

## INTERPOL's submission to the UN Secretariat for a 'New Agenda for Peace'

Our collective peace and security is increasingly under threat as the world is moving closer to the brink of instability, with new crises erupting, and existing ones protracted. Traditional forms of risk prevention are no longer enough to counter the increasingly complex, transnational and borderless modern threats. Security challenges are oftentimes regional and global, directly impacting international security, and threatening the sustainable development of societies worldwide.

In this context, the need for a strengthened approach to peace and security is evident. The security challenges of the 21st century require a concerted, multilateral, inclusive, multi-sectoral response. It is crucial that all actors in the global security architecture share a common understanding of threats and work towards the same outcomes.

Against this background, INTERPOL welcomes the initiative for a comprehensive 'New Agenda for Peace' and thanks the Secretariat for the opportunity to share its recommendations. Below are seven priorities which INTERPOL believes merit inclusion and which reflect the perspective of global law enforcement:

### 1. A concerted response to global threats through strengthened partnerships

The interconnected nature of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requires that any efforts directed at achieving these goals be concerted. Prevailing fragmentation of international cooperation, including law enforcement cooperation, significantly impairs the timely realization of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda. **Stronger cooperation on national, regional and global levels** is necessary and should constitute a prevailing thread that ties together all the objectives set out in the 'New Agenda For Peace'.

Strengthened cooperation must also include **cross-sectoral engagement and multi-stakeholder involvement** both on a strategic and operational level. An inclusive, all-of-industry and all-of-society approach will strengthen international foresight and capacities to identify and adapt to new risks. No single entity can expect to respond effectively to today's transnational security challenges in silos. In this context, INTERPOL has established close cooperation with the UN system, as evidenced by a Cooperation Agreement dating back to 1997. This long-standing relationship was recently reaffirmed through the successful, third review of the UN General Assembly Resolution on cooperation between the two organizations ([A/RES/77/20](#)). To closer align its strategic priorities with the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda, INTERPOL, in 2017, developed its own, parallel goals - the 7 Global Policing Goals (GPGs). The GPGs address security issues of a transnational nature, and play the role of the SDGs for the international security community. All GPGs relate to at least one or more SDGs and each of them are connected to SDG 16 on achieving "peace, justice and strong institutions".

### 2. An effective response to global threats through the avoidance of duplication of efforts

Closely linked to the previous point is the need to **build on existing and proven mechanisms for cooperation**. Fragmentation of efforts goes hand in hand with the creation of detrimental silos and a duplication of work. In the context of law enforcement cooperation, ensuring that frontline actors receive the right information, in the right place, and at the right time is essential. Indeed, INTERPOL already holds proven tools and networks for law

enforcement cooperation readily available to its membership. As the only global law enforcement organization, INTERPOL is well placed to connect law enforcement across its 195 member countries.

INTERPOL provides its membership with a secure communication network, I-24/7, which links law enforcement across the globe and enables authorized users to share sensitive and urgent police information with their counterparts worldwide. Importantly, as a constitutionally neutral and apolitical organization, INTERPOL can act as a neutral interlocutor between member countries even where diplomatic relationships have broken down.

Furthermore, each INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB) has access to INTERPOL's systems and networks, including the data they contain; over 125 million records of criminals, stolen property, threats, weapons, etc. across 19 criminal databases and beyond. In fact, any authorized national agency may be granted access to these data through its INTERPOL NCB. In order to reinforce international cooperation, INTERPOL recommends for member countries to further strengthen the NCBs and to enable authorized law enforcement agencies beyond NCBs to access INTERPOL's I-24/7 secure communication channels, specifically in airport ports and main cross-border points.

### 3. Countering terrorism and violent extremism

For many of INTERPOL's 195 member countries, countering terrorism remains a major priority. Indeed, INTERPOL's very first GPG focuses on **countering the threat of terrorism** and as such INTERPOL recommends its prioritization in the 'New Agenda for Peace'.

The global exchange of criminal data is at the heart of INTERPOL's Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the five pillars of which focus specifically on identifying terrorist individuals, hampering their cross-border mobility, disrupting their financing, intercepting their access to weapons and chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive materials, and limiting their online presence.

