INTERPOL Statement

Joint special meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh) Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities; and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011)
"The nexus between international terrorism and organized crime"
Friday 26th April 2019,
United Nations Headquarters, New York, Conference Room 2

Thank you Chair for inviting INTERPOL to this Special Meeting.

Compliments to CTC, CTED and the Sanction Committees for ensuring that all

relevant actors are involved at today's meeting.

I am proud to say that INTERPOL has a close cooperation with all of you here at

this session, the _1267 Monitoring Team, UNODC, UNICRI_, and of course we very

also closely cooperate with _CTED and OCT_ in this regard.

From an INTERPOL perspective, talking about the "nexus" between terrorism and

organized crime is actually an understatement. We would go as far as to say

terrorism "IS" organized crime.

INTERPOL has been **strongly involved in Project ENACT** on enhancing Africa's response to organized crime.

Project ENACT is funded by the EU, INTERPOL is one implementing partner for this 3 year project (until 2019). Our role is to **assist police in Africa to adopt proactive strategies to combat organized crime.**

Key findings of the **ENACT report on Africa** of relevance for our meeting today:

1. Terrorism activities across Africa are highly suspected to be heavily funded by other transnational crime activities, such as human trafficking, drug trafficking, selling of stolen cultural artefacts on the black market, selling of illicit petroleum, counterfeiting medicines or wildlife crimes such as oil bunkering.

    Some examples:

2. In **East Africa, Al-Shabaab** is allegedly involved in **human and firearms trafficking**.

3. In **West and Central Africa**, the presence of terrorist groups have had an impact on **cattle markets** and therefore on **access to food**. Terrorist groups are involved in this type of criminality to fund their activities but also to terrorize the local population.

4. In **North Africa, Al- Qaeda** has successfully forged alliances with **local tribes involved in smuggling activities**. As a result, the organization has been able to profit from smuggling and trafficking activities between Maghreb countries and the Sahel.

5. Many terrorist groups are essentially **operating as mafias**, al Shabaab for example. They use violence as a tactic for social control. In many failing or failed states, the designated terrorist group has **stepped in to offer state services**, like a traditional mafia would do (such as protection rackets, social services, etc.); This is currently seen in Somalia, Syria, Libya, Iraq, Yemen, to name a few examples.

So overall, according to the ENACT Report, **Terrorism** remains a **significant issue** across Africa, and terrorism is considered to be a **major facilitator** of organized crime.

The **recently published CTED report on the nexus between human trafficking and terrorism** demonstrated quite clearly:

the nexus is real. **However**, there still is a significant need to produce concrete evidence to link those crimes, there **currently is a lack of data** to back up the nexus.

1. INTERPOL is in a unique position to **provide exactly this data**, to connect the dots between terrorism and organizes crime.

2. INTERPOL combats all forms of crimes, we centre our core activities around **three programme areas:** on **Countering Terrorism**, **Organised and Emerging Crimes**, and **Cybercrime.**

3. We do **operations in all of those fields**, and the more financial support we receive, the more such operations on the ground we can do.

6. A fundamental part of INTERPOL's existence – across combating all forms of crimes – is to **facilitate secure exchange of data.**

7. This is done through **INTERPOL's global communication system called I-24/7**, and its **17 databases**. In these databases are millions of records such as names, fingerprints, stolen weapons, biometrics, or our biggest database- the Stolen and Lost Travel Document Database with more than 85 millions of records, very effective to enhance border security.

8. It's important for our Member Countries to not only systematically consult our Databases on Counter Terrorism, but also on those highly effective to combat Organized crime- which will result in "double hits" as the suspects are often the same.

9.   INTERPOL is increasingly active in the "**hot spots**" where the <u>nexus between terrorism and organized crime is particularly strong</u>: **Iraq, Libya, G5 Sahel**

Let me give you a **few examples** on what we do for instance in the G 5 Sahel region:

- We assist with **information collection on sight**, including biometrics, through an INTERPOL expert within the national Police, to ensure a streamlined flow of terrorism related information from the ground;

- We help Member States to extend **access of data to frontline police officers**, as they are the one who need access to INTERPOL's global databases the most: every time a border control officer swipes a passport he needs to have access to relevant information.

- **INTERPOL's criminal analysts** put together key information on a person (travel routes, money transfers, recruiters, online identifiers) to make connections between different crimes and investigations and produce **Crime Analysis Files.** This provides Member States with <u>usable and prosecutable information </u>to connect the various offences.

- We do trainings on **Sensitive Site Exploitation** for the military and the police embedded within them, to increase information sharing of **declassified information from the battlefield** between military and police.

Criminal Police work is about connecting the dots: The **more information, the more data** we receive from our 194 Member Countries, the easier it is to **properly establish the nexus between Terrorism and organized crime.** (and as criminals in general, but particularly FTF's like to conceal their true identity, the sharing of **biometrics are especially important to establish the nexus.**