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DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, COORDINATING MINISTER FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AND MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR TEO CHEE HEAN'S SPEECH AT THE INTERPOL MINISTERIAL MEETING, PANEL 1 "THE EVOLUTION AND EXPANSION OF ORGANISED POLICE COOPERATION", AT THE INTERPOL 83RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON 4 NOVEMBER 2014 AT 1010H

His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco

President of INTERPOL, Mrs Mireille Ballestrazzi

Secretary General of INTERPOL, Mr Ronald Noble

Distinguished Colleagues

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. Good morning. It is my pleasure to join you to celebrate 100 years of international policing cooperation. I commend INTERPOL's good work, which has helped to make the world a safer place for everyone.

Globalisation of crime

2. Today, international policing cooperation has become even more important. Globalisation and technology have compressed time and space. One can now fly non-stop half-way around the world in less than a day. A problem in one part of the world can easily affect another. We have seen large numbers of foreigners going to fight in Syria, and viruses jumping across oceans. Organised crime syndicates have little regard for national borders, smuggling illicit drugs, or trafficking in persons. Criminals have also leveraged the widespread use of the Internet to carry out cyber-crimes and cyber-attacks, while terrorists use social media to propagate their extremist ideology far and wide.

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3. No country is immune to these evolving security challenges. This is why we must continue to work together, to tackle these challenges more effectively. What we do within our borders is not enough to keep our own countries and peoples safe. We depend on each other, through cooperation at the bilateral, regional and international level, to collectively keep ourselves safe.

Regional and international cooperation, involving private and people sectors

4. A number of useful mechanisms have been built up over the years at the **regional** level. Europol's work is well known. But there are other initiatives and efforts. For example, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime provides a useful platform to share information, exchange experiences, and build capabilities among ASEAN countries to combat transnational crime such as drug trafficking, illegal immigration, and cyber-crime. Under this umbrella, Singapore is happy to have played a small role as the lead shepherd for fighting cyber-crime and international economic crime by bringing ASEAN countries together through annual roundtables for senior officials and courses to level up knowledge and expertise.

5. The ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime also provides the platform for the 10 ASEAN countries to engage our Northeast Asian dialogue partners, namely, China, Japan and the Republic of Korea. The ASEAN-US Cyber-crime Workshop provided another platform for ASEAN and our US counterparts to combat crime. We certainly welcome more of such interactions with other partners

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and regions, to exchange experiences and information, build capacity, and enhance cooperation.

6. At the **global** level, INTERPOL, with its 100 years of history, has played an increasingly significant role in catalysing international policing cooperation by providing important information sharing and professional expertise, as well as helping countries and police forces to build capacity.

7. With the opening of the INTERPOL Global Complex for Innovation in Singapore next year, INTERPOL will have a third Command and Coordination Centre in addition to the ones in Lyon and Buenos Aires. This new Command and Coordination Centre, in the Asian time zone, means that countries from around the world can plug into INTERPOL's monitoring system, 24/7, 365 days a year. This will help to improve alerts, response coordination, and information sharing – round the clock, around the world.

8. The INTERPOL Stolen and Lost Travel Documents database is a very good example of how only by working together and sharing data, can a service be created that everyone in the global community benefits from. When the database was started in 2002, there were only some 3,900 records from just 10 countries. The database now contains more than 43 million lost or stolen travel documents from 167 countries. In 2013, the database was searched more than 800 million times, resulting in some 67,000 positive hits.

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9. We should also reach out and tap on the strengths and capabilities of stakeholders from the people, public and private sectors. We need all three to work together. Governments hold the legal and regulatory levers, which must be kept updated to deal with rapidly changing criminal tactics. The private sector can be a source of ideas and technology to help develop new policing tools to make crime fighting more effective, and to deal with emerging threats. And community groups can draw in the people sector to help governments raise awareness about new threats, mobilise more volunteers to support policing efforts and take ownership of crime prevention.

Partnerships for the Future

10. While these regional and international initiatives show how much has been done, we must also remember that a lot more needs to be done, not least because of growing transnational and Internet-based crime. We need to work together to arm ourselves with the **crime-fighting tools of the future**.

11. The Digital Crime Centre in the INTERPOL Global Complex for Innovation will partner private sector players to develop advanced tools and techniques to better understand and counter the latest cybercrime trends. These will be made available to INTERPOL member states.

12. Given the growing global concerns over cyber security, and the need to build new capabilities to be future-ready, Singapore also launched our National Cyber Security R&D Programme last year, to support research by academics, researchers

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and companies to boost Singapore's cyber resilience. For a start, seven projects in areas such as mobile security, digital forensics, and cloud data protection will receive funding of US\$33 million over the next two to five years. Singapore will be happy to work with IGCI and other interested INTERPOL member states to synergise our research efforts, and share research findings and innovative solutions.

Conclusion

13. Since INTERPOL was established 100 years ago, it has played an important role in catalysing international policing cooperation at the **regional and global level**, by providing a platform for member countries to **exchange information, build capacity and deepen cooperation**. Building on this strong foundation, we must continue to **build partnerships for the future**, and work together to help us to tackle new and emerging crime and security challenges – as individual countries, and as part of the global community. Together, we can continually build new capabilities and develop new tools and solutions that help us to turn back crime, and keep our people safe and secure.

14. Thank you.