



Resolution No. 6

GA-2022-90-RES-06

Subject: Identification of missing persons through optimal use of INTERPOL's I-Familia database

The ICPO-INTERPOL General Assembly, meeting in New Delhi, India, from 18 to 21 October 2022 at its 90th session:

RECOGNIZING the increasing number of unidentified human remains and individuals in relation to missing person cases, global mass migration and human trafficking in INTERPOL member countries,

NOTING that many member countries have missing person investigations that cannot be solved and human remains that cannot be identified using their national systems alone,

ACKNOWLEDGING that the INTERPOL DNA Monitoring Expert Group recommends that identification efforts should apply equally to all and should not take into account a person's wealth, ethnicity or the circumstances of disappearance,

RECALLING INTERPOL's long-standing success in the direct matching of missing persons' DNA profiles with unidentified human remains data stored in the INTERPOL DNA database, and that countries are encouraged to provide INTERPOL both with missing persons' DNA profiles and unidentified human remains data,

FURTHER RECALLING that INTERPOL recommends – in the absence of the missing person's DNA – collecting and comparing the DNA profiles of family members of the missing person in accordance with national law and applicable procedures,

HIGHLIGHTING that INTERPOL's unique I-Familia missing person DNA database, launched in 2021, has already proved successful in helping member countries with the identification of missing persons through DNA kinship matching,

BEARING IN MIND that family members' DNA data are recorded in I-Familia for non-criminal purposes only without nominal information and is not connected to INTERPOL's criminal databases, nor compared against DNA data held by INTERPOL that has been provided for criminal purposes,

EMPHASIZING that I-Familia and INTERPOL's DNA expertise in interpreting DNA matching results is available to all member countries,

CONSIDERING that for the purpose of providing scientific credibility and transparency to member countries, INTERPOL published a forensic peer-reviewed article on the scientific rationale behind I-Familia,

AWARE that accurate DNA data are crucial in order to maximize the effectiveness of I-Familia to help solve international missing person cases through DNA kinship matching,

MINDFUL of the need to comply with national legislation and procedures when sharing DNA profiles,

URGES member countries to make effective use of the I-Familia database, notably through:

- The lawful provision of DNA profiles of unidentified human remains in unsolved national investigations;
- The lawful provision of DNA profiles of biological relatives of missing persons who are the subject of unsolved national investigations;
- Ensuring that the data are accurate, regularly updated and in accordance with the legal and technical requirements as detailed in the I-Familia policy;
- Responding promptly and accurately to requests for further information following a potential biological association report issued by I-Familia;

ASKS that, where necessary, INTERPOL member countries consider making appropriate legislative and policy efforts, including amending existing legislation, to enable the storage and comparison of DNA profiles in the I-Familia database, in order to best meet and fulfil the purposes of the database.

Adopted