



REMARKS

by

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Chiefs of Police Conference of South Asia And Neighbouring Countries on curbing Violent Extremism and Transnational Crime

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Dhaka, Bangladesh

Chair and Host of this Conference, Inspector General of Bangladesh Police;

Excellency, Minister of Home Affairs, People's Republic of Bangladesh;

Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs;

Additional Inspector General;

Chiefs of Police from South Asia and Neighbouring Countries;

Heads of Delegations; Heads of INTERPOL National Central Bureaus; Members of the Diplomatic Core;

Excellencies; Distinguished Guests;

Ladies & Gentlemen;

Shuvo Sokal.

Good morning.

Before I begin, let me convey that INTERPOL joins the United Nations Security Council in strongly condemning the recent terrorist attack in Kabul, Afghanistan at the Sardar Mohammed Daud Khan hospital just four days ago, on Wednesday, the 8th of March. Your Excellency, Deputy Minister of Security, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan – INTERPOL will continue to support the efforts of police forces in your country in fighting terrorism and transnational crime.

Excellencies; Ladies and Gentlemen;

Traditionally, law enforcement entails duty in a national service. But in today's world – the work of a police officer is also often impacted by what goes on beyond national jurisdictions.

Contemporary law enforcement agencies, and indeed Ministries of Home or Interior often face very direct

consequences of criminal thinking, propaganda or actions in another part of the world.

And this is why it is increasingly important to stay connected with each other; cooperate with each other; and importantly – build trust among police entities operating in different countries. Fostering this cooperation and building such trust across national borders – is the very purpose of this conference.

It is truly an honour for me as INTERPOL Secretary General to address this distinguished audience assembled here today in Dhaka. I thank the Bangladeshi authorities for having invited INTERPOL here in jointly hosting this conference.

Under the Inspector General's leadership, no stones have been left unturned in providing us with an excellent setting to hold fruitful discussions.

Given the national, regional or global threat landscapes that we operate in, such discussion and deliberation is indeed fundamental to making ours a safer world.

It is a world where timely sharing of information through trusted channels can save human lives. Unchecked financial activity, criminal recruiting from vulnerable communities, or procuring of illicit weapons in one part of the world – could lead to deadly consequences elsewhere. And let us not forget that in this digital era, crime could – and unfortunately does – strike in a few seconds.

The need for sharing is all-encompassing: be it between countries located in distant parts of the world, in neighbouring regions, or even just next door to each other. INTERPOL believes, and has believed so since its creation almost a century ago – that enhanced global sharing between

police agencies helps better avert crime, respond to incidents and facilitate transnational investigations.

This is why in the aftermath of the July terror attack here in this very city last year, INTERPOL had offered full support to Bangladesh with its global policing capabilities, and use of its communication system for the sharing of information.

INTERPOL has observed with keenness the continued efforts of Bangladesh Police in fighting crime, and the country's Counter Terrorism initiatives. In fact, our organization is always willing and eager to learn from your rich policing experiences.

This is also why INTERPOL urges its member countries to second more officials – i.e. send police officers to work at our organization for fixed time periods. Because it is the national level experience and skills that police officers – for example, from South Asia and neighbouring regions – bring to

international police cooperation, that helps INTERPOL support its member countries better. In turn, seconded officers take back deeper knowledge of INTERPOL's policing capabilities to better assist their own home administrations in countering transnational crimes.

Excellencies; Ladies and Gentlemen; while South Asia continues to face grave challenges emanating from terrorist activity, it also tackles transnational threats such as those emanating from illicit trafficking in drugs, firearms and human beings.

Tomorrow's policing success would increasingly depend on continued fostering of strong intra and inter regional cooperation and information sharing; while not forgetting the critical need for global exchange too.

This is exactly what INTERPOL's policing capabilities help provide: the option to its member countries for selecting information to be shared with a single country, a group or groups of countries, or to INTERPOL's worldwide membership of 190 countries.

Because ultimately, it is the member countries that know best which little or big piece of information should be shared with a present-day police officer who may be operating beyond their national borders, but working towards a common goal.

I am sure the next few days will help us all focus better on this need for regional and international police cooperation. Thank you very much – and I wish you all a very successful conference.