



INTERPOL

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

CONNECTING POLICE FOR A SAFER WORLD

MEMBER COUNTRIES

AFGHANISTAN
ALBANIA
ALGERIA
ANDORRA
ANGOLA
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
ARGENTINA
ARMENIA
ARUBA
AUSTRALIA
AUSTRIA
AZERBAIJAN
BAHAMAS
BAHRAIN
BANGLADESH
BARBADOS
BELARUS
BELGIUM
BELIZE
BENIN
BHUTAN
BOLIVIA
BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA
BOTSWANA
BRAZIL
BRUNEI
BULGARIA
BURKINA FASO
BURUNDI
CABO VERDE
CAMBODIA
CAMEROON
CANADA
CENTRAL AFRICAN RE-
PUBLIC
CHAD
CHILE
CHINA
COLOMBIA
COMOROS
CONGO
CONGO (Democratic Rep.)
COSTA RICA
CROATIA
CUBA
CURAÇAO
CYPRUS
CZECH REPUBLIC
CÔTE D'IVOIRE
DENMARK
DJIBOUTI
DOMINICA
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
ECUADOR
EGYPT
EL SALVADOR
EQUATORIAL GUINEA
ERITREA
ESTONIA
ESWATINI
ETHIOPIA
FIJI
FINLAND
FRANCE
GABON
GAMBIA
GEORGIA
GERMANY
GHANA
GREECE
GRENADA
GUATEMALA
GUINEA
GUINEA BISSAU
GUYANA
HAITI
HONDURAS
HUNGARY
ICELAND
INDIA
INDONESIA
IRAN
IRAQ
IRELAND
ISRAEL
ITALY
JAMAICA
JAPAN
JORDAN
KAZAKHSTAN
KENYA
KIRIBATI
KOREA (Rep. of)
KUWAIT
KYRGYZSTAN
LAOS
LATVIA
LEBANON
LESOTHO
LIBERIA
LIBYA
LIECHTENSTEIN
LITHUANIA
LUXEMBOURG
MADAGASCAR
MALAWI
MALAYSIA
MALDIVES
MALI
MALTA
MARSHALL ISLANDS
MAURITANIA
MAURITIUS
MEXICO
MICRONESIA (FEDERATED
STATES OF)
MOLDOVA
MONACO
MONGOLIA
MONTENEGRO
MOROCCO
MOZAMBIQUE
MYANMAR
NAMIBIA
NAURU
NEPAL
NETHERLANDS
NEW ZEALAND
NICARAGUA
NIGER
NIGERIA
NORTH MACEDONIA
NORWAY
OMAN
PAKISTAN
PALAU
PALESTINE
PANAMA
PAPUA NEW GUINEA
PARAGUAY
PERU
PHILIPPINES
POLAND
PORTUGAL
QATAR
ROMANIA
RUSSIA
RWANDA
SAMOA
SAN MARINO
SAO TOME & PRINCIPE
SAUDI ARABIA
SENEGAL
SERBIA
SEYCHELLES
SIERRA LEONE
SINGAPORE
SINT MAARTEN
SLOVAKIA
SLOVENIA
SOLOMON ISLANDS
SOMALIA
SOUTH AFRICA
SOUTH SUDAN (Rep. of)
SPAIN
SRI LANKA
ST KITTS & NEVIS
ST LUCIA
ST VINCENT & GRENADINES
SUDAN
SURINAME
SWEDEN
SWITZERLAND
SYRIA
TAJIKISTAN
TANZANIA
THAILAND
TIMOR LESTE
TOGO
TONGA
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
TUNISIA
TURKMENISTAN
TÜRKIYE
UGANDA
UKRAINE
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
UNITED KINGDOM
UNITED STATES
URUGUAY
UZBEKISTAN
VANUATU
VATICAN CITY STATE
VENEZUELA
VIET NAM
YEMEN
ZAMBIA
ZIMBABWE



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Secretary General's Foreword

2023 was the year INTERPOL celebrated its centenary – 100 years of international police cooperation.

It was a moment to reflect on the achievements of our membership, but also look to the future and how we will meet the challenges to come.

The advances in technology since INTERPOL was created provides law enforcement with both opportunities and threats.

To assist our member countries address these challenges, we launched our Biometric Hub, a state-of-the-art system for identifying criminals. Enabling police to check facial images and fingerprints against INTERPOL's databases, it is a vital tool for officers on the frontlines.

Our member countries now also benefit from the first Toolkit for Responsible AI Innovation in Law Enforcement – a practical guide for law enforcement agencies on developing and deploying AI responsibly, while respecting human rights and ethics principles.

However, one of the greatest threats the world faces today comes from transnational organized crime. This was why at the 91st General Assembly meeting in Austria, the city where INTERPOL was created, we launched the Vienna Declaration.

It is a call to action to tackle what has become a threat to national security, one which can only truly be addressed through global cooperation.

As I enter the final year of my mandate, I would like to extend my thanks for the continued commitment and support of our National Central Bureaus, our President and Executive Committee, General Secretariat staff and law enforcement officers across our now 196 member countries.

The past 100 years have seen INTERPOL constantly meeting the challenges of an evolving threat landscape to become what it is today, a leading example of effective multilateralism.

It is with this history in mind that we can look forward with confidence to the next 100 years, continuing to draw on the strength and support of our member countries in our ongoing and unwavering mission to make the world a safer place.



Jürgen Stock
Secretary General



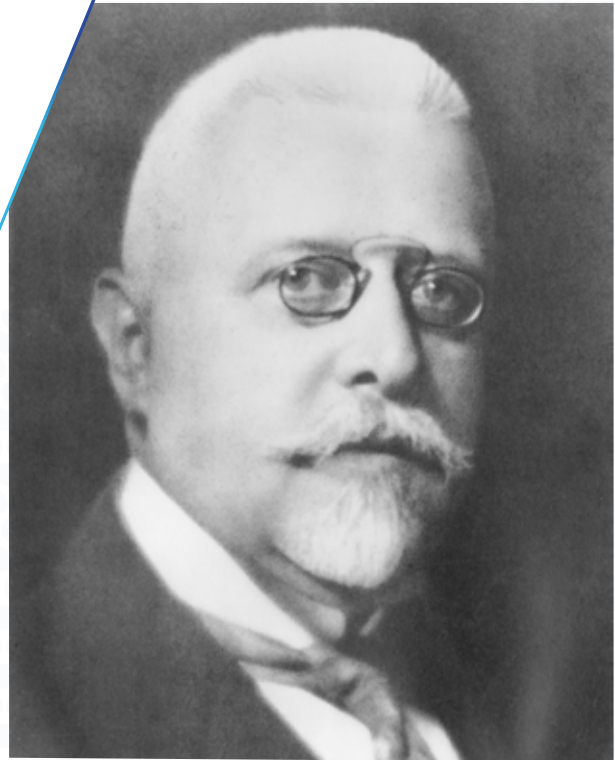
INTERPOL Centenary - a summary of the year

On 7 September 1923, representatives from 20 countries signed an agreement establishing the first international organization dedicated to criminal police cooperation.

