



## Candidacy speech for the position of Secretary General – Valdecy Urquiza

Your Excellencies,

Mr President, Mr Secretary General, distinguished members of the Executive Committee, Honorable Ministers, Chiefs of Police, Heads of NCBs, my esteemed colleagues,

Before we begin, I want to thank our hosts, the United Kingdom, for welcoming us with such warmth and generosity. This beautiful venue and the hospitality extended to each of us reflect not only their kindness but also their steadfast commitment to the mission and values of INTERPOL.

I also want to take a moment to acknowledge and express my gratitude to Secretary General Jürgen Stock. Under his leadership, INTERPOL has faced and overcome some of the most complex challenges in recent history. Secretary General Stock's dedication, vision, and integrity have strengthened the organization, leaving a lasting legacy that will guide us forward.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am deeply honored to stand before you today. Looking out at this gathering, I'm reminded of the vital role INTERPOL plays in our world.

Our shared work, our unity of purpose—it matters. The threats we face are not contained within borders; they stretch across continents and evolve constantly. Transnational crime has become more sophisticated, more complex, more elusive. And in response, INTERPOL, too, has to adapt, becoming more agile, more innovative, more inclusive.

As we gather here today, we reflect on the successes that bring us pride. But we also know the journey is far from over. The road ahead is challenging, and it will demand our dedication, resilience, and commitment to a mission that unites us all: a safer, more peaceful world. We honor our past achievements by building an organization that's ready to face the threats of tomorrow.

As I reflect upon my years of service with the Brazilian Federal Police and my decade-long commitment to INTERPOL, I am filled with a profound sense of purpose and a clear vision for the future of this vital organization. Serving alongside some of the world's most dedicated law enforcement professionals at the General Secretariat and at the Executive Committee has been a humbling experience and has reinforced my commitment to the values that INTERPOL stands for.

With this sense of duty and purpose, I stand before you with a vision for INTERPOL—one that's diverse, transparent, neutral, and ready for the future. If given the honor to serve as INTERPOL's next Secretary General, I'm committed to a vision that enhances our effectiveness, drives innovation, and builds capacity across our Member Countries.

This vision stands on three pillars:

First, in our world today, technology isn't a luxury—it's a necessity. To keep pace with the threats we face, INTERPOL must be proactive, integrating new technologies that advance our mission. Artificial intelligence, big data, predictive analytics—these tools aren't just buzzwords; they're essential to making our work more effective. We need to give police forces worldwide the resources, the frameworks, and support to manage and analyze data, to share information quickly, and to stay ahead of criminal trends.

Second, to be effective, law enforcement has to be inclusive. INTERPOL has an obligation to represent all voices, from every corner of the globe. We must promote diversity, empower underrepresented voices, and bring every Member Country to the table.

A strong INTERPOL is one that includes everyone. When we respect and elevate diverse perspectives, we get a clearer, more comprehensive approach to global security. And together, we'll be better prepared to meet today's demands head-on.

Third, for INTERPOL to thrive, it must hold itself to the highest standards of integrity and accountability. Transparency builds trust, and trust builds strength. We need robust systems to ensure that INTERPOL's channels are never misused, that our actions reflect our values, and that we protect our data with vigilance. By reinforcing our commitment to transparency and data security, we safeguard INTERPOL's integrity and credibility. We're accountable to our Member Countries and to our communities, and we must act in ways that reflect that responsibility.

Finally, as we embrace this mission, we must also pause to recognize and renew our commitment to those who stand behind it—the men and women of INTERPOL, who give their all to protect our communities and safeguard our values. These individuals don't just work for INTERPOL; they are INTERPOL. Their dedication, their sacrifice, their courage are the pillars upon which our success stands. That's why I am determined to expand our investment in training, support and development. Their sacrifice, their service, and their safety will be valued every step of the way.

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear colleagues,

We all know the road ahead is challenging, but it's also filled with tremendous potential. As we look toward the future and the task of appointing our next Secretary General, I stand before you ready to serve, ready to lead, and ready to build a stronger INTERPOL.

If I am honored with your trust to lead this organization, I will be a Secretary General for all— Africans, Americans, Arabs, Asians, and Europeans. For every one of our member countries. Because at the end of the day, we are in this together, united as one, and it is through our unity that we find our strength.

My commitment is to shape an INTERPOL that doesn't just meet today's demands but anticipates and prepares for the challenges of tomorrow.

Together, we can build an INTERPOL that serves as a beacon of hope and security, standing shoulder to shoulder with every police force, in every country, to create a safer world for all.

Thank you, merci, gracias, shukram.