



Talking Points

by

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UNOCT SECOND UN HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF COUNTER-TERRORISM AGENCIES OF MEMBER STATES

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Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me thank His Excellency, Under-Secretary General Mr Vladimir VORONKOV, for holding this invaluable event.

I regret being unable to address you in person, as I am attending the meeting of Ministers of the Global Coalition to Defeat Da'esh in Rome.

This year, we are reminded of the scale of the tragedy of terrorism as well as the key responses by the international community – 20 years since 9/11 and the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1373; and 15 years from the adoption of the first UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Through that journey, INTERPOL has been at the side of law enforcement with our membership growing to 194 countries. And through their eyes, it has observed this menace evolve, along three axes.

First, religiously motivated violent extremism remains a persistent, but far from the only, global threat.

We confront the attempted regrouping of Da'esh - through claimed Provinces and *takfiri* affiliates, with sub-Saharan Africa in particular as fertile ground for new roots. In parallel, Al Qaeda preserves its presence in key regions. The two groups are clashing in some of them – expanding death tolls and reach over local groups.

Yet the landscape is also diversifying - with North America and Europe facing a rise in Extreme Right Wing Terrorism – with loose networks and online echo chambers; and radicalization-to-attack-cycles becoming faster and less predictable.

Secondly, terrorist tactics, techniques and procedures are crossing borders and ideologies at record speed.

The pandemic's exploitation is a case in point: governments under pressure from the crisis were targets of groups at opposite ends of the ideological spectrum.

With remarkable similarities, these have shaped narratives – especially online – to find justifications for violence and undermine state authority - posing as saviours within targeted communities and growing their ranks.

Thirdly, interest is rising in new generation technology by both terrorist groups and law enforcement – yet basic tactics, weapons and gaps still dominate the global threat landscape.

For every 3D printed weapon on our streets, entire stockpiles of assault rifles are still easy prey for armed groups in conflict zones;

For every new Unmanned Aerial System in Syria or West Africa, a new batch of roadside IEDs is detonated;

and while zero-day exploits and ransomware may cripple critical infrastructure, basic digital forensics skills and capabilities are still inaccessible to law enforcement, in too many frontline jurisdictions.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our challenge as counter-terrorism leaders is to respond to the threats of today while preparing for those of tomorrow.

There is no choosing between the two.
The only way forward is to share our knowledge.

This need is why INTERPOL was created almost 100 years ago and why we are committed to our leadership role in key components of the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact.

This starts with the identities of those we seek to stop. Security Council Resolutions 2178 and 2396 led to a historical surge in criminal information sharing globally – with some 50,000 terrorist profiles available at frontlines through INTERPOL channels and over 130, 000 more through our analytical files. That momentum must continue and expand to new emerging threats.

The same applies to modus operandi. We must stay ahead of the tactical curve – particularly in the CBRNE and new technology domains. INTERPOL's engagement with the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre and UNICRI serves this imperative.

And as importantly – we must build and share vital capabilities among member states counter-terrorism structures. As part of UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate assessments, INTERPOL experts are focusing on those law enforcement gaps which may undermine our collective early warning system.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

I pledge once again INTERPOL's commitment at the side of your respective agencies, in support of the front lines, and in building a peaceful and secure world together with the United Nations.

Thank you.