



IAEA General Conference

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GENERAL STATEMENT

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7 minutes (840 to 1120 words)

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, good morning/afternoon.

It is a pleasure for INTERPOL to participate in the IAEA General Conference. Not only are we representing our Organisation and its capabilities in regard to the IAEA field of expertise, but we are also representing the global law enforcement community that we serve.

Law enforcement agencies around the world are at the forefront of protecting communities from the misuse of nuclear and other radioactive materials. As the global representative of the law enforcement community, INTERPOL assists its 196 member countries in countering the threat of radiological and nuclear terrorism.

The global law enforcement community faces an ever-changing array of capable, mobile, and resourceful non-state actors with intent to attack vulnerable targets and misuse radioactive materials.

Across the world, law enforcement agencies have observed a variety of modi operandi used by non-state actors to acquire radioactive materials or to attack vulnerable targets. In today's threat landscape, many modi operandi are no longer local or regional. Through information and communication technology (ICT), non-state actors are able to disseminate knowledge to a global audience, while evading law enforcement detection. Combating these diverse and often unfamiliar modi operandi requires increased awareness, effective

countermeasures, but also extensive communication among law enforcement agencies, and with other government agencies, regulators, academia, international and regional organizations as well as the private sector.

In this context, effective international cooperation and information sharing are crucial to mitigate the risk posed by emerging threats to nuclear security. INTERPOL's encrypted global communication system, called I-24/7, facilitates the secure exchange of information among law enforcement worldwide.

Further, INTERPOL has established a Radiological and Nuclear Terrorism Prevention Unit to implement **our Law Enforcement Support (LES) programme**. This programme has been established to ensure that the assistance provided to INTERPOL's member countries is measurable, criminal intelligence driven, and tailored to the needs of beneficiary countries. To support the prevention, detection, and response to

incidents involving nuclear and other radioactive materials, situational awareness of the threat posed by non-state actors is required. INTERPOL core competencies lie in **police data management and analysis**. We collect, assess, and analyse information relevant to nuclear risks and inform member countries accordingly. We also support member countries with their ongoing investigations of radiological and nuclear threats. INTERPOLs **Geiger database**, although currently undergoing modifications, continues to collate law enforcement data on incidents involving nuclear and other radioactive materials as well as facilities including cyber incidents and insider threat cases. INTERPOL currently works with four regions to enhance the information sharing on radiological and nuclear threats between law-enforcement stakeholders. Those four regions are forming Geiger Working Groups in (1) Black Sea & Caucasus, (2) Central Asia, (3) Southeast Asia, and (4) Southern Africa regions, covering 41 countries.

The **Global Geiger Conference**, held in May this year in Bulgaria, was attended by nearly 200 participants from 31 countries, as well as representatives of partner organizations such as the IAEA, WCO and UNODC, which focused on the prevention of radiological and nuclear criminal acts. The conference served as a forum to share information on incidents involving radioactive materials, potential threat actors, and preventive measures. The plenary session saw an unprecedented level of information sharing from law enforcement agencies.

In addition, INTERPOL assists member countries by issuing alerts on individuals, modus operandi, and incidents involving radioactive materials and by publishing annual analytical reports to inform law enforcement agencies of criminal trends and emerging threats.

The completion of a national-level threat assessment specific to radioactive materials is a gap in many countries' approach to nuclear security. Therefore, INTERPOL has developed a three phase **Radiological**

Terrorism Threat Assessment Methodology taking into consideration the actors and their motivations, the nuclear and other radioactive material and facility access and capabilities, and the conditions leading to a probable attack. Such a methodology will ultimately assist countries in completing their own radiological and nuclear-specific threat assessments.

Having a clear understanding of the threat assists policy makers and legislators in making well-informed decisions and supports the development of proportionate policies and criminal legislation. We encourage all States in this room, members of INTERPOL, to make use of INTERPOL's tools and data repository system in the field of nuclear security.

In addition, an effective response to nuclear security threats requires **specialised awareness and capabilities** that are not part of the traditional law enforcement skill set. In this regard, INTERPOL assists

member countries in building their expertise. RNTPU's unique knowledge of current, global, and regional radiological and nuclear incidents, especially in relation to the motivations and tactics of non-state actors involved in these incidents, and the investigation of such incidents, is essential to provide effective assistance to countries. From first responder training courses, and practical exercises, to an integrated workshop on crime scene management and nuclear forensics taught jointly with the IAEA, INTERPOL has developed a range of specialised training materials. Eight countries are currently benefiting from such capacity building, following a thorough assessment of national capabilities and the development of country-specific Action Plans.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Governments of Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States for their contribution and support to INTERPOL's Radiological and Nuclear Terrorism prevention activities, as well as our partners. INTERPOL and the IAEA have developed a strong working relationship over the years, with the

development of key publications, training programmes, and increased participation in each other's activities. Joint cooperation benefits all countries by helping to build bridges between regulators, policymakers and operational front-line officers.

Law enforcement agencies play a critical role in understanding and addressing nuclear security threats. They are the first responders to situations involving radioactive materials, intervening in, or securing contaminated crime scenes, and apprehending terrorists or smugglers of radioactive material. INTERPOL remains dedicated to bringing the needs, perspectives, and on-the-ground experiences of law enforcement into the IAEA General Conference discussions. This is part of our collective response to transnational crime and the potential devastating misuse of nuclear and other radioactive material by criminal actors.

I thank you for your attention.