The creation of the International Criminal Police Commission (ICPC) - the forefather of INTERPOL – was aimed at bridging the security gaps emerging from a lack of information sharing and mutual assistance across borders.

In his opening speech to the ICPC in 1923, Dr Johannes Schober, President of the Vienna Police and INTERPOL's Founder, said that:

“Even in the midst of oppositions between the nations of the earth, the Congress would unite people above the political battle, because police cooperation was ‘not a political but a cultural goal’”.



Dr Johannes Schober

President of the Vienna Police and INTERPOL's Founder



On 7 September 2023, 100 years to the day since INTERPOL was created, a special ceremony with Executive Committee members was held at the same location where INTERPOL was founded in Vienna.

That mission continues in support of 196 member countries - within the boundaries set by their sovereign legislations, and in the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Throughout the year, INTERPOL's centenary was celebrated in unique ways across the globe.

In the sky, on mountain peaks and in the depths of the ocean, the INTERPOL flag was proudly flown by member countries marking this milestone.



Greece



Maldives



Tanzania



Nepal

Databases

The exchange of police data lies at the core of INTERPOL's mandate, and we continually seek new solutions to increase the type and relevance of data available. Naturally, strict data protection rules are in place and are regularly updated to keep pace with technological developments and evolving international standards.

INTERPOL has 19 global databases which in 2023 searched an average of 20 million times every day, equivalent to more than 231 times per second.

Each search is a potential breakthrough in a case for law enforcement across our 196 member countries.

2023 19 DATABASE

143

MILLION



7.4

BILLION



20

MILLION



231

SEARCHES PER SECOND

1.4

MILLION



0.5

SECONDS



In 2023, INTERPOL launched its Biometric Hub, a state-of-the-art system for identifying criminals.

The Hub enables law enforcement in member countries to upload fingerprints and facial recognition images for immediate comparison against data in INTERPOL's biometric databases for potential matches.

As well as an effective tool for screening individuals at border crossing points, the Biometric Hub can also be used for regular police operations within a country to see if a person being checked poses a security threat. This is especially important in situations where travel documents are not available.



I-CORE

Key Objectives

I-CORE aims to provide a robust set of global policing capabilities so that member countries are better equipped to tackle international organized crime and terrorism in the framework of INTERPOL and strengthen INTERPOL's central role as a global platform through the following:

- Bolstered police information exchange, through the integration of new technologies;
- More robust capabilities so that member countries are better equipped to tackle transnational organized crime and terrorism;
- Strengthened global security by developing new, fast and accurate data access services;
- Improved support for frontline policing and transnational investigations;
- Providing police agencies with a trusted and secured communication platform;

Funding

Currently, available funds will support the developments of products under the I-CORE Programme until the end of 2025.

The second annual meeting of the Donor Group was held in January 2024 convening a wider group to also include Canada, China, the European Commission, France, Italy, Japan, Norway and the UAE.

Separately, Project INSIGHT, which has its own project governance under I-CORE, received nearly EUR 14M predominantly from the US Department of State, with contributions from the UK Home office and NCB Wiesbaden.



Building pillars

1. NEXUS (formerly 'Smart Case Messaging')

NEXUS is a new, smart, automated system to securely connect law enforcement globally. Through structured communication, Nexus will allow for improved management and analysis of operational exchanges and eventually replace the I-24/7 messaging system launched in 2003.

NEXUS Version 1 will be operational for countries in Q1 of 2025. Improved functionality will be built into future editions, including increased use of AI, enhanced use of entity data and integration with national case management systems.

2. Biometric Hub

This is at the heart of the identification of persons of interest in a myriad of situations: border crossings, police field checks or migrant hot spot checks to cross borders, for the purposes of migration.

It allows fingerprint and facial image searches and matches globally. It was launched in October 2023 for all INTERPOL member countries and is now fully available in two modes:

- B2B (business to business allowing automated connection);
- B2C (business to customer).

It remains to be tested and implemented to support major INTERPOL policing capabilities such as the INTERPOL Stolen and Lost Travel Document database checks.

3. Unified Information Model (UIM) for police services

The Unified Information Model for police services is deemed to become the standard Unified Police Information vocabulary and structure for all law enforcement systems in alignment with the systems and capabilities created by INTERPOL.

4. INSIGHT

INSIGHT has enhanced data processing and crime analysis system thanks to a common platform for global law enforcement to share information for analytical and operational purposes and to collaborate on cross-border cases and operations.

The system is implemented and is currently used by INTERPOL staff. From October 2024 onwards, a pilot with two beneficiary countries will be launched to test access and analytical collaboration, using one common platform.

5. Global Digital Police Identity

The Global Digital Police Identity will be the world's first certified digital identity management system for police officers worldwide: to enhance international police collaboration, improve trust and transparency to accelerate investigations.

The project is currently at the concept stage.



Organized and Emerging Crime

Criminal Networks

Organized crime poses significant threats to societies and economies worldwide, with its activities encompassing various illegal enterprises. High-value targets within organized crime, such as drug trafficking, stolen motor vehicles, stolen works of art or counterfeit currency and security documents, each present distinct challenges and dangers.

In recent years, organized crime groups have adapted and mutualized their networks and infrastructures. They have also diversified their activities and turned to poly-criminality, becoming involved in various converging crimes.

Some criminal networks have evolved from traditional pyramid structures to split-up cells, where additional criminal groups have emerged and taken power, becoming as well organized and structured as legitimate multinational companies.

Where digitalization still requires many generations and legitimate sectors to adapt, organized crime has taken up technological innovations and brought digital transformation to its worst possible use.

Operation Stolen SUVs

Following a two-year investigation involving six European countries, INTERPOL and Europol, 13 suspects linked to an organized crime group behind the large-scale theft and trafficking of SUVs from Europe to West Africa were arrested.

The criminal group holding different nationalities from Europe and Africa, used a mobile and flexible criminal structure, where so-called "coordinators" would place orders for certain models of vehicles with car thieves in Europe.

Once stolen, the vehicles would be driven - often driven by minors - to various ports in Europe, in order to be concealed in cargo containers and shipped to West Africa.

As a result, they infiltrate every layer of our societies and economies. These criminal threats generate parallel crimes that help the criminal enterprise function, such as corruption, fraud, or money laundering.

Organized crime groups rely on law enforcement's reluctance to collaborate and exchange information. Our organized crime unit collaborates closely with INTERPOL's police services to identify key figures in transnational crime, their networks and activities. The goal is to dismantle these organizations.

We analyze intelligence, including biometrics, images, and known associations, to create a global picture that links organizers, financiers, recruiters, distributors, and corrupt officials.

The unit also runs projects targeting specific criminal networks, each with unique challenges. These projects promote the exchange of operational data, best practices, and lessons learned among national and international enforcement bodies to dismantle specific groups.

Over 170 vehicles transported from Belgian, Dutch, French, German and Spanish ports were identified.

INTERPOL's Stolen Motor Vehicle (SMV) unit played a key role in supporting the investigation since 2021, through the analysis of data in INTERPOL's SMV database, providing information on suspected routes and deploying officers.

During the operation, more than 110 officers, including tactical and canine units, raided locations across France, resulting in the arrest of suspected thieves, logisticians and the two main leaders in France of the criminal enterprise.

