



**INTERPOL**



**World Health  
Organization**

**COOPERATION AGREEMENT**

**BETWEEN**

**THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL POLICE ORGANIZATION  
(INTERPOL)**

**AND**

**THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
(WHO)**

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## Preamble

**WHEREAS**, the International Criminal Police Organization (hereinafter referred to as "INTERPOL"), having its headquarters in Lyon, France, is an intergovernmental organization whose aims are: (1) to ensure and promote the widest possible mutual assistance between all criminal police authorities within the limits of the laws existing in the different countries and in the spirit of the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights"; and (2) to establish and develop all institutions likely to contribute effectively to the prevention and suppression of ordinary law crimes;

**RECALLING** that under Article 3 of INTERPOL's Constitution, it is strictly forbidden for INTERPOL to undertake any intervention or activities of a political, military, religious or racial character;

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization (hereinafter referred to as "WHO"), having its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, is the directing and coordinating authority on international health, and provides leadership on global health matters, shapes the health research agenda, sets health norms and standards, articulates evidence-based policy options, provides technical support to countries, and monitors and assesses health trends;

**CONSIDERING** Article 41 of INTERPOL's Constitution and Article 27 INTERPOL's Rules on the Processing of Data, which provide the basis for INTERPOL to establish relations and collaborate with other intergovernmental international organizations;

**WHEREAS**, INTERPOL and WHO (hereinafter individually referred to as a "Party" and collectively referred to as "the Parties") have recognized the importance of cooperation between law enforcement and health services in order to effectively address threats posed by health-related crimes, and the need to collaborate towards reinforcing their bilateral cooperation in the cross-cutting fields of health and security; the Parties wish to establish a framework for long-term cooperation to better support their respective memberships in these fields, and to enter into this Cooperation Agreement;

Now, therefore, the Parties decide as follows:

## Article 1

### **Objective and Areas of Collaboration**

1. The objective of this Cooperation Agreement (hereinafter referred to as the "Agreement") is to establish the terms and conditions governing the cooperation between the Parties within their respective mandates and subject to their respective policies and rules, in the cross-cutting fields of health and security to further reach their shared goals and objectives.
2. The Parties intend to collaborate on the following overarching themes under this Agreement.
  - a. Health - Security Interface for public health situations that involves activities that cut across both health and security sectors, namely: (i) Alleged or substantiated malicious use of chemical or radioactive materials and (ii) Unusual, natural, accidental or deliberate biological incidents; (iii) Mass gatherings events including high visibility events.
  - b. Trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal and trafficking in human organs, tissues and cells.
  - c. Illicit production and trade in cross-cutting areas of health and security, namely: (i) illicit production and trade in falsified medicines, medical countermeasures, biologicals and personal protective equipment; (ii) Illicit production and trade (including labelling) of food and non-alcoholic beverages and malicious use of food to deliver hazards to the population; (iii) Illicit production and trade of alcoholic beverages; and (iv) illicit trade in tobacco products, including through the support to the implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products.
3. The above list is not exhaustive and should not be taken to exclude or replace other areas of cooperation between the Parties, which are agreed upon by both Parties in the cross-cutting fields of health and security.
4. The Parties acknowledge that the present Agreement shall not provide a framework for any intervention or activities of a political, military, religious or racial character, within the meaning of Article 3 of INTERPOL's Constitution.

## Article 2

### **Modalities of cooperation**

Consistent with the objective of this Agreement, the Parties shall strive to cooperate in various ways, in accordance with their respective mandates, programmes of work, priorities, policies, rules and regulations, as well as their administrative procedures and practices, as follows:

- a. The Parties may exchange information in the cross-cutting fields of health and security, within the framework of their respective activities, subject to the terms and conditions of Article 4 of this Agreement, with a view to attaining better complementary action and effective coordination between the Parties;
- b. Each Party agrees to make available its experience and expertise to the other Party subject to conditions to be mutually agreed in each case;
- c. The Parties agree to inform each other about the organisation of conferences or other meetings convened under their respective auspices and which relate to the mandate of the other;

- d. Arrangements will be made for reciprocal representation of the Parties at technical conferences or other meetings convened under their respective auspices and dealing with matters in which the other Party has an interest or technical competence, subject to the rules, regulations, resolutions, decisions, practices, policies and procedures applicable to such meetings. For the avoidance of doubt, this Agreement does not give either Party the right to participate in their respective governing body meetings;
- e. The Parties may collaborate on joint technical activities, projects and programmes, capacity-building and training activities, subject to conditions to be mutually agreed in each case;
- f. The Parties agree to inform each other about the existence and development of projects and programmes, capacity building and training activities as they consider matters in which the other Party has an interest or technical competence.
- g. The Parties agree to strive to proactively seek opportunities to enhance joint technical activities, projects and programmes between them within their respective mandates and priorities.
- h. The Parties may promote the dissemination of results of joint technical projects and activities, as appropriate, with the prior written approval of the other Party;
- i. The Parties may promote ways to collaborate with other entities, which could bring further support to areas of mutual interest.

