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Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 21 November 2022

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/77/L.20)]

77/20. Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 51/1 of 15 October 1996, in which it invited the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) to participate as an observer in its sessions and work, and its resolutions 71/19 of 21 November 2016, 73/11 of 26 November 2018 and 75/10 of 23 November 2020 concerning the cooperation between the United Nations and INTERPOL, and calling for the strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations and INTERPOL,

Recalling also the cooperation agreement of 1997 between the United Nations and INTERPOL¹ and all other relevant cooperation agreements between them,

Recalling further all relevant United Nations resolutions recognizing that cooperation between the United Nations and international organizations such as INTERPOL can contribute to preventing and combating transnational crime, in particular transnational organized crime, and preventing and countering terrorism,

Acknowledging the cooperation between the United Nations and INTERPOL in assisting the States Members of the United Nations that are also member countries of INTERPOL in preventing and responding to crime and in improving their law enforcement capabilities, upon their request,

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1996, No. 1200.



Recognizing that INTERPOL, in accordance with the Constitution of INTERPOL, is an apolitical² and neutral international organization entrusted with the mandate of ensuring and promoting mutual assistance among criminal police authorities, in full respect of the sovereignty of Member States and consistent with their obligations under international law and the domestic laws and regulations of each Member State, and in accordance with the rules and regulations of INTERPOL,

Acknowledging that INTERPOL has been a key actor since 1923 in enabling and promoting international police cooperation in order to prevent and combat transnational crime, in particular transnational organized crime, through enhanced police cooperation among its member countries as well as in fostering innovation in police and law enforcement matters, and in this regard takes further note of the three global crime programmes of INTERPOL dedicated to counter-terrorism, cybercrime and organized and emerging crime,

Acknowledging also the contributions derived from the global structure of the General Secretariat of INTERPOL, consisting of its seat in Lyon, France, its Global Complex for Innovation located in Singapore, its regional bureaux around the world and its Offices of the Special Representative at the United Nations, the European Union and the African Union,

Welcoming the role of the national central bureaux of INTERPOL, present in every member country, as the cornerstone of cooperation to enhance cohesion, stability and security and as the primary international policing hub, which links national police forces through its global network,

Welcoming also the cooperation between the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities and INTERPOL in preventing and countering terrorism by assisting Member States, upon their request, in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy,³ including through information-sharing on foreign terrorist fighters, including those returning or relocating, in particular from terrorist combat or training areas, and on improvements in border security,⁴ with a view to maximizing synergies, promoting transparency and greater efficiencies and avoiding duplication of their work,

Welcoming further the cooperation and coordination efforts undertaken in accordance with the arrangement on cooperation of 21 July 2017 between the United Nations and INTERPOL, in relation to the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, supplementary to the cooperation agreement of 1997 between the United Nations and INTERPOL,

Welcoming the cooperation and coordination efforts undertaken between the Office of Counter-Terrorism and INTERPOL, taking note with appreciation of the participation of INTERPOL in the implementation of joint projects, in accordance with the arrangement on cooperation of 27 June 2018 between the United Nations and INTERPOL, in relation to the activities of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, supplementary to the cooperation agreement of 1997 between the United Nations and INTERPOL, and in this regard taking note of the cooperation and coordination efforts between INTERPOL and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, including the programmes of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre on border security and management and on countering and preventing the travel of foreign terrorist fighters,

² Constitution of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), article 3.

³ Resolution [60/288](#).

⁴ See resolution [72/284](#).

Noting the cooperation and coordination efforts undertaken in accordance with existing arrangements between the Department of Peace Operations of the Secretariat and INTERPOL, and recalling the joint effort of INTERPOL and the Department of Peace Operations pertaining to interim law enforcement, security support and support for the development of national police and other law enforcement agencies in mission settings, in accordance with respective and specific mandates,

Welcoming the cooperation between the United Nations police and INTERPOL, in particular the specialized police teams and serious and organized crime teams of the United Nations Police Division in the development of joint programmes and initiatives, within their respective mandates, including through the provision of technical expertise and assistance to national police and law enforcement institutions, with a view to maximizing synergies, promoting transparency and greater efficiencies and avoiding duplication of their work,

Noting the cooperation and coordination efforts undertaken in accordance with the cooperation agreement of 5 October 1999 between the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and INTERPOL, and its special arrangement of 8 July 2003 in accordance with article 4 (4) of the said cooperation agreement,