Environmental Security Programme

Environmental crime is a significant crime area worth hundreds of billions of dollars. Offenders may be organized criminal networks with sophisticated professional skills, white collar criminals or ostensibly legitimate companies specialized in the environmental sector. In other instances, offenders are part of well-structured transnational criminal groups, or clans that operate in various global criminal markets, both physically and online.

In 2023, the Environmental Security Programme (ENS) continued to provide, amongst others, operational support and criminal intelligence analysis, including through Operational Support Teams (OSTs) and Regional Investigative Case Meetings (RIACMs).

The Programme focused on five crime areas:

1. Fisheries crime, involving the harvesting and processing of the entire fisheries sector, including food fraud at consumer levels;
2. Forestry crime, concerning criminal activity in the forestry sector covering the entire supply chain, from harvest and transportation to processing and selling;
3. Illegal mining, which entails both illegal extraction and trade of materials, including the illegal use of toxic chemicals in mining activities;
4. Pollution crime, involving criminal activities relating to the trafficking and/or the illegal management of potential contaminants;
5. Wildlife crime, as pertaining to those criminal activities aimed at exploiting wildlife across the globe, threatening protected wildlife species, affecting vulnerable communities, national economies, and human health.



Notable 2023 achievements include Operation Thunder 2023, jointly led by INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization, and supported by ICCWC to target wildlife and forestry crimes.

Counter Terrorism

In 2023, terrorism remained a complex and serious global threat, with a rapidly evolving operational environment. At the global level, terrorist attacks have become more lethal, with sub-Saharan Africa being the most impacted region, followed by the Middle East and North Africa. Notably, the terrorist threat continues to expand across both physical and digital borders.

INTERPOL identified three main global trends concerning terrorism:

1. Jihadist terrorism remains the largest and most persistent transnational threat, with groups connected to Al Qaida and Da'esh/Islamic State continuing to carry out and inspire attacks. This is evidenced in Iraq, Syria, and Afghanistan, as well as in North America and Europe, and is now also spreading across Africa and Asia at an alarming pace;
2. Terrorism linked to extreme right-wing ideology has increased, particularly in Europe and North America, as well as in parts of the Asia-Pacific region
3. Terrorist actors and violent extremists continue to explore and exploit new and emerging technologies, with these being major enablers in both jihadist and extreme right-wing terrorism.

Terrorist groups' recruitment, communication, financing, and execution of terrorist acts are underpinned by complex, dynamic criminal models to secure support and resources.

Terrorists seek to exploit the business modeling and expertise of criminal networks to finance their operations through poly-criminality activities such as drug trafficking, arms smuggling, extortion, and money laundering.

To keep communities safe on and offline, a comprehensive and coordinated law enforcement response is required, involving collaboration between member countries and international partners.

In the current complex threat and operating environment, INTERPOL has renewed its commitment to enable global law enforcement to more effectively counter persistent and emerging forms of terrorism through international cooperation, with a key focus on cross cutting prevention.

INTERPOL's Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy 2022-2025 has four forward-thinking objectives:

Disrupting – through improved information sharing and exchange, adopting a data centric approach for effective, integrated law enforcement actions.

Building the threat picture – using intelligence to better inform operational and investigative responses in a dynamic threat landscape.

Providing focused support – that is needs driven, with technical expertise, tailored assistance and operationally aligned, and importantly, delivered through collaborative approaches.

Representing Law Enforcement interests and needs – being a global advocate, champion and voice to garner the types of support needed.

The INTERPOL Counter Terrorism (CT) Directorate has developed its strategic approach, articulated around the "3Bs" – Border security, Biometric data collection and Battlefield information exchange – to support and enhance complex counter terrorism operational activities and investigations across land, air and maritime routes, and entailing chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosives materials (CBRNE).

In 2023, 12 counter terrorism operations were coordinated by the General Secretariat in collaboration with 56 member countries across East Africa, West Africa, Europe, Middle East and North Africa and Southeast Asia, and Central Asia. CT Operations are conducted on an intelligence-driven and threat-based approach.

Major Success Stories

In March 2023, INTERPOL conducted a simultaneous operation in Libya, Morocco and Tunisia to detect and prevent bomb-makers or their exponents, from smuggling explosives and precursor explosive chemicals or chemicals for use in the manufacture of chemical weapons agents (CWA) at targeted border points.

The operation was conducted at several key seaports and airports in the three countries, resulting in 9,235 cargo and over 3,500 vehicles screened against INTERPOL and national databases, and four arrests, including two for the possession of material linked to explosive and chemical precursors.

In December 2023, INTERPOL concluded its largest regional CT Operation in collaboration with 11 West African countries, resulting in 15 arrests for terrorism and other serious crimes, including the arrest of one human trafficker and the rescue of three minors.

As a result, the region observed a 170% increase in the publication of terrorism-related INTERPOL Notices, including the capture and use of biometric data, with almost 1,000 additional Notices on Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) and convicted terrorists.

This Operation was funded by the German Federal Foreign Office in the framework of project I-CT SHIELD.

Project I-CT SHIELD

Major Operations

Operation NEPTUNE V targeted FTF movements across the Mediterranean Sea and strengthened border controls in Algeria, Lebanon, Libya, Tunisia, Jordan, Bulgaria, Cyprus, France, Italy and Spain, funded by Global Affairs Canada.

Operation NEPTUNE V

Operation HOTSPOT uses biometric data to help detect FTFs and criminals who try to cross borders illegitimately. At the same time, it disrupts the networks that facilitate such travel.

It was conducted in Iraq, Moldova, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia, Serbia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania.

Operation HOTSPOT

Operation TRIGGER-SALVO II centred on disrupting the illicit trafficking of arms, weapons, ammunition, and dangerous goods and identifying and intercepting FTFs and criminal fugitives moving across borders in Brunei, China, Hong Kong China SAR, Macau China SAR, Indonesia, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Mongolia, Pakistan, Philippines, and Singapore, funded by the Government of the People's Republic of China.

Operation TRIGGER-SALVO II

INTERPOL Financial Crimes and Anti-Corruption Centre

In the world today, only one percent of illicit financial flows and criminal proceeds are intercepted, frozen and recovered successfully.

As our world relies heavily on digital capabilities and innovation, the means to commit crime are continuously evolving and the threats to our financial institutions must be combatted to limit financial fraud and corruption.

New techniques and technologies such as artificial intelligence are already being used by organized crime groups worldwide who aim to defraud innocent people no matter which jurisdiction they find themselves in.

This bleak reality makes it increasingly difficult for member countries to fight against complex financial crimes alone and requires a coordinated response from Law Enforcement Agencies worldwide.

In 2023, IFCACC significantly supported INTERPOL member countries in asset recovery, anti-money laundering, and anti-corruption operations. The year 2023 marked a pivotal period for the Centre, enhancing its role and reinforcing its reputation within the global law enforcement community.

The Centre remains committed to advancing these critical missions and maintaining its high standards of operational excellence.

In September 2023, IFCACC hosted the FATF-INTERPOL Roundtable Engagement (FIRE II) event at IPSG, bringing together policy makers and representatives from law enforcement agencies to discuss the challenges they face in asset-tracing and recovery.