### **Article 3**

#### **Organization of the Cooperation**

1. The Parties agree to constitute, within three (3) months of the signing of this Agreement, a Joint Committee composed of representatives from each Party responsible for the implementation of this Agreement.
2. The Joint Committee shall hold regular meetings, at least every year, including by teleconference, videoconference, and face-to-face meetings, to take stock of the collaboration and joint technical and programmatic activities pursuant to this Agreement and reorient priority areas of collaboration, as needed.
3. The Joint Committee will report on a regular basis, but no less frequently than every three (3) years, in writing on the implementation of this Agreement to their respective Executive Heads, and formulate recommendations for enhancing the cooperation between the Parties in the spirit of this Agreement.
4. When necessary, the Parties agree to conduct consultations for the purposes of coordination and greater efficiency of cooperation provided for in the present Agreement.
5. Each Party will, as it deems appropriate and necessary, bring this Agreement to the attention of their respective staff.

#### Article 4

##### **Exchange of information**

1. Subject to the conclusion of a supplementary arrangement necessary for the specification of the modalities of information sharing and the safeguarding of the confidentiality, security and processing conditions of information exchanged, the Parties may exchange information in the cross-cutting fields of health and security, within the framework of their respective activities.
2. The Parties agree to combine their efforts within their respective mandates and rules to achieve the best use of all available information for the objective of this Agreement as set forth under Article 1.
3. The provision of information by the WHO to INTERPOL shall be subject to the WHO's Data Governance Framework, including, but not limited to, the WHO Data Principles and the WHO Policy on the use and sharing of data collected by WHO in Member States outside the context of public health emergencies and in full compliance with the International Health Regulations (2005).
4. The provision of information by INTERPOL to the WHO shall be subject to INTERPOL's Constitution and Rules, notably INTERPOL's Rules on the Processing of Data, and to the express and specific prior authorization from the source of that information, and shall strictly exclude personal information.
5. Information exchanged between the Parties shall be used exclusively for the purpose of implementing the present Agreement, on a need-to-know basis and with due respect for applicable international law and each Party's mandates and respective rules.
6. When providing information to the other Party, each Party shall ensure that such information is accurate, relevant and kept up-to-date and that its purpose is clearly stated. Each Party shall be responsible for the accuracy and relevancy of the information it provides, and shall retain control over the processing of the information it provides. Prior to using any information provided by the other Party, WHO and INTERPOL must check with the other Party that the information is still accurate and relevant.
7. Nothing in this Article shall be construed as granting direct access to the WHO to the INTERPOL Information System or vice versa.
8. The supplementary arrangement for the specification of the modalities of information sharing and the safeguarding of the confidentiality, security and processing conditions of information exchanged shall be concluded by the Parties within three (3) years from the date of signing of the present Agreement

#### Article 5

##### **Implementation, Financial Obligations, and Fundraising**

1. Implementation of any of the activities outlined in this Agreement will be subject to the availability of financial and human resources for that purpose, as well as each Party's mandate, programme of work, priorities, policies, rules and regulations, as well as its administrative procedures and practices.

2. Unless otherwise agreed between the Parties, each Party shall bear its own costs incurred in the implementation of the present Agreement.
3. The Parties may for the purpose of implementing this Agreement, enter into supplementary implementing arrangements in conformity with their respective internal approval procedures.
4. No transfer of funds between the Parties is envisioned in connection with this Agreement, and any such transfer of funds would be subject to separate agreement between the Parties.
5. Neither Party will engage in fundraising with third parties for activities to be carried out pursuant to this Agreement in the name of, or on behalf of, the other Party, without the prior written approval of the other Party.

#### **Article 6**

##### **Intellectual Property Rights**

Each Party maintains the intellectual property it owns. In the event of joint implementation of activities pursuant to this Agreement which result in the development of intellectual property rights, the provisions regarding such intellectual property rights will be determined by separate agreement between the Parties prior to the dissemination of such intellectual property. A lead publishing Party will be designated for each joint work and will undertake all editorial processes necessary to organize and finalize production of the joint work in consultation with the other Party.

