STATEMENT

by

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INTERPOL Secretary General

2016 NUCLEAR SECURITY SUMMIT

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Washington D.C, USA
Mr. President,

Distinguished Heads of State and Governments,

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- INTERPOL appreciates the opportunity to deliver a brief statement, which we recognize takes place against a most regrettable backdrop.

- Brussels and Lahore stand at the forefront of our mind as the most recent in a string of attacks that have left scores of victims in their wake.

- As INTERPOL condemns these acts of terrorism in the strongest terms, we turn to confront a potential nuclear threat of even greater consequence.

- Yet, the present and future are closely linked.
• We received a chilling reminder of this recently, following news that members of ISIL were surveilling a nuclear official in Belgium.

• In other words, the terrorist threat of today remains indivisible from the threat of nuclear terrorism tomorrow.

• The perpetrators we currently face are the ones we fear wish to harness the devastating effects of nuclear material.

• We must stop them, and INTERPOL is working with law enforcement in 190 member countries in order to do this.

• Since 2010, details on 44 suspects connected to nuclear trafficking have been shared with INTERPOL, including those convicted of trafficking in highly enriched uranium (HEU).

• They join in our system 6,000 profiles of foreign terrorist fighters and nearly 500 profiles of individuals sanctioned by the United Nations Security Council.

• Any one of them could be a key actor in a nuclear plot. But just sharing this information makes no difference if it is not accessible to authorities on the ground.
• This is the added value of INTERPOL. We continue to expand our infrastructure so that law enforcement in any given country can access information shared from 190 countries.

• This means on the streets, at international airports, maritime ports and border crossings, helping a single official benefit from real-time information sharing to identify a dangerous individual of the global community.

• However, too much information in concert with too few law enforcement presents an equally frustrating challenge.

• To address it, INTERPOL has adopted a quality over quantity approach. This emphasizes building capacity and providing analysis.

• Since 2006, we have enhanced the abilities and experience of counter-nuclear experts globally through more than 20 different workshops, courses and tabletop exercises.

• We have strengthened our centralized criminal analysis function to help with early warning and prevention.
• As a result, we are using our global perspective to close the gap between a suspected terrorist being known to law enforcement, and being stopped by them before they act.

• Finally, information sharing, global connectivity, capacity building and analysis are the basis for our work in helping law enforcement counter the cyber threat.

• This is done out of our Global Complex for Innovation in Singapore, which would not exist without support from Singapore.

Your Excellencies,

• The conclusion of the Nuclear Security Summit process should be seen as a starting point, not an end point.

• INTERPOL will soon be launching intensive, transnational operations that proactively target individuals suspected or wanted for terrorism-related offences, including the trafficking of nuclear material.

• For this, we will rely on information in our system to generate actionable law enforcement intelligence and better define which investigative leads to prioritize.
• In a complementary fashion, we are focusing our attention on building sustainable counter-nuclear smuggling capacity in strategically relevant countries.

• This year, thanks to support from Canada and Jordan, INTERPOL began providing long-term technical resources and training in this area to Jordan. We plan to replicate this programme in Mexico soon.

• These are just a few ways INTERPOL is continuing its work following the Nuclear Security Summit.

• We are able to do this because of the many countries here, which are supporting INTERPOL financially.

• Without this support, our work would not be possible.

• With your continued support, INTERPOL can only grow stronger, as we work with you and our partner organizations – the IAEA and UN – to implement our respective action plans.

• Thank you.