

INTERPOL's Submission to the 2023 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

International peace and security is a prerequisite to sustainable development. INTERPOL's vision of "connecting police for a safer world", and its mandate of facilitating international police cooperation for its 195 member countries, fulfills and enables many aspects of the United Nations Agenda 2030 and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). INTERPOL, in its capacity as Permanent Observer, is pleased to share the following contribution to the 2023 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and its theme of "Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels".

The realization of Agenda 2030 was an ambitious target even before the COVID-19 pandemic entered into the equation. The pandemic, in addition to other emergencies resulting from the climate crisis and ongoing conflicts, have stalled or reversed hard-won development gains, exposing our collective vulnerability to setbacks. The unprecedented public health emergency not only incited public health and socioeconomic damage, but also impacted the vulnerabilities that drive, enable and perpetuate criminal activity, further confirming that global health and security are more interdependent than ever.

According to the *2022 INTERPOL Global Crime Trend Report*, in 2022, five criminal areas have persisted, and in some cases escalated, despite the pandemic. These consist of (1) organized crime, (2) illicit trafficking (drug trafficking, human trafficking, migrant trafficking), (3) financial crime (money laundering, financial fraud, corruption), (4) cybercrime (ransomware, phishing, online scams, online child sexual exploitation and abuse) and (5) terrorism.¹ Threat actors, whether opportunistic individuals or complex criminal organizations, proved capable of adapting to obstacles or undertaking new criminal endeavors. This is partly due to accelerated rates of digitalization, with both professional and personal activity able to be performed remotely. This shift in behavior undeniably opened up new avenues and incentives for cybercriminals, in particular. This reality requires international security stakeholders to reinvigorate actions to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs.

The interconnected nature of the SDGs requires that any efforts directed at achieving these goals be concerted. Only through a multilateral, inclusive, multi-sectoral approach, consistent with international human rights and international humanitarian law, can we learn from the past and accelerate the recovery from the pandemic, getting back on track to attaining Agenda 2030. The endeavors of national, regional and international police organizations will contribute to the recovery from COVID-19 and play a crucial role in the full implementation of Agenda 2030.

¹ <https://www.interpol.int/en/How-we-work/Criminal-intelligence-analysis2/Our-analysis-reports>
INTERPOL For official use only

The INTERPOL Global Policing Goals

At the 2017 INTERPOL General Assembly, the international law enforcement community expressed its support for the Agenda 2030 through the adoption of two landmark resolutions that endorsed the launch of the INTERPOL 7 Global Policing Goals (GPGs), a mechanism to support member countries to meet their respective commitments under the Agenda 2030.

INTERPOL's complementary and parallel Goals address security issues of a transnational nature, and play the role of the SDGs for the international security community. All GPGs are connected to SDG 16, "achieving peace, justice and strong institutions". SDG 16 serves as an enabler for all the SDGs, including those in focus at the 2023 HLPF, Goals 6, 7, 9, 11 and 17.²

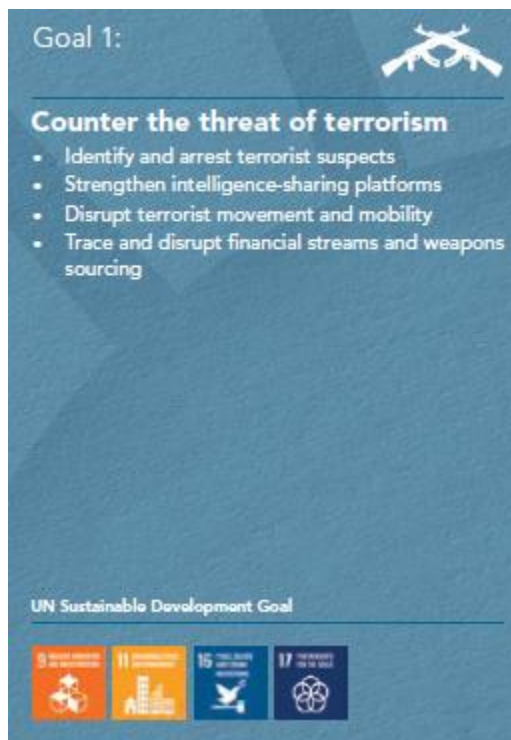
The GPGs are also endorsed by the Heads of regional police organizations, who most recently convened in New York at the 6th edition of the "The Dialogue" Meeting in December 2022. Through this innovative partnership, Dialogue entities discussed the "Strategic Nexus between International Security and Sustainable Development". Given that the UN community is conducting its mid-point review of the SDGs, INTERPOL and the regional police organizations decided to launch a review process of the GPGs in parallel, a process currently underway in a multilateral fashion, and in consultation with INTERPOL member countries.³

Additionally, the nexus between the SDGs and the GPGs is anchored in the UN General Assembly Resolution on "Cooperation between the UN and INTERPOL", including in its latest review adopted by consensus in November 2022, A/RES/77/20 (2022)⁴.

Global Policing Goal 1: Counter the Threat of Terrorism

It is crucial to counter the threat which terrorism poses to national security, social and economic prosperity and lives of citizens around the world.

INTERPOL works to build the capacities of the global law enforcement community to counter terrorism and promote the rule of law. For example, the global exchange of criminal data is at the heart of INTERPOL's Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the five pillars of which focus specifically on identifying terrorist individuals, hampering their cross-border mobility, disrupting their financing, intercepting their access to weapons and chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive materials, and limiting their online presence.



² <https://www.interpol.int/en/Who-we-are/Strategy/Global-Policing-Goals>.


³ INTERPOL. INTERPOL Dialogue addresses nexus between international security and sustainable development

⁴ United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) (2022) UN Doc A/RES/77/20

Global Policing Goal 2: Promote Border Integrity Worldwide

Border integrity brings great advantages for the global economy and trade. However, when left uncontrolled, cross-border mobility is exploited by organized crime and terrorist groups.