#### **Article 7**

##### **Use of distinctive signs**

1. Neither Party will use the distinctive signs of the other Party, such as their name, acronym, emblem, logo, official seal or trademark of the other Party, its subsidiary bodies, or affiliates, in any way, including in any publication or public document, without the prior written approval of the other Party.
2. Any authorization granted under the present Article may be unilaterally revoked by the Party that granted it, with immediate effect, if it becomes known that the use of its distinctive sign(s) is likely to prejudice its reputation or image.

#### **Article 8**

##### **Disclosure and Publicity**

1. Subject to the provisions of Article 7 above, each Party may acknowledge the existence of this Agreement to the public, as well as general information with respect to the collaboration contemplated herein. Such disclosure will be made in accordance with the disclosing Party's respective disclosure policies, provided that any such disclosure will be consistent with the terms of this Agreement.
2. Neither Party will publicly disclose or make available the content of this Agreement or any clauses of this Agreement without the prior written agreement of the other Party.

**Article 9**  
**Responsibility**

1. Each Party will be solely responsible for the manner in which it carries out its part of the activities under this Agreement. Thus, the Parties shall not hold each other liable for direct, indirect, special, incidental, or consequential damages that are in any way related to any actions undertaken under this Agreement.
2. The Parties have zero tolerance towards any form of sexual harassment, exploitation, abuse and misconduct, as defined in the Parties' respective internal rules and policies. The Parties shall comply with their respective policies dealing with ethics and professional conduct, anti-bribery, anti-corruption, workplace harassment and violence.

**Article 10**  
**Notification and Amendment**

1. Each Party will promptly notify other Party in writing of any anticipated or actual material changes that will affect the execution of this Agreement.
2. This Agreement may be amended by mutual written agreement of the Parties.

**Article 11**  
**Duration and Termination**

1. This Agreement will begin on signature by the authorized official of each Party. If the signing occurs on different dates, this Agreement will take effect on the date of the last signature thereof.
2. Either Party may terminate this Agreement subject to three (3) months' advance written notice to the other Party, unless otherwise agreed to by the Parties in writing. Any such termination will be without prejudice to the orderly completion of any ongoing activity pursuant to this Agreement as of the time of such notice of termination.
3. The obligations under Article 7 (Use of Distinctive Signs) and Article 9 (Responsibility) of the present Agreement and any supplementary arrangements, including for the purpose of implementing Article 4 (Exchange of information) shall continue to be binding on both Parties after the termination of the present Agreement.

**Article 12**  
**Communication of the notices**

All notices to be given under Article 11 of this Agreement must be in writing and sent respectively to the Director-General of WHO or the Secretary General of INTERPOL to the address of their Organization below or their official email account. Any notice may be delivered personally or sent by first class pre-paid registered mail or by email, and it will be deemed to have been served: if by hand, when delivered; if by first class registered mail, 48 hours after posting; and if by email when dispatched provided no delivery failure information is received.

For INTERPOL:

Secretary General  
INTERPOL  
200, quai Charles de Gaulle  
69006 Lyon  
France

Cc.: Executive Director for Partnerships and Planning  
INTERPOL  
200, quai Charles de Gaulle  
69006 Lyon  
France

For WHO:

Director-General  
World Health Organization  
20 Avenue Appia  
CH-1211 Geneva 27  
Switzerland

Cc.: Director, Partnerships and Financing  
World Health Organization  
20 Avenue Appia  
CH-1211 Geneva 27  
Switzerland

### **Article 13**

#### **Dispute Resolution, No Waiver**

1. Any dispute arising from or relating to this Agreement, including its validity, interpretation, or application shall be settled amicably by direct consultations or negotiations between the Parties.
2. Nothing in or relating to this Agreement shall constitute, or be deemed to constitute, a waiver, express or implied, of any of the privileges and immunities enjoyed by INTERPOL and WHO under public international law, international agreements and national laws applicable to them or as submitting either party to the jurisdiction of any national court or tribunal.

In witness whereof, the undersigned duly authorized representatives of INTERPOL and WHO have signed this Agreement in two original copies, in English and French, on the dates provided below under their respective signatures:

**FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL POLICE  
ORGANIZATION - INTERPOL**

**FOR THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION**

  
**Valdecy Urquiza**  
Secretary General

  
**Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**  
Director-General

Date: 19/09/2026

Date: 31 JUL 2026

Place: Lyon

Place: Geneva