



REMARKS

INTERPOL PRESIDENT AHMED NASER AL-RAISI

INTERPOL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

GLASGOW, UNITED KINGDOM

MONDAY 4 NOVEMBER, 2024

The Right Honorable Keir Starmer, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
The Right Honorable Yvette Cooper, Secretary of State for the Home Department
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Ministers and Chiefs of Police,
Heads of Delegations,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 92nd INTERPOL General Assembly here in Glasgow, in Bonny Scotland.

I would like to extend my gratitude to our host country, for organizing this significant event.

The UK's commitment to international cooperation and its unmatched law enforcement capabilities have been invaluable in our collective efforts to combat transnational crime.

Before we begin, I would like to take a moment to thank the Executive Committee, Vice Presidents and delegates for their leadership and commitment to:

- Policing Excellence,
- Neutrality,
- Respect,
- Integrity and teamwork.

Over the past three years, the Executive committee and I took part in many constructive discussions in various areas covered by the organization.

Our key focus has been to:

- Support the INTERPOL vision,
- Mission,
- and strategy
- and to guide and support the Secretary General.

I would also to thank Secretary General Jürgen Stock for his service to INTERPOL.

Over the past decade, Secretary General Stock has led our organization with dedication and a commitment to excellence.

His time in office has brought major progress in international police cooperation and a strong commitment to improving global security.

Dear Secretary General, we are grateful for your contributions and years of dedicated service.

Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to introduce Mr. Valdecy Urquiza of Brazil, who has been proposed by INTERPOL's Executive Committee as a candidate to be the next Secretary General of INTERPOL.

Should his candidacy be endorsed by the General Assembly, Mr. Urquiza would become the first Secretary General from Latin America in our organization's history.

Mr. Urquiza represents the future of INTERPOL—a diverse, tech-forward organization committed to working with its 196 member countries to ensure a safer world for all.

His leadership will be key to foster an inclusive environment where voices from all regions are heard at every level of our leadership. Mr. Urquiza, we are pleased to have you by our side today.

As we gather here today, it is essential to reflect on the year we have had. Last year's General Assembly marked the centenary of INTERPOL.

It was a milestone that underscored our commitment to global policing. The centenary celebrations were not just a commemoration of our past achievements, but also a confirmation of our dedication to evolving and adapting to the challenges of modern-day policing.

During the last General Assembly, we took significant steps to shape the future of our organization.

We approved the draft resolution regarding INTERPOL's Vision 2030, ensuring that we are prepared to tackle the constantly changing faces of crime.

Other resolutions passed, especially those focused on modernizing data processing, will strengthen our internal systems and help us support member countries more effectively.

We also approved resolutions to enhance our operational and strategic partnerships with member countries and partner agencies.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the criminal landscape continues to evolve, and we must stay ahead of it.

From the rise of organized crime, drug trafficking and terrorism to climate change and migration challenges, our ability to adapt and innovate is crucial.

This year's General Assembly presents an opportunity for member countries to engage in fruitful conversations, share intelligence, and enhance collaborative strategies.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Executive Committee sets principles and measures to:

- Achieve the Organization's goals,
- Reviews and approves the annual activities and financial policy,
- and provides guidance between Assembly sessions.

Cross-border collaboration is one of the pillars of our efforts, and it is only through working together that we can effectively combat transnational crime.

If INTERPOL is the global body of international policing, the member countries are the heartbeat and the Executive Committee is the brain.

The Executive Committee members, together with their global counterparts, play a significant role in building and supporting partnerships with our key stakeholders worldwide.

I want to emphasize the important role of the Executive Committee in the organization's governance.

As the decision-making supervisory body with representatives from all INTERPOL regions, the Executive Committee works all year round to implement the INTERPOL strategies that benefit you.

I want to also highlight that the Executive Committee represents you; they are the supreme body of INTERPOL who is represented by the professionals you have chosen to:

- ensure accountability and transparency within the organization,
- oversee the implementation of initiatives and programmes,
- and advocate for the interests and needs of each and every one of our 196 member countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

You have, and continue to, support the Executive Committee and the General Assembly in some of the working groups that help facilitate their mandate.

We are thankful for your support.

Today we bid farewell to nine members of the Executive Committee, who were chosen by you.

Their contributions were instrumental in the success of the centenary General Assembly in Vienna last year, marking a milestone in our collaborative efforts towards global security.

I assure you that you have chosen people who represent you and the region well. And my hope is that you will always choose the best to serve you and the organization.

