



# Concluding Remarks

by

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## SECOND MEETING OF POLICE CHIEFS FROM THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

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Your Excellencies,

Chiefs of Police,

Secretary General of the Arab Interior Ministers Council,

Vice-President of the Executive Committee,

Director of GCCPOL,

Heads of Delegation,

Dear Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon. Masa'a Alkhair.

1. Before I begin, I must say that today, when innocent lives were once again lost to multiple acts of terrorism – our collective determination to work together must become even stronger. I am referring to the bombing in Nigeria this morning, in which over 50 worshippers inside a mosque have been killed – and the reported death of over 20 people in northern Iraq from another attack.
  
2. In the face of these realities, INTERPOL continues to step up its efforts in strengthening cross-border police cooperation, across all regions of the world.
  
3. And thus, as we come to the end of a day full of rousing discussions and important exchanges, I would like to thank you all for your valued participation. The efforts each of you has made to travel here to Lyon, the time you have taken from your busy schedules, and the astute inputs which you gave us today – are enormously appreciated.

4. I would like to express my particular gratitude to Dr. Koman for his excellent keynote address and interesting contributions to this meeting. I thank him once again for his unswerving support for INTERPOL, and for his generous welcome at the numerous meetings I have attended in Tunis.
  
5. We have heard updates on INTERPOL's three global crime programmes, been briefed on the activities led by INTERPOL in the region, and listened to information regarding the status of international police cooperation through INTERPOL channels.
  
6. The General Secretariat has taken note of the updates provided by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Consultative Group on the Establishment of Regional Presence in the Middle East and North Africa. We will continue to support this process and take action on the recommendations made.

7. We also heard from our Arab membership about their experiences and assessments of crime threats from national and regional perspectives.
8. Delegates shared their countries' practices with regard to the use of INTERPOL's databases and communication network, and their ideas for the review of the Organisation's global policing capabilities.
9. The comments and suggestions made regarding the needs of law enforcement in the region, and their expectations of INTERPOL, have been excellent. I am committed to ensuring that the advice and recommendations we heard today are carefully considered and implemented.
10. It is from such direct inputs that we are able to provide our capabilities successfully for your use. An example lies in an INTERPOL Purple Notice on a Trojan Malware "Emotet" to raise awareness for our member countries' law enforcement agencies. Yesterday, the

Arabic version of this Notice was published on INTERPOL's restricted website.

11. As underlined by many of you today, crimes of the digital space require more focus and specialized attention by INTERPOL.
12. We will also continue to expand and develop our cooperation with GCCPOL and AFRIPOL, in order to strengthen the global policing architecture and better serve our membership.
13. Before I conclude, there is one very important thought I want to leave you with.
14. Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen – INTERPOL is *your* organization. It exists for serving the policing needs of the membership. And so does its workforce, which includes officers seconded from our member countries.

15. INTERPOL would benefit vastly from the experience and skills of more seconded officers from the Middle East and North Africa. This is particularly true across our three Global Programs. And I must add, it is extremely important to also have secondments for our legal team, INTERPOL's Office of Legal Affairs.
  
16. In turn, these officers would bring back valuable international experience when they return to their national administrations – and a network with colleagues in the global law enforcement community. It is therefore that I request this region to consider seconding more officers to INTERPOL's offices in 2018.
  
17. Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am eager to return to the region and anticipate many more opportunities to visit your countries in the coming months. It gives me great pleasure to remind you that in 2018, the next session of INTERPOL's General Assembly will be hosted once again in the Middle East and North Africa region. I look forward to seeing many of you in Dubai in November next year.

18. In the meantime, we will remain in close contact and continue to be as responsive as possible to your requests. I hope that we will meet again soon, and I count on your participation and support in the activities we have planned.
  
19. My most sincere thanks, and best wishes for a safe return.