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Statement by INTERPOL at the General Debate

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Vienna, Austria

Chair, Co-presidents, Excellences, Distinguished delegates,

On behalf of INTERPOL, and what is our first conference as official observers, let me thank you for the opportunity to be here today and your recognition of the importance of law enforcement in nuclear security and the role of INTERPOL as global representatives of the law enforcement community.

INTERPOL supports its 195 member countries to counter the threat from radiological and nuclear terrorism. We are well aware of the critical role and importance of effective international cooperation and how the sharing of information can mitigate the risk posed from emerging threats and trends to nuclear security.

As part of its CBRNE response, INTERPOL has set up a dedicated, threat-based, criminal intelligence-driven unit for Radiological and Nuclear Terrorism Prevention in charge of implementing our Law Enforcement Support (LES) programme. This programme encompasses our management structure and processes, that ensures our support to INTERPOL member countries is measurable, criminal intelligence-driven, and based on needs identified through cooperation with beneficiary countries.

The foundation of INTERPOL's benefit to our member countries is indeed our ability to facilitate police data- and information-sharing among LEAs specific to crime and criminals. In support of this, INTERPOL maintains a neutral and secure communications system, I-24/7, which connects its 195 member countries and provides a channel to share confidential and non-confidential data. Through this system, member countries can exchange real time messages; and access INTERPOL's Notices and diffusions, intelligence products, our databases and the 128+ million records on crimes and criminals they contain, as well as the expertise housed at the INTERPOL General Secretariat.

The consequences of a malicious incident using radioactive materials are unique and far-reaching. With the global movement of criminals and terrorists utilising a diverse set of mod operandi and tools to create havoc, law enforcement agencies must be prepared to counter and respond to deliberate incidents. An effective response requires specialised awareness and capabilities that are not part of the traditional law enforcement skill set. Through this objective, INTERPOL engages internal and external subject matter experts to support member

countries to address areas of improvement documented through INTERPOL's capacity building efforts.

Acknowledging the limitations of the single project approach, INTERPOL's adjusted its stance and moved its focus towards a longer-term strategy and commitment to our member countries. In addition to building sustainability this approach enhances relationships and builds trust creating a safe environment for the sharing of information and more accurate understanding of the needs and requirements of law enforcement.

As the global representative for law enforcement, INTERPOL has a pivotal role to play as the conduit between operational front line officers and strategic policy makers.

Threats are often assessed through a calculation of intent, capability and probability. Assessing terrorist threats requires an intimate familiarity with these variables and others in order to identify emerging threats on the horizon.

Through the provision of a well-established secure communication platform, INTERPOL facilitates a two-way flow of information. We empower law enforcement officers with real time access to critical information to prevent and counter the use of nuclear material and facilities for criminal purposes; and provide support to investigative activities and act as interlocutors for investigators and security services.

Facilitating the exchange of information, assists in the delivery of a proportionate response and early resolution to a live time investigations.

The gathering and processing of data on criminal acts also allows INTERPOL to provide key information and produce accurate and credible analytical products for policy makers and legislators to make well informed decisions resulting in proportionate policies and legislation, efficient allocation of funding, resourcing, equipment, and training to the areas of greatest need.

More than ever INTERPOL recognises the need to work together with member countries, and partner organisations to share information and deliver capacity building activities necessary to engage law enforcement and improve nuclear security across the globe.

We have a long and active partnership with the IAEA and through a well-established agreement provide support to capacity building activities and facilitate information sharing between our two organisations.

INTERPOL remains steadfast in our support and commitment to you.