



Quarterly UNOCT briefing to Member States – 18 December 2018 – CR1 – 10am

INTERPOL Statement

Good morning Excellencies,

Dear colleagues,

I would like to thank Under-Secretary General Voronkov for inviting INTERPOL to participate at this important Quarterly UNOCT Briefing to Member States.

At the recent First Meeting of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Committee, INTERPOL's Secretary General Jürgen Stock expressed his appreciation for the inclusion of INTERPOL in the development of the Compact, which I reiterate here today.

INTERPOL is also very pleased to have substantive cooperation agreements in place with UNOCT, CTED and UNODC to ensure proper coordination. We consider the Committee and the Working Groups indispensable in achieving successful

implementation of the UN Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and we are committed to contribute to these efforts as a non-UN entity. For this, we cooperate closely with Compact entities according to the following priorities with INTERPOL considers key in order to achieve our common goals in the fight against terrorism:

INTERPOL encourages Member States to support the collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of counter-terrorism information through our global law enforcement membership of 194 countries.

A crucial part of this is increased biometric information sharing and collection on foreign terrorist fighters, including facial images, fingerprints, and DNA profiles. These records are particularly important because biometric data is often the only way of securely identifying terrorists, who often try to conceal their identity by using fraudulent travel documents.

INTERPOL also encourages the collection of biometric data in prisons, which may be a breeding ground for extremism, and ordinary criminals are susceptible to radicalize while incarcerated. Prison administrations hold valuable information

regarding violent extremist prisoners held in their custody which, if shared across agencies, law enforcement can use to enhance their investigations. INTERPOL encourages member countries to share this data on radicalized prisoners via the INTERPOL communication channels to better identify them after their release, if necessary.

I would also like to touch on the importance of increased battlefield information sharing between military and police. Military actors are often the first responders on the ground in conflict zones. This puts them in a unique position to collect and preserve evidence from the ground. This information should be shared with law enforcement due to its value in order to identify terrorists with a view to prosecute them. If declassified information (e.g. fingerprints from IEDs; data from left-behind electronic devices) collected on battlefields is shared using secure INTERPOL channels, it also becomes available to Law Enforcement agencies.

As an example of how INTERPOL adds value to information collected by Member Countries on Improvised Explosive Devices, INTERPOL's Project WATCHMAKER enables both detection and

identification of individuals involved in the manufacture of IEDs as they cross international borders. This is achieved through issuing INTERPOL Notices and Diffusions, and provided analytical reports to participating Member Countries. WATCHMAKER was implemented in several South East Asian countries in 2018, and currently contain 3,500 profiles of individuals suspected of bomb-making.

This is only one example of how INTERPOL supports UN counter-terrorism efforts, as well as the work of the Global Counter-Terrorism Compact Committee.

Thank you for your attention.