INTERPOL also greatly appreciates its close cooperation with the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), and the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, and alignment with the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. INTERPOL invites member countries to continue engaging and participating in **joint counter-terrorism activities and border security operations** coordinated by INTERPOL at local, regional and global levels.

### 4. Emerging technology, innovation and cybercrime

The 'New Agenda for Peace' should be reflective of the modern threat landscape and therefore encourage **multilateral cooperation in capitalizing on emerging technologies and countering novel security risks**.

As one of INTERPOL's core values, innovation drives the Organization's strategy and mission. A dedicated INTERPOL Innovation Centre, located in Singapore, is responsible for carrying out in-depth research on issues related to new technologies, their potential benefit to law enforcement and impact on crime. The Centre also sets global policing standards based on member countries' needs, shapes strategies to anticipate innovation-related challenges and provides member countries with concrete deliverables, such as digital forensics.

The fight against cybercrime constitutes another key priority for INTERPOL. In our highly interconnected world, cyber threats can cause immense damage and impede trust and resilience in the digital economy, preventing countries from realizing their full digital potential. INTERPOL's Cybercrime Programme is structured around three pillars, namely cyber operations, cybercrime threat response and cyber capabilities development to better equip member countries to prevent, detect, and investigate cybercrime. Since cybercrime knows no borders and can only be successfully combatted if tackled collectively, INTERPOL invests in knowledge sharing and secure communication among the global law enforcement community. Relatedly, INTERPOL remains committed to

contribute its expertise in the negotiations for a new comprehensive Cybercrime Convention under the UN Ad Hoc Committee and stands ready to assist Member States in building their capacities to fight cybercrime.

## 5. COVID-19, biohazards and environmental security

The past years have led the world to recognize that global health and security are more interdependent than ever before. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented public health and socioeconomic damage, including the deepening of vulnerabilities that drive, enable and perpetuate criminal activity. Increased environmental instability has added a further layer of complexity to this threat. It is therefore paramount that the **'New Agenda for Peace' consider the nexus between global health, climate and security.**

INTERPOL works closely with the World Health Organization (WHO) i.e. on the prevention of the misuse of biological materials by non-state actors, including through capacity building and training activities, with a view to strengthening the collaboration between health and security sectors. INTERPOL also provides member countries with its BioTracker, a tool to assess and tackle biological threats and incidents, aimed at building and enhancing the analytical and intelligence capabilities of the global law enforcement community.

INTERPOL's dedicated Environmental Security Programme focuses its efforts on fisheries crime, forestry crime, illegal mining, pollution crime and wildlife crime. INTERPOL encourages Member States to set up National Environmental Security Task Forces (NESTs) to foster closer cooperation between law enforcement, customs officials, environmental agencies, prosecutors and other actors. INTERPOL can support member countries and their NESTs with specialized Investigative Support Teams and through access to the Illicit Markets Analysis File - INTERPOL's dedicated criminal intelligence database on transnational organized crime related to the environment. Environmental crime is also closely linked to other types of criminal activity, such as corruption, human trafficking and financial crime, which leads us to our next recommendation.

## 6. Corruption and Financial Crimes

**Corruption undermines political, social and economic stability, ultimately threatening the safety and security of the global society and therefore needs to be addressed in the 'New Agenda for Peace'.** Economic and financial globalization has made corruption a borderless crime, leaving transnational companies and businesses exposed to bribes, fraudulent financial practices and corrupt transactions that can cross multiple jurisdictions. In this regard, INTERPOL recognizes the importance of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and welcomes its direct reference to INTERPOL channels in the context of mutual legal assistance (MLA) exchanges. INTERPOL has recently launched a dedicated Financial Crimes and Anti-Corruption Directorate (IFCACC) and continues to cooperate with UNODC and OECD on cross-border operations aimed at promoting global integrity across all sectors, from public institutions to private enterprises and sports.

## 7. Human Rights and Gender Equality

Finally, the 'New Agenda for Peace' must be underpinned by the respect for Human Rights and Gender Equality, drawing on established principles contained in the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and acknowledging the **clear link between gender equality and global peace and security.**