This was an opportunity for the organization to heavily engage with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), and allow participants to engage on the topic of asset recovery and global anti-money laundering efforts.

This strategic partnership also led to the creation of the INTERPOL, FATF, Egmont Group joint-publication "Illicit Financial Flows from Cyber-Enabled Fraud", released in November and now available to the public.

In November, IFCACC hosted the first in-person meeting of the Global Coalition to Fight Financial Crime (GCFFC) at INTERPOL General Secretariat.

The Coalition is a consortium made up of private and public sector organizations which aim to combat international financial crimes and the meeting allowed participants to discuss the future collaboration and priorities of the Coalition.

During the 91st General Assembly, our membership endorsed a proposal for IFCACC to move forward towards a pilot phase to test a new Silver Notice and corresponding diffusion (this phase is expected to start in early 2025).

The Notice will help member countries to pursue internationally-held criminal assets and will be crucial in the fight against a wide range of financially motivated crimes.

Throughout 2023, the INTERPOL Global Rapid Intervention of Payments mechanism (I-GRIP) was promoted to member countries, which resulted in an increasing number of member countries starting to utilize the I-GRIP to withhold criminal proceeds across jurisdictions in a swift manner.

One example of a successful case was the I-GRIP request on a Business Email Compromise (BEC) Fraud case made by Singapore to Indonesia in June 2023, with the full amount of USD 2 million of illicit money recovered.

Major Success Stories

On October 3, 2023, the Namibian Police Force (NamPol) conducted a significant operation in Windhoek, targeting a sophisticated international scam network.

This action led to the arrest of 20 suspects and the apprehension of 88 Namibian youths, exposing a romance baiting fraud operation with victims in several different countries. The NamPol subsequently contacted IFCACC for support in extracting and analyzing the information contained in seized devices – which totalled 163 computers and 350 mobile phones.

Building on the initial intelligence received from Namibian authorities, IFCACC deployed an Operational Support Team to provide technical support to facilitate extraction of forensic data from the seized mobile phones, language support, and reviewing the intelligence and forensic data retrieved.

IFCACC's analysis revealed findings from the review of multiple seized devices during the operation.

The technique used by this crime syndicate involves creating fake relationships and trust with victims through social media and dating apps, then manipulating them into making significant financial investments in fake cryptocurrency platforms.

The operation was highly organized, with a business-like structure with different roles and responsibilities, employing scripts, detailed fake personas, and manipulated digital content to deceive victims (e.g. AI deepfakes).

Namibia – Scam Call Center Operation

Major Operations

The HAECHI IV transcontinental police operation against online financial crime concluded with almost 3,500 arrests and seizures of USD 300 million worth of assets across 34 countries.

Authorities blocked 82,112 suspicious bank accounts, seizing a combined USD 199 million in hard currency and USD 101 million in virtual assets.

Operation HAECHI

Operation JACKAL aims to dismantle and target criminal activities of West African organized crime groups (WAOOGs) who resort to large-scale financial crime (cyber-enabled financial fraud in particular) and related money laundering.

During the second phase of this operation:

- 21 countries participated
- 208 bank accounts blocked
- 3.35 EUR million seized and frozen
- 15 notices published
- 467 cases analyzed
- 178 arrests made
- 181 suspects identified
- 354 cases resolved.

Operation JACKAL

Vulnerable Communities

Crimes Against Children

Law enforcement is confronted with an unprecedented level of online child sexual abuse and exploitation, which is growing at an alarming rate. Law enforcement successes represent a fraction of the monumental scale of child sexual abuse and exploitation taking place globally. Offenders continue to operate internationally, and their abuse only ends when it is proactively confronted and stopped.

Key Crimes Against Children (CAC) activities in 2023 included:

- Delivering International Child Sexual Exploitation database (ICSE) support, communications and collaboration to specialized units in member countries;
- Sustaining and coordinating an effective global network of experts and specialized units regularly communicating and meeting for operational cooperation and knowledge-sharing;
- Capacity building, focusing on victim and offender identification, with a particular focus on newly established units;
- Analysis of evidence and intelligence to produce case referrals to Member Countries;
- Coordinating complex, multi-stakeholder international operations and Victim Identification Taskforces (VIDTFs);
- Liaising and lobbying activities to engage the private sector, international organizations, sub-national law enforcement and other stakeholders;
- Outreach to previously disengaged regions and Member Countries, with specific attention in Latin America, Asia, the Middle East and Africa.

Victim-Centric Approach

The victim-centric approach to investigations ensures that the child victim is at the centre of attention and care, with specialized national officers working towards the victim's identification, removal from harm and support. Since images and videos are more likely to show the face of children than abusers, analyzing the information found in images and videos of child sexual abuse helps national and local law enforcement find the child and make an arrest. The CAC Unit's victim-centric processes for identifying children have led to significant successes in identifying victims and offenders, with 37,911 children and 16,533 offenders marked as identified in ICSE at the end of 2023.

Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling

Human Trafficking and migrant smuggling are growing crime areas that impact some of the most vulnerable members of our communities, affecting millions of people each year. In the last seven years, the number of reported victims has grown while the capability to detect victims has decreased. The value of this criminal market is also growing, with estimated revenues increasing by hundreds of billions of dollars in the last decade, approaching the scale of the global illicit drug market. These trends of underreporting and market value increase have been accompanied by the increasing adoption of technology by traffickers, who have embedded it in all phases of their offending.

Major Operations

INTERPOL and AFRIPOL's first joint operation against human trafficking and migrant smuggling resulted in more than 1,000 arrests worldwide and thousands of victims detected.

Coordinated with the participation of law enforcement in 54 countries, operation FLASH-WEKA took place in two phases between May and June to dismantle the organized crime networks behind human trafficking and migrant smuggling in Africa and beyond. Using INTERPOL's global criminal databases, local law enforcement worked with INTERPOL and AFRIPOL to locate, intercept and stop criminals operating across borders.

Operation FLASH-WEKA: AFRICA

Operation TURQUESA V is an INTERPOL-coordinated operation against people smuggling and human trafficking across the Americas. Throughout the five-day operation, INTERPOL set up an Operational Coordination Unit in Costa Rica.

Officers from the Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants unit were also deployed to the land border in Tabatinga, Brazil, and to the Darien Gap between Colombia and Panama, where they used INTERPOL Mobile Devices to perform live checks against its global databases.

Operation TURQUESA V: AMERICAS



Cybercrime

New types of cybercrime are emerging all the time. With nearly two thirds of the global population now online, manipulative and well-organized cybercriminals are exploiting digital technologies to tailor their attacks and target weaknesses in online systems, networks and infrastructures, causing significant financial and psychological harm.

In 2023, the INTERPOL Cybercrime Directorate noted a surge in ransomware, malware, phishing, hacking, and data theft, along with an increase in cyber-enabled crimes like online scams - with the modus operandi of perpetrators rapidly evolving due to increased attack surfaces like servers and websites.

In the face of this rapidly evolving threat landscape, the INTERPOL Cybercrime Directorate has made it its mission to reduce the global impact of cybercrime and protect communities for a safer world. INTERPOL Cybercrime Programme aims to target the most prolific cybercrime typologies, by prioritizing steps in the cyber kill chain which impact the most countries at high harm, high impact, high volume, and high interest.