Welcoming the cooperation and coordination efforts undertaken in accordance with the memorandum of understanding on cooperation of 22 May 2000 between the International Civil Aviation Organization and INTERPOL,

Recognizing the contribution of the cooperation between the United Nations and INTERPOL towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁵ through joint activities, capacity-building and targeted support of Member States in the fight against all forms of transnational crime and terrorism, and taking note of the contribution of the INTERPOL Global Policing Goals to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by Member States,

Acknowledging the need to strengthen the cooperation between the United Nations and INTERPOL in mainstreaming a gender perspective throughout all relevant areas of cooperation, including in training, workshops, capacity-building and leadership training programmes, in order to strengthen their effectiveness,

Recalling the political declaration on the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,⁶ in which, inter alia, the General Assembly reaffirmed the important contribution of INTERPOL to the global fight against trafficking in persons, especially women and children,

Recognizing the contribution of the cooperation between the United Nations and INTERPOL in combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, and acknowledging the contribution of INTERPOL to the third United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, and the relevant role of INTERPOL in the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons,⁷

Noting the cooperation between the United Nations and INTERPOL in assisting Member States, upon their request, in addressing the illicit trafficking in chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials by non-State actors,

⁵ Resolution 70/1.

⁶ Resolution 72/1.

⁷ See decision 60/519 and A/60/88 and A/60/88/Corr.2, annex.

Concerned at the growing trend of cybercrime and the criminal misuse of information and communications technologies in multiple forms of crime, recalling its resolutions [73/187](#) of 17 December 2018, [74/247](#) of 27 December 2019 and [75/282](#) of 26 May 2021, as well as Economic and Social Council resolutions [2019/19](#) and [2019/20](#) of 23 July 2019, and noting the need to enhance coordination and cooperation between the United Nations, in particular the Global Programme on Cybercrime of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, INTERPOL and Member States in combating cybercrime, including through technical assistance, particularly to developing countries, upon request, in order to enhance the capacity of national authorities to deal with cybercrime in all its forms, including its prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution,

Noting the continued efforts and progress made by INTERPOL to serve as a trusted global law enforcement hub for the exchange of actionable information and analysis, and the contribution of INTERPOL to the promotion and achievement of the highest level of professionalism and innovation in law enforcement, including through the provision and delivery of training and training resources and analytical products and the creation of networks of law enforcement expert groups and education institutions, including the INTERPOL Virtual Academy, aimed at increasing the efficiency of law enforcement agencies in combating transnational organized crime through international police cooperation,

Noting also international efforts that contribute to raising awareness of and preparedness for the use of unmanned aerial systems (UAS) for terrorist purposes as the technology has become more accessible, and in this regard taking particular note of the publication by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, Office of Counter-Terrorism and INTERPOL, *The Protection of Critical Infrastructure against Terrorist Attacks: Compendium of Good Practices*, and also noting the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) and its Berlin Memorandum on Good Practices for Countering Terrorist Use of UAS,

Acknowledging the unprecedented public health and socioeconomic damage and the continued impact of the public health crisis caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, requiring a coordinated international response, including a law enforcement response, to the vulnerabilities that drive, enable and perpetuate criminal activity,

Convinced that increased and enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and INTERPOL in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the Constitution of INTERPOL, as well as applicable international law, will contribute to achieving the respective purposes and principles of both organizations,

1. *Calls for* the strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), within their respective mandates, in accordance with applicable international law, in (a) preventing and combating transnational crime, including illicit maritime activities, in particular transnational organized crime, including the smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons, drug trafficking, piracy, the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in small arms and light weapons and ammunitions, illicit trafficking in chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials, the criminal misuse of information and communications technologies, including the Internet and social media, corruption and money-laundering, trafficking in illicit and counterfeit goods and crimes that affect the environment, including illicit trafficking in endangered and, where applicable, protected species of wild flora and fauna; and (b) preventing and countering terrorism, including through preventing and disrupting terrorist travel, countering the use of information and communications technologies, including the Internet and social media, for terrorist purposes, while respecting human rights and fundamental

freedoms, preventing and interdicting access to weapons necessary for terrorist activities, including small arms and light weapons and improvised explosive devices, as well as to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials, countering the financing of terrorism, including financing through the use of new and emerging technologies and methods, preventing and disrupting financial support for foreign terrorist fighters and preventing and combating the intentional and unlawful destruction and looting of cultural heritage and trafficking in cultural property perpetrated by criminal and terrorist groups;