In facing such risks, effective border security becomes an essential part of the global endeavor to combat transnational organized crime and promote economic development and social prosperity. Through its secure communications system, I-24/7, INTERPOL is well placed to collect police and border intelligence, and facilitate collaboration between police and border agencies, resulting in successful detection threats, identification of victims and their delivery to safety.

Goal 2: 

Promote border integrity worldwide

- Identify criminal and victim movements and travel
- Share information with and between border officials
- Contribute to the establishment of global standards for border security
- Assist member countries with maintaining the integrity of their security documents (e.g. addressing the use of counterfeit/false passports)


UN Sustainable Development Goal



Global Policing Goal 3: Protect Vulnerable Communities

It is imperative to protect vulnerable communities from transnational organized crime groups who take advantage of people willing to take desperate measures in the hope of finding a better life. This includes migrant smuggling operations as well as human trafficking.


In response, INTERPOL provides law enforcement authorities with access to high quality data and criminal intelligence analysis, as well as capacity building and investigative support, in order to help their tactical, operational and strategic decision-making. INTERPOL's newest and 19th database, I-Familia, identifies missing persons based on international DNA kinship matching, helping to reunite loved ones or to bring closure to cases.

Goal 3: 

Protect vulnerable communities

- Detect crimes and criminals and identify prevention opportunities
- Protect victims of crime from exploitation and re-victimization
- Respect human rights of vulnerable communities
- Develop robust networks of experts to exchange information, best practice and operational activity
- Disrupt the profit element in the criminal business model
- Identify and disrupt the illicit financial stream and profits derived through this criminal business model

UN Sustainable Development Goals



Global Policing Goal 4: Secure Cyberspace for People and Businesses

Cybercrimes know no borders, and cause serious harm and pose very real threats to victims worldwide. Cybercriminals are becoming more agile, exploiting new technologies as well as cooperating among themselves. Cyberthreats can impede trust and resilience in the digital economy, preventing countries from realizing their full digital potential.

INTERPOL's Cybercrime Programme is structured around three pillars, namely cyber operations, cybercrime threat response and cyber capabilities development to better equip member countries to prevent, detect, and investigate cybercrime. INTERPOL remains committed to contribute its expertise in the negotiations for a new comprehensive Cybercrime Convention under the UN Ad Hoc Committee and stands ready to assist Member States in building their capacities to fight cybercrime.

Goal 4:

Secure cyberspace for people and businesses

- Establish partnerships to secure cyberspace
- Expand cybercrime investigative expertise
- Safeguard communities through standard setting, public education
- Protect critical infrastructures

UN Sustainable Development Goal

Global Policing Goal 5: Promote Global Integrity

Economic and financial globalization has made corruption a borderless crime. The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the speed with which criminal groups can modify their methods to take advantage of new opportunities for defrauding individuals and companies, for example, through phone fraud, phishing, non-delivery fraud, investment fraud and payment card fraud. Corruption undermines political, social and economic stability, and ultimately threatens the safety and security of society as a whole.

INTERPOL's recently-launched Financial Crime and Anti-Corruption Centre (IFCACC) works to tackle financial crimes including through investigative, operational and analytical support to member countries. IFCACC continues to cooperate with UNODC and OECD on cross-border operations aimed at promoting global integrity across all sectors, from public institutions to private enterprises and sports.

Goal 5:

Promote global integrity


- Promote good governance and rule of law
- Enhance corruption investigative expertise
- Promote a culture of integrity where corruption is not acceptable
- Build mechanisms to support and defend integrity and restore stolen assets

UN Sustainable Development Goal

Global Policing Goal 6: Curb Illicit Markets

Illicit markets are dynamic and varied, and include illegal commodities such as drugs, firearms, counterfeit items (pharmaceuticals and food), and stolen cultural property, as well as licit goods that are sold or traded illegally.


Given the transnational nature of crimes related to illicit goods and global health, and the need for cross-sector and cross-border collaboration, INTERPOL stands ready to coordinate law enforcement operations in the field to help our member countries remove illicit products from circulation and to dismantle the illegal networks behind these crimes.

Goal 6: 

Curb illicit markets

- Raise awareness among the public of the risks associated with illicit goods and products
- Build mechanisms to detect emerging illicit markets
- Strengthen capacity to investigate and prevent illicit trade including its financing
- Identify and disrupt the illicit financial stream and profits derived through this type of criminal activity
- Identify and disrupt organized crime and drugs networks

UN Sustainable Development Goals



Global Policing Goal 7: Support Environmental Security and Sustainability

Environmental crimes pose a serious threat to everyday life, the planet and future generations. Poaching, illegal fishing, and forestry and mineral crime jeopardize the delicate balance of Earth's ecosystems, while pollution crime endangers health by contaminating soil, water supplies and the atmosphere. The resulting environmental degradation hastens the climate crisis and threatens food security and the economic, social and political stability of the communities that depend on such resources.

INTERPOL's dedicated Environmental Security Programme focuses its efforts on countering fisheries crime, forestry crime, illegal mining, pollution crime and wildlife crime. INTERPOL encourages Member States to set up National Environmental Security Task Forces (NESTs) to foster closer cooperation between law enforcement, customs officials, environmental agencies, prosecutors and other actors.

Goal 7: 

Support environmental security and sustainability

- Strengthen capacity to investigate environmental crime
- Protect resource-dependent communities, vulnerable species and natural heritage
- Build mechanisms to protect biodiversity and natural resources
- Disrupt organized crime networks and the profit element
- Identify and disrupt the illicit financial stream and profits derived through this type of criminal activity

UN Sustainable Development Goals

