking institutional decisions.

Kim Jong Yang of the Republic of Korea was elected as the Organization’s new President, replacing Meng Hongwei of China who resigned in October.

The Assembly elected six new members of the Executive Committee, the 13-member body that provides guidance and direction to the Organization, meeting three times a year.

The General Assembly also voted to accept two new member countries, Kiribati and Vanuatu, bringing the Organization’s membership to 194.

The exchange of criminal data via INTERPOL’s network requires a solid and effective legal framework. To ensure the Organization remains at the forefront of international criminal data processing, the General Assembly approved the creation of a working group to review our Rules on the Processing of Data.

A review of our governance structure was also endorsed by the General Assembly to meet the increasing demands placed on the Organization and ensure we remain well-suited to the international environment in which we operate.

Regional Conferences

The 46th Regional Conference took place in Dublin, Ireland, from 16-18 May, attended by 130 senior police officials from 52 countries.

The 24th Americas Regional Conference took place from 10-12 July in Punta del Este, Uruguay, bringing together 80 participants from 31 countries.

The conferences addressed organized crime, cybercrime and counter-terrorism.

Heads of Bureaus

The Heads of INTERPOL’s National Central Bureaus gathered for their 14th annual conference from 10-12 April 2018. This forum enables them to share information, exchange ideas and best practices and be updated on the latest activities and new resources of the Organization.

Leadership for Women in Law Enforcement

Women in law enforcement face particular challenges such as gender stereotyping, balancing work and family life, and opportunities to reach leadership positions.

To help overcome these issues, we held a five-day seminar in Singapore entitled Leadership for Women in Law Enforcement. Some 22 senior female police and immigration officers from the 10 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries and Canada gathered to share experiences for creating an inclusive and diverse policing culture in the region.

The seminar offered tools to promote gender diversity and the role of women in law enforcement, and build a strong professional network of female officers.
The total income of the INTERPOL General Secretariat in 2018 was EUR 134 million, an increase of EUR 10 million (+8%) compared to 2017.

Of this, statutory contributions from our member countries totalled EUR 57 million, representing 43% of our income.

The Organization is increasingly seeking additional contributions, mostly from the public sector, to fund the growth in our activities. Voluntary cash contributions have increased by 22 million (93%) during the past five years and now represent one-third of our total income (EUR 45 million in 2018). This has enabled us to deliver and plan more policing projects, without having to significantly increase countries’ statutory contributions.

In-kind contributions such as the free use of equipment, services and buildings were worth EUR 31 million in 2018. We also generate a small amount of our own funding through financial investments.

Our expenditure in 2018 was EUR 130 million (+7% on 2017) covering our policing activities and the corporate services that support and enable these activities.

At the end of the financial year, our budget showed a surplus of EUR 3.8 million, compared to a surplus of EUR 2.1 million in 2017.
The INTERPOL General Secretariat comprises the headquarters in France, the Global Complex for Innovation in Singapore, six regional bureaus in Africa and the Americas, Special representative offices to the African Union, the European Union and the United Nations, and liaison offices in Bangkok and Vienna.

The full audited financial statements are available on www.interpol.int
“We need to focus on innovation, so that our member countries will be better equipped to face the information age and leverage new technologies to fight crime.

Our success is possible only if we all stand united under one common resolve: connecting police for a safer world.”

JÜRGEN STOCK
SECRETARY GENERAL
About INTERPOL

INTERPOL’s role is to enable police in our 194 member countries to work together to fight transnational crime and make the world a safer place. We maintain global databases containing police information on criminals and crime, and we provide operational and forensic support, analysis services and training. These policing capabilities are delivered worldwide and support three global programmes: counter-terrorism, cybercrime, and organized and emerging crime.