2. *Emphasizes* the importance of optimal coordination and cooperation between the United Nations and INTERPOL in countering terrorism, with particular regard to the threat posed by the travel of foreign terrorist fighters, including those who return or relocate, and in strengthening international efforts to ensure that refugee status is not abused by the perpetrators, organizers and facilitators of terrorist acts, consistent with the obligations of Member States under international law, and in this context stresses the importance of information-sharing, as appropriate, including biometric data, which could encompass fingerprints and photographs, in order to increase the chances of the positive identification of terrorists and their affiliates, in addition to information from battlefields, counter-terrorism military operations and national prison systems, while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, and also stresses the importance of Member States making full use of INTERPOL capabilities in this regard, notably the Stolen and Lost Travel Document Database, the Nominal Database, the Foreign Terrorist Fighter Criminal Analysis File, the Fingerprint Database, the DNA Profile Database and the facial recognition system, and of promoting international cooperation efforts to assist Member States, upon their request, in strengthening cooperation between their law enforcement agencies in order to bring suspected terrorists to justice;

3. *Recognizes* the potential for strengthening the cooperation between INTERPOL and the Department of Peace Operations of the Secretariat to provide timely capacity-building and technical assistance, including by organizing training activities, to enhance the capacity of national police services and other law enforcement organizations, upon request, and in accordance with their respective mandates;

4. *Encourages* the United Nations and INTERPOL to deepen their cooperation to advance gender equality in law enforcement, including through the mainstreaming of a gender perspective, including in capacity-building programmes, as well as equal opportunities for employment, leadership positions and decision-making at all levels of law enforcement agencies, with a view to the empowerment of women and their full enjoyment of all human rights;

5. *Emphasizes* the importance of optimal coordination and cooperation between the United Nations and INTERPOL to create synergies within their respective mandates in the fight against transnational crime, in particular transnational organized crime;

6. *Reaffirms* the importance of close cooperation between the United Nations and INTERPOL in the global fight against trafficking in persons, including through the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons, as well as any sexual exploitation, including of women and children, and in this context stresses the importance of Member States making use of readily available INTERPOL capabilities, such as the International Child Sexual Exploitation Database, the Stolen and Lost Travel Document Database, the I-Familia database, the Travel Documents Associated with Notices system and the Nominal Database, as well as the INTERPOL Human Trafficking Expert Group, and also stresses the importance of Member States

enhancing their capability to fight such crimes using the training curricula facilitated by INTERPOL;

7. *Also reaffirms* the importance of close cooperation between the United Nations and INTERPOL to combat the smuggling of migrants, and in this context stresses the importance of Member States making use of readily available INTERPOL capabilities, including the Stolen and Lost Travel Document Database and the Nominal Database, as well as the INTERPOL Human Trafficking Expert Group;

8. *Emphasizes* the importance of optimal cooperation between the United Nations and INTERPOL to provide, upon request, complementary support to peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts in accordance with existing mandates, including in assisting Member States in strengthening the national central bureaux of INTERPOL through training and technical assistance in order to fight transnational organized crime more effectively, and supporting the reinforcement of national police and other law enforcement agencies, as demonstrated by joint Department of Peace Operations and INTERPOL projects at United Nations peacekeeping missions;

9. *Encourages* the United Nations to take full advantage of the benefits of cooperation with INTERPOL, in accordance with their respective mandates and consistent with the national priorities of Member States, to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and to implement the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects⁸ and its International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, including through making use of the readily available INTERPOL capabilities to facilitate the tracing of weapons, notably the INTERPOL Illicit Arms Records and Tracing Management System, the INTERPOL Ballistic Information Network and the INTERPOL Firearms Reference Table;

10. *Encourages* further cooperation between the United Nations, in particular the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and INTERPOL in addressing the challenges faced by Member States in combating cybercrime and the criminal misuse of information and communications technologies, including through technical assistance and capacity-building activities made available by INTERPOL and relevant United Nations entities, upon request and based on national needs, taking into account specific challenges faced by developing countries;

11. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and INTERPOL, as appropriate and within their existing mandates, to continue to strengthen cooperation and synergies in order to assist Member States in their efforts to prevent and counter the unlawful destruction and looting of cultural heritage and the trafficking in cultural property in all forms, including through the INTERPOL Stolen Works of Art Database and ID-Art mobile application;

