



# INTERPOL

## FACT SHEET

# *INTERPOL: an overview*

**INTERPOL's mission is to enable police around the world to work together to prevent and fight international crime. We offer police a high-tech infrastructure of technical and operational support to meet the growing challenges posed by criminals and crimes that increasingly cross borders, both physically and virtually. Only through international cooperation can police hope to make the world a safer place.**

### ► SUPPORTING POLICE WORLDWIDE

We ensure that police around the world have access to the tools and services necessary to do their jobs effectively. We provide targeted training, investigative support, relevant data and secure communications channels. This combined framework helps police on the ground understand crime trends, analyse information, conduct operations and, ultimately, arrest as many criminals as possible.

A Command and Coordination Centre (CCC) provides 24-hour support to member countries in INTERPOL's four official languages: Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

### ► GLOBAL PRESENCE

The General Secretariat's headquarters are located in Lyon, France and the INTERPOL Global Complex for Innovation (IGCI) is based in Singapore. We operate seven regional offices – in Argentina, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Kenya, Thailand and Zimbabwe – and a representative office at the African Union in Addis Ababa, the European Union in Brussels and the United Nations in New York and the UNODC in Vienne.

Each member country maintains a National Central Bureau (NCB) staffed by national law enforcement officials, which forms the link between national police and INTERPOL's global network.

### ► RULES AND GOVERNANCE

INTERPOL assists international police cooperation even where diplomatic relations do not exist between particular countries; all actions are politically neutral and taken within the limits of existing laws in different countries.

The Secretary General is the Organization's chief executive, and is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day work of the General Secretariat.

Our supreme governing body is the General Assembly, which brings all member countries together once a year to take all major decisions affecting general policy. The 13-member Executive Committee is led by the President and oversees the execution of General Assembly decisions.

### ► FINANCING

INTERPOL is primarily financed by our member countries, whose governments pay annual statutory contributions to the Organization and can make voluntary and in-kind donations. Our total budget in 2019 was 139 million euros.

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## ► ACTIVITIES

Our crime-fighting activities assist member countries through three global programmes:

- **Counter-terrorism** – To prevent and disrupt terrorist activities by identifying members of terrorist networks and their affiliates, and tackling the main factors that enable their activities: travel and mobility, online presence, weapons and materials, and finances.
- **Cybercrime** – Our primary activities target ‘pure cybercrime’ (crimes against computers and information systems). We also fight cyber-enabled crimes, where the use of technology amplifies crimes such as financial fraud and terrorists’ use of social media.
- **Organized and emerging crime** – To target and disrupt transnational organized criminal networks, and to identify, analyse and respond to emerging threats.

## ► CAPABILITIES

Our policing capabilities are the expertise, tools and services that we provide to our member countries.

- **Police data management** – We maintain global databases detailing suspects, travel documents, vehicles, works of art, fingerprints, DNA, firearms, and more, and make these available to frontline officers in real time.
- **Forensics** – Our experts have specialist knowledge of fingerprints, DNA, DVI, facial recognition and digital forensics.
- **Criminal analysis** – By making connections between crimes (people, places, modus operandi), we can establish patterns and trends.
- **Fugitive investigative support** – International fugitives are opportunistic and often dangerous. We work to close the net on criminals who are on the run.
- **Command and Coordination Centre** – The CCC is our first point of contact for countries who need assistance. It operates round the clock from offices in Buenos Aires, Lyon and Singapore.
- **Special projects** – We establish projects to respond to specific trends and issues, such as our Border Management Task Force.
- **Innovation** – Criminals are quick to adopt new technologies and police need to stay ahead of the game. Our Innovation Centre looks at research and development in policing matters.
- **Capacity building and training** – Continuous learning and development is essential for police at all levels. We provide training tailored to the specific needs of our member countries.



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### ► CONTACT INFORMATION:

Contact us via our web site. For matters relating to specific crime cases, please contact your local police or the INTERPOL National Central Bureau in your country.

► **Twitter:** @INTERPOL\_HQ

► **YouTube:** INTERPOLHQ

► **WWW.INTERPOL.INT**

