

INTERPOL Statement

Delivered by Odd Reidar Humlegård, Special Representative of INTERPOL to the UN
Special Meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Commemorating the 20th Anniversary
of the Adoption of Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001) and the Establishment of the
Counter-Terrorism Committee

4 November 2021 | 9:00 - 19:00 | ECOSOC

Mr Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for inviting INTERPOL to participate in this CTC Special Meeting today.

INTERPOL stands with the survivors and **victims of terrorism**. The ever-evolving threat landscape, and frequent terrorist attacks in all corners of the world, remind us that **collective action** is needed to combat this **common issue**.

[Resolution 1373 \(2001\) and the Counter Terrorism Committee](#)

The 9/11 attacks were an inflection point. The swift, unanimous adoption of the landmark **resolution 1373**, requiring States to take a range of measures against terrorism, and establishing the **Counter-Terrorism Committee**, demonstrated Member States' united front.

The resolution laid the groundwork for subsequent Security Council resolutions, including **resolution 1535**, establishing CTED; **resolution 1624**, calling on States to strengthen the security of their international borders; and **resolution 2178**, requiring States to take certain steps to address the foreign terrorist fighter phenomenon.

Within the past two decades, the mandates of the Committee and CTED have continued to expand and evolve to address **emerging and evolving threats**, such as the FTF phenomenon, financing of terrorism, and terrorists' use of technology, which pose **new challenges** for Member States in complying with CT obligations - challenges which have been exacerbated by the **COVID-19 pandemic**.

International Cooperation

Just as Member States addressed the threat of terrorism in a coordinated and comprehensive manner when adopting resolution 1373, it is **equally** important that UN entities and international organizations, including INTERPOL, **partner in their activities and initiatives**, avoiding duplication and overlaps.

INTERPOL established the **Office of the Special Representative** to the United Nations in 2004, in order to **enhance** our cooperation with UN entities and partners.

INTERPOL-CTED cooperation is enshrined in the 1997 **Cooperation Agreement between INTERPOL and the UN, - and its Supplementary Arrangement signed in 2017 in relation to CTED**, as well as the **Joint Action Plan**. These two agreements, call for enhanced cooperation between the two entities, especially in regards to implementing Security Council resolutions.

INTERPOL has participated in **CTED country assessment visits** since they commenced in 2005, including 11 hybrid visits this year. INTERPOL continues to contribute specialized expertise to the **CTED technical assessment reports**, an important tool which consolidates the legal, institutional and operational measures taken by Member States to counter terrorism.

On the basis of CTED assessments and analysis, including assessed best practices and lessons learned, INTERPOL helps strengthen Member States' law enforcement counter terrorism expertise, equipment and skills through targeted, tailored assistance.

The **INTERPOL-UNSC Special Notice** was created in 2005 as a tool to alert law enforcement agencies worldwide, that a given individual or entity is subject to UN sanctions. The Special Notices have enhanced the dissemination of this information to investigators and frontline officers, who might otherwise not be aware that individuals or entities are subject to UN sanctions. Today, INTERPOL has cooperation agreements with 11 sanctions committees.

INTERPOL Capabilities

Just as counter terrorism efforts have substantially grown within the UN, so have they at INTERPOL. Counter Terrorism is now one of INTERPOL's three **Global Programs**. To address the nexus with other forms of crime, CT components are also included in our other two Global Programs: **Cybercrime** and **Organized & Emerging Crime**.

INTERPOL's Counter Terrorism Directorate, based at our Headquarters in Lyon, with satellite offices in priority areas around the globe, continues to grow in size and scope. The Directorate delivers frequent in-country **operational support** and **capacity building trainings** throughout the globe. **Operations** have recently been conducted in East and West Africa, Somalia, the Mediterranean, Western Balkans, UK, and South East Asia, demonstrating our readiness to help Member States in all affected regions.

Through tailored **Train-the-Trainer programs**, INTERPOL succeeds in establishing **sustainable** capacity building measures, which have lasting effects on member countries' abilities to prevent, detect and respond to terrorist attacks.

In the years following 9/11, INTERPOL's established one of its most substantial contributions to counter terrorism efforts: its **secure communications system, I-24/7**. In each of INTERPOL's 194 member countries lies a National Central Bureau, giving authorized personnel access our 19 databases. Further, it allows law enforcement to send sensitive and urgent communications to their counterparts in real time. We currently hold more than 100 million CT-related records, and counting, which serve to assist Member States in identifying patterns of terrorist activity, modus operandi and communication networks and to help them in building stronger CT strategies and detect new operational leads.

A whole-of-society approach is needed to effectively and comprehensively counter terrorism, and law enforcement plays an important role in this. INTERPOL look forward to continuing our fruitful cooperation with the CTC, CTED, Member States and partners within the global security architecture, in order to adapt and help the law enforcement community adjusting to the challenges of tomorrow.

Thank you very much for your attention.