To achieve this, INTERPOL delivers tailored support to its 196 member countries through three core pillars:

Cybercrime Threat Response, responsible for developing an in-depth understanding of the cybercrime threat landscape and providing actionable intelligence through information sharing and intelligence analysis,

Cybercrime Operations, which leads, coordinates and supports member countries in transnational operational activities to effectively prevent, detect, investigate and disrupt cybercrime, and

Cyber Strategy and Capabilities Development, which provides tailored support to member countries, especially in the development of their cyber skills, knowledge, and technical capabilities, and enhances strategy through partnerships and public engagement. It collaborates with member countries, the cybersecurity industry, CERTs, and civil society, notably through the Gateway initiative, which involves 13 private-sector partners contributing proprietary data per INTERPOL's rules.



Major Success Stories

Delivering actionable intelligence to prevent and disrupt cyber threats:

in 2023, INTERPOL distributed a total of 621 Cyber Activity Reports (CARs), each containing actionable cyber intelligence data produced by cybercrime analysts, in close collaboration with the Gateway partners.

The Cybercrime Directorate also proactively engaged in collaborations with the INTERPOL Major Event Support Team and project Stadia to ensure the smooth execution of high-profile events such as the Asian Games, Formula 1 racing, and the G7.

INTERPOL delivers the 2023 Global Cybercrime Conference:

leaders from law enforcement, the private sector, international organizations and academia gathered in Singapore to attend the first ever in-person INTERPOL Global Cybercrime Conference (15-17 October 2023, Singapore).

INTERPOL commits to enhanced cybersecurity cooperation at PPF 2023:

In November 2023, INTERPOL signed the Paris Call for Trust and Security in Cyberspace, a non-binding declaration promoting accountable and responsible behaviour in cyberspace - officially announced at the 6th edition of the Paris Peace Forum (PPF).

INTERPOL works closely with the UN:

In 2023, INTERPOL continued to contribute to several United Nations processes, and in particular the UN Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of

Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes (AHC) and the Open-ended Working Group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies (OEWG on ICTs).

INTERPOL became a member of the International Counter Ransomware Initiative:

In August 2023, INTERPOL became an official member of the International Counter Ransomware Initiative (CRI), a United States-led, multinational government and law enforcement endeavor which aims to help its member countries to disrupt the ransomware chain globally.

Major Operation

From September to November 2023, INTERPOL led and coordinated 60 law enforcement agencies from more than 50 member countries and 5 private partners in a global operation targeting phishing, malware and ransomware attacks. Codenamed Synergia, the operation enabled authorities across INTERPOL regions to detain over 30 individuals and identify an additional 70 suspects. Furthermore, around 70% of the more than 1,300 malicious servers identified were taken down. Launched in response to the escalation and professionalization of cybercrime, Operation Synergia demonstrates that coordinated action across borders and sectors can lead to tangible results against cyber threats.

Operation SYNERGIA

Fugitives Investigation Support (FIS)

With the ever-increasing ease of international travel over the last few decades, the number of fugitives who have escaped to foreign jurisdictions also keeps growing. The Red Notice – which is just our name for the fugitive alert – remains the most well-known product of INTERPOL.

Helping member countries trace and capture fugitives with a Red Notice is one of the core functions of INTERPOL as they pose a clear and present danger to peaceful citizens everywhere including the countries where they have taken refuge.

Major Operations

On the whole, 2023 was – by far – the busiest year in the history of FIS in terms of total initiatives implemented by the team in a calendar year.

Throughout the year, fugitives operations, including the trade-mark INFRAs, were organised in every corner of the globe – from Singapore in the East to San Salvador and Buenos Aires in the West, and from Lyon right here in the heart of Europe to Yaoundé and Nairobi in the heart of Africa.

In 2023, FIS held a total of 10 operational activities – one in each and every month of the year, except February and April – across four different continents:

- Two INFRA Africa Operations: Yaounde in January, Kenya in June (funded by China); This includes FIS's "breakthrough" operations under INFRA Africa with participation of more than 20 countries and the inclusion, for the first time, of African investigators in FIS's global network of fugitives investigators

- Three INFRA Atlas Operations : Singapore in March and Buenos Aires in September funded by the US Marshal Service; Lyon in July funded by INTERPOL;
- Target two Operation in San Salvador in May (In collaboration with and under funding arranged by Regional Bureau San Salvador);
- Tighten the Net Operation in August (Funded by Korea);
- Andes operation in Buenos Aires in October 2023 (In collaboration with and under funding arranged by Regional Bureau Buenos Aires);
- INFRA Inspire 2.0 in Singapore in November (In collaboration with and under funding arranged by the Environmental Security Section);
- Project SEAF Task Force Operation in Singapore in December funded by Korea.

Case Study

FIS continues to strive to bring to justice perpetrators of heinous crimes, no matter how far they travel and no matter how long they evade justice. Once such success relates to the arrest of an Albanian fugitive after a quarter century on the run.

In the 1990s, Ervin Shahini, a vicious criminal, habitually preyed on the poor taxi drivers of Tirana who were trying to eke out a meagre living. He would deprive his victims not only of their possessions but also take away their livelihood by robbing their taxis and then selling the vehicles.

Emboldened by his crime spree, he went on to murder one of the taxi driver victims during the course of a robbery in 1995.

He was arrested later that year but then escaped from prison. In due course, consistent with his habit of preying on the weak, Shahini stole the identity of a man with mental health issues and used it to obtain fake Albanian travel documents.

For more than two decades, the Albanian authorities kept trying to locate Ervin Shahini but without any luck. It was only when the Fugitives unit took up the case as part of its INFRA Atlas operation in 2023, that a breakthrough became possible.

FIS followed Shahini's trail to America, where, working closely with our US Marshal Service colleagues, it was determined that he was now likely to be found in Korea. Following countless interactions between INTERPOL and the three countries, FIS was able to use biometrics and other techniques to uncover the identity and whereabouts of Shahini, who was now living in Korea under the stolen identity.

Located, arrested and extradited, the convicted murderer is now back in safe custody of Albanian authorities. Upon hearing the news, the murdered victim's daughter said: "The capture and extradition of this criminal and his return to Albania has restored my faith in justice. I had lost hope that there would be justice for my father's death."

This case goes to show that when member countries use INTERPOL capabilities and channels to go after crime and criminals like Shahini, then these fugitives can find no refuge anywhere in the world.

He ran from Europe to America in the Far West, and then to the other end of the planet, to Korea in the Far East. But thanks to the power of international police cooperation, in the end, Ervin Shahini had to pay for his crimes.



Albanian 25-year Case solved with US and Korean participation

Forensics

Throughout 2023, the Forensics and Police Data Management team continued to significantly contribute to INTERPOL's vision of 'connecting police for a safer world' by managing international databases of

fingerprints, facial images, and DNA profiles. These databases, along with the expertise of the Sub-Directorate's biometric examiners, resulted in many identifications and provided critical investigative support.

