

UNEA National Statement - INTERPOL

Your Excellencies, distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to address you today at this important event.

Last year, INTERPOL celebrated its centenary.

For 100 years, INTERPOL has supported law enforcement around the globe to prevent and fight transnational organized crime.

Since 1923, we have grown in numbers, skills, and competencies. Today, we can count 196 Member Countries, 19 police databases, a 24/7 secured communications network, a system of INTERPOL Notices to enhance transnational investigations, and a unique mandate to exchange nominal information and interconnect police around the world.

However, the crime did not stop in this last century. Criminals have also become more experienced and connected. Environmental crime is a prime example of the challenges we face today in policing.

INTERPOL, through its Environmental Security Programme, supports Member Countries in the fight against crimes that affect the environment. In over a decade, the Organization has succeeded in building a strong response against forestry, fisheries, pollution, wildlife crime and more recently, illegal mining.

INTERPOL is the only international law enforcement organization with the mandate to host an international criminal database containing data shared by member countries on environmental crimes.

Thanks to this UNIQUE database, a global intelligence picture of crimes that affect the environment is being enhanced day after day collectively by INTERPOL's 196 member countries.

Everyday thanks to this database, international criminal networks operating in this area are being identified, targeted, and dismantled. In recent years, member

countries' requests for INTERPOL operational and analytical support have increased in both numbers and sophistication, with resultant support enabling INTERPOL to produce targeted analytical reports to assist member countries in their efforts to dismantle criminal networks operating in all the regions of the world.

Over the last decade, we have developed fundamental partnerships with other organizations. In particular, I would like to highlight the work carried out under the International Consortium for Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) in partnership with the World Customs Organization, the CITES Secretariat, the World Bank and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the "Law Enforcement Assistance Programme to Reduce Tropical Deforestation", otherwise known as Project LEAP, also in partnership with UNODC.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our member countries, as well as our main donors such as the United States Agency for International Development, the European Commission and the Norwegian Ministry for Environment and Climate for their invaluable efforts, commitment, and support.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As always, INTERPOL stands ready to bring its member countries and partners together to enhance coordination and support the global fight against crimes that affect the environment. Our future depends on it.

We look forward to continuing this cooperation.

Thank you.