12. *Welcomes* the steps that INTERPOL and the United Nations, in particular the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, have taken to analyse and respond to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on crime, encourages relevant United Nations agencies to make use of resources and expertise provided by INTERPOL to enhance international law enforcement cooperation to address these effects, including the COVID-19 global threat assessment and recommended health protocols for police officers, and calls upon the two organizations to collaborate on and coordinate their analysis and responses, within their respective mandates, to make use of lessons learned to address future public health challenges and to build mechanisms to detect

⁸ *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, New York, 9–20 July 2001 (A/CONF.192/15)*, chap. IV, para. 24.

and disrupt the sale and supply of illicit and counterfeit pharmaceuticals and medical products;

13. *Emphasizes* the importance of enhanced cooperation between the United Nations system, in particular the World Health Organization, and INTERPOL, including through capacity-building and training activities, with a view to strengthening collaboration between health and security sectors, and further seizes the opportunity to encourage Member States to make full use of the secure communication channels of INTERPOL, including BioTracker, to exchange information on biological incidents of natural, accidental or deliberate origin;

14. *Calls upon* the United Nations, in particular the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and INTERPOL, as appropriate and within their existing mandates, to enhance coordination and cooperation on matters related to maritime security, and to encourage law enforcement agencies to make full use of capabilities made available by INTERPOL and relevant United Nations entities, including the Global Maritime Security Database, as well as training, equipment and capacity-building, upon request and based on national needs, taking into account specific challenges faced by developing countries;

15. *Recognizes* the potential for strengthened collaboration between the United Nations, in particular the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and INTERPOL, as appropriate and within their existing mandates, in order to assist Member States that are also member countries of INTERPOL in preventing and combating transnational financial crime and corruption, and in this regard also stresses the importance of the use of INTERPOL Notices and Diffusions to circulate details of new and existing crime trends related to financial crime, money-laundering and corruption, as well as the INTERPOL global stop-payment mechanism using the I-24/7 global police secure communications system, and accordingly calls on Member States to extend access to I-24/7 to financial intelligence units;

16. *Strongly condemns* the continued flow of unmanned aerial systems and their components to, by and between terrorist and organized criminal groups, expresses deep concern at the increasing global use of unmanned aerial systems by terrorists to launch attacks or to traffic drugs and arms, expresses its determination to address this growing threat, and stresses the importance of close cooperation between the United Nations, including the United Nations police, the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, and INTERPOL to support Member States, upon their request, to design comprehensive policies and guidance to assist law enforcement entities, to effectively prevent and respond to the acquisition and use of unmanned aerial systems and their components and other emerging technologies and methods, such as artificial intelligence and virtual assets, for criminal and terrorist purposes;

17. *Encourages* increased cooperation between the United Nations and INTERPOL to assist Member States, upon their request, in effectively using the following resources readily available to Member States that are also member countries of INTERPOL, through their national central bureaux:

(a) The INTERPOL I-24/7 global police secure communications system, which enables authorized users to share sensitive and urgent police information with their counterparts around the globe for the primary purpose of assisting in the prevention, detection and investigation of crime, in accordance with the INTERPOL mandate;

(b) INTERPOL databases, by populating, updating and querying them, as appropriate, with a view to sharing accurate information between Member States in a timely manner in accordance with INTERPOL rules and regulations, in full respect of national sovereignty and operational priorities, through full access to them;

(c) Publication of INTERPOL notices and diffusions to alert, request assistance from and provide assistance to law enforcement agencies of other Member States;

(d) Criminal information analysis, namely, INTERPOL analytical products, to support national operational activities and investigations by sharing information with INTERPOL for inclusion in the INTERPOL Criminal Analysis Files;

(e) INTERPOL support for the operations of the law enforcement agencies of Member States as well as training and capacity-building programmes and initiatives designed to improve national police capabilities;

18. *Acknowledges* the importance of extending real-time access to the I-24/7 global police secure communications system from the national central bureaux of Member States that are also member countries of INTERPOL to their other national law enforcement entities at strategic locations, such as border crossings, airports and customs and immigration posts, with a view to increasing the security of their borders by implementing INTERPOL technical solutions, inter alia, by integrating the most recent versions of the Fixed INTERPOL Network Database into border crossing points and systematically and automatically checking all incoming and outgoing travellers and conducting anticipated checks through advance passenger information and passenger name records mechanisms, thereby promoting increased cooperation between the United Nations and INTERPOL, including through the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme, in which INTERPOL is a partner;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

20. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations”, the sub-item entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)”.

*39th plenary meeting
21 November 2022*