



INTERPOL

SPEECH • DISCOURS • DISCURSO • خطابات



**Closing remarks by Mr Khoo Boon Hui
INTERPOL President
79th INTERPOL General Assembly
Doha, Qatar – 11 November 2010**

=====

H.E. Sheikh Abdullah Bin Nasser Bin Khalifa Al Thani;

Mr Ronald K. Noble, INTERPOL Secretary General;

Brigadier Khalifa Al-Nassr, Head of NCB Doha

Distinguished Delegates;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

After four days of lively exchanges of ideas and opinions, we have come to the close of the most successful General Assembly ever. The intensive discourse during the entire conference demonstrates your staunch commitment to bringing our Organization and international police co-operation to the next level. Your active participation was crucial in our continual efforts to make INTERPOL more effective and even more relevant.

We are all on a challenging, yet exciting, journey that makes our Organization even closer and more responsive to the realities of modern-day crime challenges. Through our collective efforts, we have charted the strategic directions of the Organization for the next three years. This will allow us to optimize our limited resources as we strive to provide better services to all member countries. With the overwhelming mandate given to our Secretary General and INTERPOL's strategy of collaborative partnerships with both private and public sectors, I am confident that international police co-operation can be further enhanced.

International police co-operation is more than just building institutions and developing mechanisms and procedures. Personal relationships that are based on mutual trust are

equally critical in successful transnational police co-operation. I hope that over the last few days, we have had ample opportunities to reconnect with old friends and make new ones. Indeed, friendship amongst the law enforcement fraternity bonds us together in ways that transcend language, culture and operational differences.

The success of Operation INFRA-RED is significant because being able to apprehend a fugitive reaffirms the trust the public has in the law enforcement system. Moreover, fugitive investigation has always been a part of INTERPOL's core business since the establishment of our Organization. Notices against fugitives were already issued as early as 1924. These were the forerunners of our present-day Red Notices. As enhancing the international status of our Red Notices is critical to our campaign against transnational crime, I encourage everyone to continue giving your support to the Working Group on Red Notices.

During this General Assembly, we discussed various anti-crime activities by our member countries, particularly on public safety and terrorism, organized crime and fugitive investigation and apprehension. We have adopted resolutions against Environmental Crimes, People Smuggling, Human Trafficking

and Counterfeit Medical Products. These resolutions must not be mere declarations of our noble intentions, but must lead to practical actions at the national level. It is, therefore, important that upon our return to our home country, we start implementing these resolutions.

As we conclude this General Assembly, we also start the implementation of major projects that would revolutionize the way INTERPOL supports its member countries. The unanimous endorsement for the proposed INTERPOL Global Complex in Singapore demonstrates our desire for innovation and the use of the right technology to fight crime and terrorism. I am confident that modern technology, combined with both non-traditional and traditional policing skills, will make a world of difference to the capabilities of all our police forces.

Another major project that we have decided to pursue at this General Assembly is the INTERPOL Travel Document (ITD) Initiative. I fully understand the realities and the challenges associated with this endeavour, but with all your support, nothing is impossible. I look forward to the day when ITD holders will be granted automatic visa-waiver status when travelling on official duties anywhere in the world.

My dear friends and colleagues, let us continue to sustain the momentum and take advantage of the gains achieved in this General Assembly. For the first time in our Organization, we have elected a lady Vice President for Europe in our Executive Committee, Mme Mireille Ballestrazzi. We all look forward to exchanging ideas and sharing inputs with her during the next Executive Committee meetings.

It is now time for action. As leaders, you must show the way and align your organization to the resolutions. Only then will INTERPOL sharpen its edge and thrive in adversity with diversity.

On behalf of INTERPOL, let me express my sincere gratitude to the State of Qatar, to the Ministry of Interior under H.E. Sheikh Abdullah Bin Nasser Bin Khalifa Al Thani, for the warm and exotic hospitality extended to all INTERPOL delegates and guests. Let me also congratulate NCB Doha, in co-operation with the INTERPOL General Secretariat, for delivering this most successful INTERPOL General Assembly ever. These past four days have been a very fruitful and enjoyable experience for all. I am sure that all participants will look back with fond memories of their stay in Doha. I must also thank the Secretary General and his able staff, interpreters

and support staff who have been working diligently behind the scenes.

I look forward to learning about your exciting progress at our next INTERPOL General Assembly in Hanoi next year. I wish you all a safe and pleasant journey back home. Thank you.