BioSPOC

Since 2020, the biometric team has developed and deployed its own online training course for law enforcement officials, called "Biometric Data and International Data Sharing" Small Private Online Course ("BioSPOC").

By the end of 2023, the course had been deployed 10 times and had equipped more than 500 NCB officers and forensic specialists from over 80 member countries, with the knowledge and practical skills to collect and prepare good quality biometric data for international sharing via INTERPOL databases.

Offered to various officials across the world in several INTERPOL languages, in an entirely online format, with weekly real-time interactions with FPDM's biometric specialists, this training has received praise from the participants for its high practical value and adaptability, clearly responding to the busy schedules of law enforcement officials worldwide, who wish to use all the tools at their disposal to solve crime.

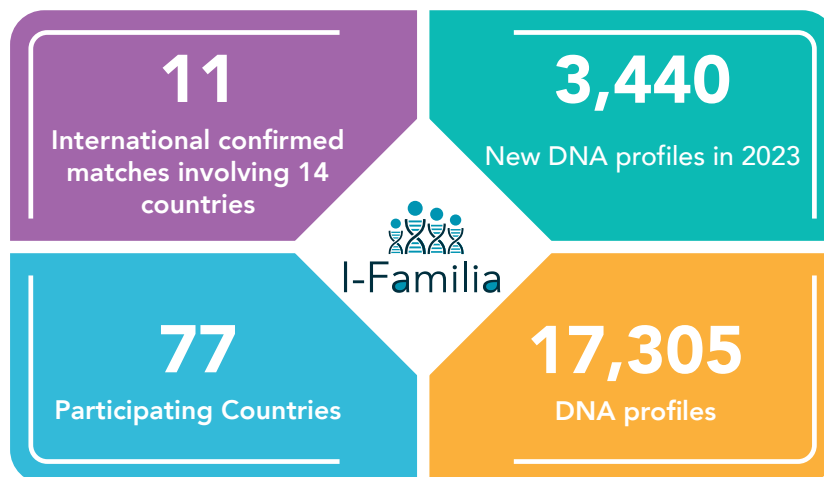
I-Familia

In 2023, the I-Familia international DNA kinship matching database has achieved remarkable success due to its state-of-the-art matching software and the innovative statistical approach developed by INTERPOL.

This cutting-edge and pioneering technology has facilitated a significant increase in data submissions from countries worldwide, bolstering the database's capacity to resolve missing person cases.

As a result, many families have received long-awaited answers. Moreover, several countries have established new standard operating procedures, further ensuring the systematic submission of DNA profiles for missing person cases to I-Familia.

This collective effort has significantly enhanced the database's ability to reunite families and help provide justice for the missing.



INTERPOL DNA Database

Approaching its 20th anniversary as the standard-setter of fully automated international DNA data sharing, the INTERPOL DNA Database has been steadily used by 86 member countries, as well as two international organizations. In 2023, its total number of international DNA Database hits exceeded 1,100.

Often serving as the first investigative link for member countries who then share and confirm these hits themselves, the INTERPOL DNA Database now accepts additional DNA data for missing person investigations and identifications of unidentified dead bodies, thus complementing the work of I-Familia Database.

Operation Identify Me

In May 2023, INTERPOL launched “Operation Identify Me”, a global public campaign to identify the bodies of 22 murdered women, in cooperation with the Netherlands Police, the Belgian Federal Police and the German BKA.

Based on the strong possibility that these women could have come from other countries, INTERPOL was able to address this transnational dimension through its global outreach and missing persons capabilities.

The extensive media attention that this campaign received has generated over two million visits to the INTERPOL dedicated website as well as over 1,500 tips received from the public which were passed to the national investigating authorities. Through the publication of a distinctive tattoo on a Black Notice, this campaign directly led to the identification of one of these women, a British woman found murdered in Belgium 31 years ago.



Biometric Hub and Core



In 2023, INTERPOL launched its new Biometric Hub and Core, with the aim of streamlining the submission from member countries of fingerprint records and facial images, based on a state-of-the-art matching technology powered by INTERPOL's partner IDEMIA.

Thanks to this new platform, during 2023, more than 970 fugitives, suspects, missing persons

and unidentified bodies have been identified using fingerprint and face records and this will increase in the coming years as member countries continue to integrate, as part of their standard procedures, the use of INTERPOL channels for the global exchange of biometric data for law enforcement purposes, including border management and control.

Human Resources

The year 2023 marked a significant milestone for INTERPOL’s workforce, reflecting a robust 10 per cent increase in staff, growing from 1,076 to 1,186 officials by the year’s end.

This growth was driven by the addition of 166 contracted officials and 62 seconded officials, underscoring our commitment to enhancing global security through a diverse and skilled workforce. Additionally, 2023 saw the highest number of simultaneous ongoing recruitments in our history. Out of 350 recruitment requests, 322 were successfully closed, achieving a record high completion rate of 92 per cent.

Despite this positive trend, we also experienced the departure of 66 contracted officials and 58 seconded officials, presenting both challenges and opportunities for organizational development and strategic talent management.

The number of nationalities represented within INTERPOL reached its highest in the period from 2022 to 2023, with a notable increase of 10 per cent, rising from 120 to 132 nationalities.

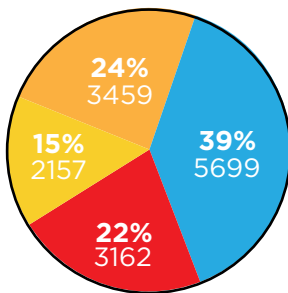
This significant growth in diversity indicates that our concerted efforts to balance geographical representation, alongside our commitment to diversity and inclusion, have been successful in attracting a broader range of nationalities. The 10 per cent increase in 2023 underscores our progress in fostering an inclusive environment that leverages diverse perspectives and experiences, thereby enhancing our capability to address global security challenges effectively.

A significant portion of the contracted officials are from Europe, while seconded officials are more evenly distributed, with Europe being the highest represented by a smaller margin.

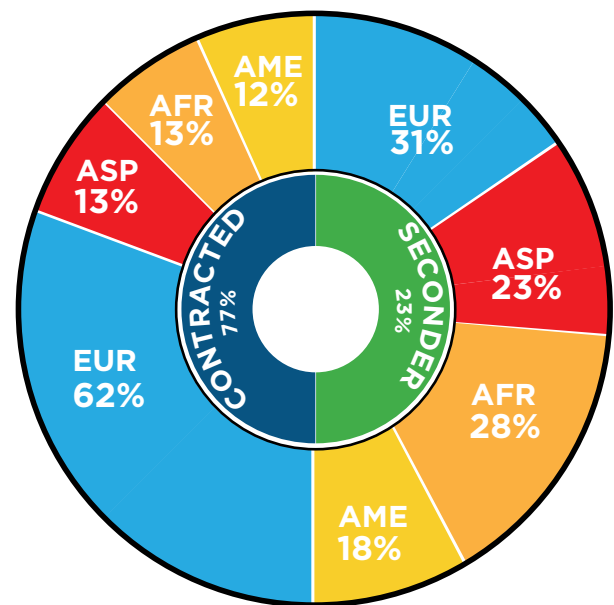
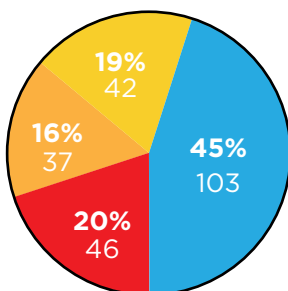
What remains true is that the nationalities most represented mirror the region where the duty station is hosted (e.g., European in the Headquarters, Asian and South Pacific in IGCI).