Thanks to the support of the Executive Committee, the General Secretariat, and the various teams involved, INTERPOL continues to evolve and reinvent itself to remain relevant and efficient across time and geographies.

We share our vision for a safer world with organizations like:

- Ameripol
- AFRIPOL
- Europol
- Frontex
- and the United Nations.

By collaborating and sharing information, we can continue to create a more effective approach to combating crime.

These partnerships allow us to combine strengths and resources, enabling us to make the world a safer place for all.

Since my election, I have worked with my INTERPOL peers to develop and enhance solutions to better support law enforcement personnel around the world.

Under the Executive Committee's direction, we have greatly improved our digital infrastructure to:

- Boost global security operations
- Enabling real-time information sharing
- and collaboration.

Our secure global police communications system, including the INTERPOL Metaverse, and other tools like AVA, INTERPOL's Artificial Intelligence tool, are now available for all member countries to support their operations and capacity building.

This year, we have also deployed our INTERPOL Mobile Device in several countries. This helps us to enhance our ability to share intelligence swiftly and securely.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Data is at the core of what we do. It is the information that we share via our 19 databases that enables INTERPOL to support countries around the world, regardless of their size.

These databases are invaluable tools in our fight against crime, providing crucial intelligence that helps us stay ahead of criminal activities and enhance global security.

Since 2022, the use of these databases has increased by 25%, and over 20 million new entries, bringing our total database content to over 145 million.

I urge all member countries to continue using these databases to support their operations and to keep updating them to strengthen the intelligence efforts of your peers worldwide.

Now, is it possible to create a truly effective INTERPOL without embracing diversity and inclusion?

How can we future-proof our organization without fully reflecting the diversity of our global membership?

This question drives our commitment to inclusion and representation.

With the support of the Executive Committee, we have worked tirelessly to prioritize diversity and inclusion.

Our experience has shown that our commitment is paying off.

Now more than ever, it is crucial to foster a more inclusive and effective INTERPOL to not only futureproof the organization, but also to create a safer world.

This commitment to diversity goes beyond mere representation; it is about ensuring that every voice is heard and valued.

Since my election, as promised during my campaign, INTERPOL has prioritized diversity and inclusion, reflecting its global membership of 196 countries.

We have increased secondment applications and facilitated opportunities for a lot of police officers in 2024.

Financial assistance for secondments has been implemented to support officers from under-represented countries.

Today, I am proud to say that diversity at our headquarters has grown from 108 nationalities in 2021 to 134 in 2024, with a more balanced distribution of managerial positions globally.

Additionally, the Excellence Award and the Global Gender Mainstreaming Program have been introduced to recognize efforts and promote gender-balanced representation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to highlight a few of our collective achievements from the past year.

In 2024, INTERPOL made significant progress in our operations.

Over the past three years INTERPOL has carried out 208 global police operations. Just last year operations led to:

- The arrest of 18,000 suspects

The seizure of:

- 244 tonnes of drugs worth 5.8 billion US dollars.
- More than 10,000 illegal weapons.
- Illegal medical equipment worth over 560 million US dollars.

Operations also led to:

- The blocking of 208 criminal bank accounts.
- The recovery of 406 million US dollars from illegal activities.
- The dismantling of 20 organized groups.

Of course, none of these achievements would have been possible without you.

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to the brave men and women in this room and across the world who have dedicated their lives to protecting civilians.

We are thankful for your service. I also want to once again thank the Executive Committee for their leadership and commitment to the policing world

Ladies and gentlemen,

INTERPOL is here to serve all its member countries. We are here to support everyone.

No country is too big or too small. No country is too rich or too poor. We are all equal. We are here for you!

Our mission is to ensure that every member country, regardless of its size or resources, has the tools and support needed to combat crime effectively.

We are committed to standing by you, uplifting you, and empowering you as we face – together – the constantly changing landscape of crime.

Now, I would like to leave you with one question:

How can we shape the future if we do not learn from each other and share our collective wisdom?

Over the next few days, let's work together to support the global policing community. Let's find new ways to effectively combat the evolving landscape of crime. Let's remain vigilant and adaptable.

Let's embrace innovation and technology to stay ahead of the curve. Let's ensure we are always one step ahead of those who seek to do harm.

And most importantly, let's remain committed to our core values of:

- Integrity,
- Impartiality,
- Diversity,
- and respect.

Thank you,
Merci,
Gracias,
and Shukran.