The tables below highlight a strong relationship between the diversity of the pool of applications and the candidates selected for posts, including a positive impact on gender representation.

Applications 2023



Recruitments 2023

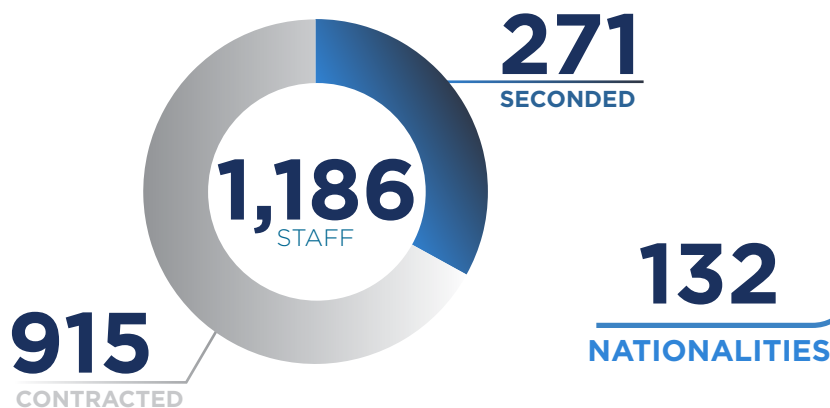


■ EUR ■ AFR ■ ASP ■ AME

Initiatives implemented in 2023 include the following:

- A survey completed by NCBs revealed that the primary challenges in sending secondments are financial constraints, (English) language requirements, and lengthy internal approval processes for national administrations. To tackle these challenges INTERPOL further developed its Financial Assistance for Secondment Programme (I-FASP) to give donors more flexibility; established I-LINGO, which supports English language training; and sends an IPCQ on upcoming secondment opportunities to inform the Membership of positions that are likely to become vacant soon, and to remind them of those currently open.
- Resolution Policy to inform officials of the preliminary processes to address and resolve conflicts at an early stage. The policy, together with a Staff Instruction on Discipline, clarifies the internal process for dealing with allegations of improper behaviour, acts or omissions which may amount to unsatisfactory conduct, or misconduct implicating.
- Several online and in-person training courses, aimed mostly at managers, under the "Leadership Programme" were organized, more than 900 officials participated.

OUR STAFF 2023



Finances, Major Donors and Partnerships

Finances

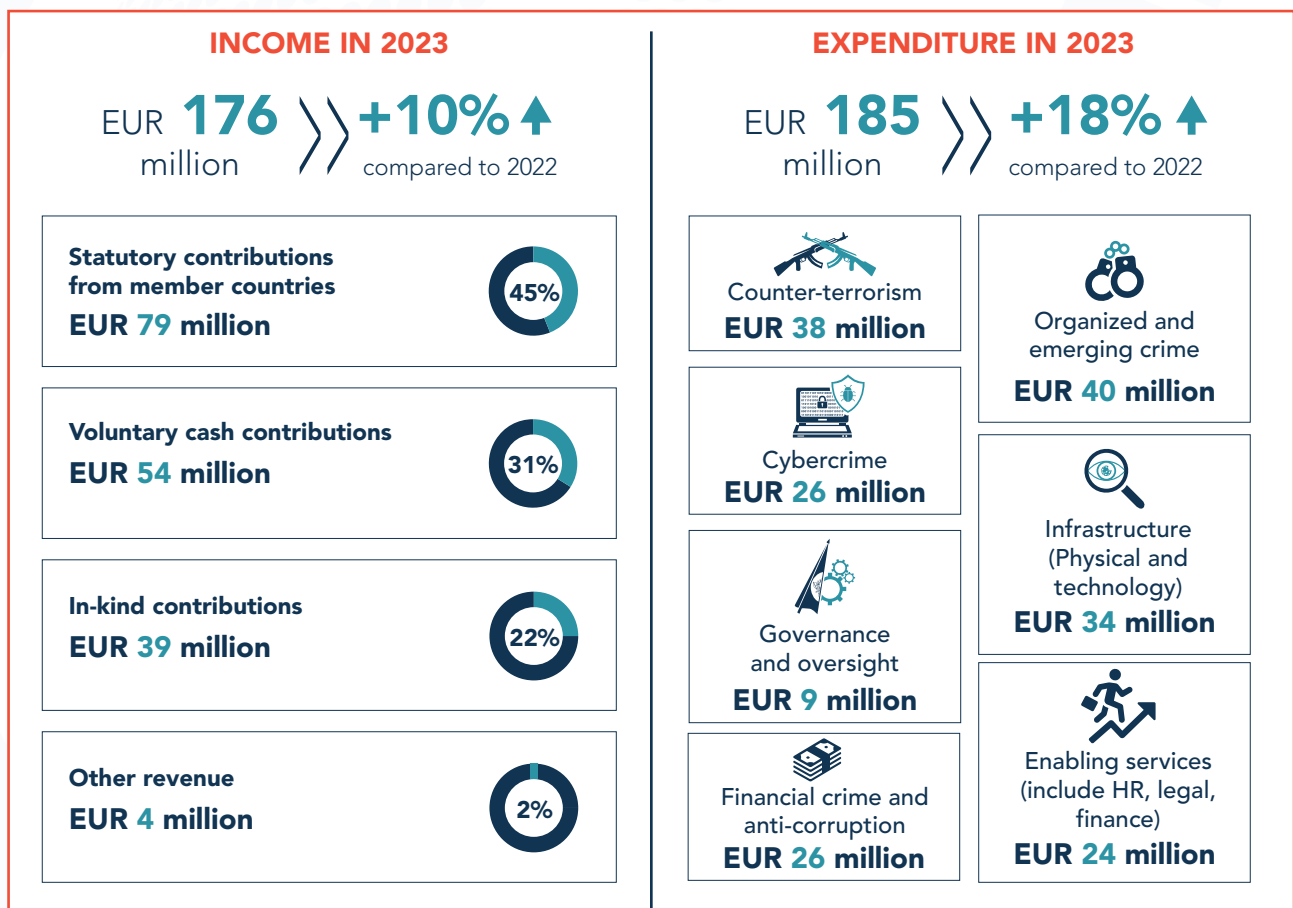
The total income for the General Secretariat in 2023 was EUR 176 million, an increase of EUR 16 million compared to 2022.

This funded our policing activities and the corporate services that support them.

Statutory contributions from our member countries accounted for 45 per cent of this income.

Voluntary external funding complements the required funding for the Organization to be able to deliver additional policing projects and makes up 31% of the total revenue.

In addition, member countries made voluntary in-kind contributions totalling 22% of total revenue with the remaining 2% coming from other revenue sources such as interest income.



Partnerships

The Organization receives external funding for specific projects that are agreed with donors in support of the delivery of INTERPOL's strategic objectives and vision of making the world a safer place, which is greatly appreciated.



See our website for the full list of external contributors to projects implemented in 2023.



Governance

Following its 87th General Assembly session in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, the Working Group on Governance was created and tasked to Review Legal Provisions relating to INTERPOL's Governance, with a view to "examining ways to enhance the Organization's governance, including the review of legal provisions relating to INTERPOL's governance bodies" (Resolution GA-2018-87-RES-15).

At its 91st General Assembly session in Vienna (Austria), the Working Group on Governance submitted its second reform package.

Two Draft Codes establishing standards of conduct

Building on the preparatory work carried out in 2022, the Working Group, in 2023, advanced with its deliberations on the standards of conduct.

In that regard, it relied on the consultations within the Sub-Group established in 2021 which had drawn up two draft instruments establishing standards of conduct, notably a **Draft Code of Conduct for INTERPOL Meetings and a Draft Code of Conduct for INTERPOL Election Campaign Activities and Appointments**.

The instruments were submitted for approval by the General Assembly at its 91st session in 2023 with a view to ensuring that such instruments are applicable for campaigning activities prior to the elections and appointments taking place at the 92nd General Assembly session in 2024.

Amendments to INTERPOL's legal texts

The Working Group continued its deliberations on the various options for improvement of the decision-making process of the General Assembly. In that regard, the Working Group's discussions focused on:

- The holding of INTERPOL meetings by virtual means;
- Consultative mechanisms for the General Assembly;
- Composition of INTERPOL member countries' delegations at General Assembly sessions;
- Agenda setting for General Assembly sessions;
- General Assembly voting procedure;
- Payment of INTERPOL's Members' statutory contributions to the Organization;
- Procedure for selecting the Organization's External Auditors;
- Executive Committee's expenses related to travel and activities.

On the basis of its discussions, the Working Group decided to propose amendments to the INTERPOL Constitution, the General Regulations, the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, the Rules concerning the organization of the General Assembly session, the Terms of Reference for the Regional Conferences, Financial Regulations and the Terms of Reference of the Heads of National Central Bureau Conference.

The way forward – 2024 and beyond

At its 10th meeting in July 2023, the Working Group agreed on a revised programme of work for 2024 and beyond to continue the work on the issues currently undertaken by the Working Group, and to implement its second reform package, which was approved by the General Assembly at its 91st session.

- Review the mandate and the composition of the current and possible future committees of the General Assembly, including the Committee on the Processing of Data, the Regional Conferences and a standing committee that would assume the current mandate of the Working group on Governance;
- Draft a set of rules and procedures applicable to General Assembly sessions held by virtual means, for approval by the General Assembly;
- Resume discussions on how to strike the right balance between the need for confidentiality and the desire for transparency;
- Resume discussions on the scope and criteria for the suspension of membership rights in conjunction, as applicable, with the Committee on the Processing of Data;
- Pursue the review of the four linguistic versions of INTERPOL's legal provisions to remedy any disparities in terminology.



Capacity Building and Training

Immersive learning

In 2022, INTERPOL began to explore immersive learning, as a new stream of the INTERPOL Digital Training Transformation Strategy to further strengthen the scalability, relevance and sustainability of the Organization's training actions.

To pilot such solutions, INTERPOL invested in the requisite hardware and virtual reality training scenarios were created using software selected to demonstrate the proof-of-concept.

The training scenarios were presented as an integral part of the INTERPOL Metaverse, which was showcased at the 90th session of the INTERPOL General Assembly in 2022.

Delegates were also given the opportunity to take part in the training and thus experience the potential of the technology themselves.

Further pilots were conducted at the subsequent INTERPOL Heads of NCB Conference in 2022.

Dedicated off-line immersive learning scenarios for mobile classroom kits were developed along with the first full immersive learning tabletop exercise as part of the INTERPOL Virtual Academy's training portfolio.

A demo of this new capability was showcased at the INTERPOL IP Crime Conference in September 2023 in Oslo, Norway and presented at the 91st session of the INTERPOL General Assembly in November 2023, in Vienna, Austria.

Following these successful pilots, INTERPOL engaged strategic partners to support the establishment of immersive learning as a key capability of the Organization.

Work is ongoing to integrate it as a permanent service of the INTERPOL Virtual Academy, the digital training solutions ecosystem of the organization.



Innovation

Thought leadership on emerging technologies

In its continuous effort to facilitate thought leadership, be a global connector and provide innovative solutions, INTERPOL launched the Toolkit for Responsible AI Innovation in Law Enforcement (AI Toolkit) at the INTERPOL Police Science Congress in June 2023 to encourage crucial conversations on the importance of responsible use of AI in law enforcement.

INTERPOL also organized global expert meetings which provided avenues for knowledge exchange and co-creation such as the Digital Forensics Expert Group in Malaysia, the Drone Expert Group Summit in the United States, Law Enforcement Forum: The Young Global Police Leaders Programme in India.

To better prepare for the widespread adoption of the Metaverse, INTERPOL created the INTERPOL Metaverse Expert Group in October 2022.

This multi-stakeholder Expert Group consists of about 200 representatives from law enforcement, the private sector, civil society, academia and other international organizations, ensuring a holistic view of the Metaverse. Its four subgroups focused on specific areas such as use cases, Metacrime, forensics and investigation, and Metaverse governance issues.

Building on the work of the INTERPOL Metaverse Expert Group, a White Paper entitled "Metaverse - A Law Enforcement Perspective" was published in 2023, which highlights potential opportunities, threats and harms in the Metaverse, and provides guidance for the global law enforcement community.

Next generation IT solutions

INTERPOL has devoted several years to redeveloping its biometric system, resulting in the launch of the new Biometric Hub and Core System in October 2023.

This major innovation significantly enhances the Organization's ability to accurately identify and track individuals involved in transnational crime and terrorism.

The new system's matching capabilities, powered by cutting-edge algorithms and machine learning, enable faster and more reliable and accurate identification of individuals, allowing for hits that were not possible before.

Automated checks have also been introduced for Fingerprint matching, improving the speed and efficiency of biometric checks, reducing the need for expert involvement and setting the foundation for biometrics use at the frontline.

The new Biometric Hub, accessible via REST API, allows for mobile connectivity and checking of biometric data, as demonstrated by a prototype for contactless fingerprint capture on the INTERPOL Mobile Device (IMD) integrated with the Biometric Hub for automated checks.

The Biometric Hub promotes and enforces the use of the INTERPOL Implementation of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Standard for both fingerprint and face biometric modalities.

This, along with the system's interoperability features, facilitate seamless data sharing and collaboration between law enforcement agencies, improving information exchange and understanding of criminal networks.

This is paving the way towards INTERPOL acting as a Hub (not only a gateway) for biometrics, and preparing a potential future of "Federated Search" for biometrics.



INTERPOL

ABOUT INTERPOL

INTERPOL's role is to enable police in our 196 member countries to work together to fight transnational crime and make the world a safer place. We maintain global databases containing police information on criminals and crime, and we provide operational and forensic support, analysis services and training. These policing capabilities are delivered worldwide and support four global programmes: financial crime and corruption; counter-terrorism; cybercrime; and organized and emerging crime.



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