



International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO–INTERPOL)

Establishment: 1923–Creation of the International Criminal Police Commission (ICPC).

Leader(s): Ms. Mireille Ballestrazzi (President).

Mr. Ronald K. Noble (Secretary General).

Member States: 190 Member States

Areas of Work: Human Rights, law enforcement, data protection.

Strategic Priorities: Secure global communications system, 24/7 support to policing and law enforcement, capacity building, assisting country members in the identification of crimes and criminals,

OAS entities suggested for possible cooperation: Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS)

Headquarters: 200, quai Charles de Gaulle, 69006 Lyon, France

Website: <http://www.interpol.int/en>

BACKGROUND

The ICPO-INTERPOL can trace its roots to the 1914 International Criminal Police Congress in Monaco where police officers, lawyers and magistrates from 14 countries met to discuss arrest procedures, identification techniques, centralized international criminal records and extradition proceedings.

In 1923, the International Criminal Police Commission (ICPC) was created, with headquarters in Vienna, Austria, on the initiative of Dr Johannes Schober, president of the Vienna Police.

After World War II, in 1946, Belgium led the rebuilding of the organization. New headquarters were set up in Paris, 'INTERPOL' was chosen as the organization's telegraphic address, and a democratic process to elect the President and Executive Committee was instituted.

In 1956 the ICPC became the International Criminal Police Organization-INTERPOL, abbreviated to ICPO–INTERPOL or just INTERPOL. The Organization became autonomous by collecting dues from member countries and relying on investments as its main means of support. In 1989, the INTERPOL moved its General Secretariat to Lyon, France. INTERPOL is the second largest intergovernmental organization after the United Nations in terms of member states (93). In 2011, the Interpol General Secretariat employed a staff of 673.

OBJECTIVES

- Ensure that police around the world have access to the tools and services necessary to do their jobs effectively
- Provide targeted training, investigative support, and relevant data and secure communications channels

- Provide the highest quality database services, analytical capabilities and other innovative tools to help prevent crime as well as assisting member countries in the identification, location and arrest of fugitives and international criminals
- Enhance and expand a 24/7 secure global police communications system
- To enhance the tools and services that it delivers in the area of law enforcement training and to work with other stakeholders in order to raise standards in international policing and security infrastructures

COOPERATION WITH OAS

The General Secretariat of the International Criminal Police Organization- INTERPOL and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States signed a Cooperation Agreement effective as of May 2, 2000.

The Agreement enables GS/INTERPOL and the GS/AOS to jointly benefit from closer collaboration for the prevention and suppression of crime, including, but not limited to, corruption, terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, illicit firearms trafficking, economic crimes, fraud, theft of cultural properties, and offenses against the person, including children.

Further cooperation has included collaboration between INTERPOL and the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) on various initiatives concerning the control of chemicals and synthetic drugs as well as the sale of drugs over the Internet.

On February 26, 2013, INTERPOL President Ballestrazzi and OAS Secretary General Jose Miguel Insulza met at OAS headquarters to explore possibilities for cooperation to build upon the existing agreement between the OAS and Interpol, dated May 2, 2000, which enables the parties to jointly benefit from closer collaboration for the prevention and suppression of crime, including but not limited to corruption, terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, illicit firearms trafficking, economic crimes, and fraud.

During the meeting, Secretary General Insulza highlighted the work of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) to prevent attacks and protect the people of the Americas, as well as the Organization's multidimensional approach to security. The Secretary for Multidimensional Security, Ambassador Adam Blackwell, was also present to further explain ongoing initiatives of the OAS.

For her part, President Ballestrazzi highlighted how Interpol approaches the challenges posed by the threat of terrorism and organized crime, and how Interpol is working on these topics around the region, and expressed a great interest in the region's efforts to curb the flow and consumption of illegal drugs as well as the resulting violence and criminal activities, such as money laundering.

LEADERSHIP



President Mireille Ballestrazzi was elected for a four year term at the INTERPOL General Assembly held in Rome in November 2012, becoming the first woman to hold this position. She had previously served as Vice-President for Europe of the

Executive Committee of INTERPOL, Member of the Commission for the Control of INTERPOL's Files, and Member of the INTERPOL Executive Committee.

Ms. Ballestrazzi was Inspector General of the French National Police, as well as director of the Central Judicial Police Assistant, where she also served as Assistant Director of Economic and Financial Matters, Assistant Director of Resources, Evaluation and Strategy, and Head of the Central Office for the Suppression of Art Theft.

President Ballestrazzi started her career in the Bourdeox Police Department in 1978, where she led the Organized Crime Division. She is one of only eight women to graduate in 1976 from France's National Police College (ENSP). Decorations include the Legion of Honour (France), and National Order of Merit (France).



Secretary General Ronald K. Noble was first elected on November 3, 2000 by INTERPOL's General Assembly. Following a successful second mandate, he was re-elected by an overwhelming majority to serve a third five-year term in 2010. Under Mr. Noble's leadership, INTERPOL developed the I-24/7 secure global police communications network, the first of its kind in the world.

Prior to being elected Secretary General, Mr Noble oversaw four of the US's then-eight-largest law enforcement agencies, including the US Secret Service, the US Customs Service, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and the Internal Revenue Service's Criminal Investigation Division. Secretary General Noble began his career in law enforcement as a federal prosecutor specializing in organized crime, drug trafficking, fraud and corruption cases, where he obtained a 100 % conviction rate on cases that went to trial.

Mr Noble is a fully tenured Professor at New York University School of Law. He earned his Juris Doctorate degree from Stanford Law School and Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Business Administration from the University of New Hampshire.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES

INTERPOL is primarily financed by member countries, whose governments pay annual statutory contributions to the Organization. Its budget in 2012 was 53.17 million euros.

GOVERNANCE

INTERPOL assists international police cooperation even where diplomatic relations do not exist between particular countries; all actions are politically neutral and taken within the limits of existing laws in different countries. Its supreme governing body is the General Assembly, which meets once a year to take all major decisions affecting general policy. Each country elects one delegate and has one vote, and all votes carry equal weight.

The Executive Committee oversees the execution of the decisions of the General Assembly and the work of the Secretary General. It has 13 members who represent all regions of the world.

The Secretary General, the Organization's chief executive, is responsible for overseeing INTERPOL's day-to-day work and for implementing the decisions of the General Assembly and Executive Committee.

A Command and Coordination Centre (CCC) at the General Secretariat provides 24-hour support to member countries in INTERPOL's four official languages: Arabic, English, French and Spanish. An additional CCC opened in 2011 in the Regional Bureau, Buenos Aires.

The President of the Organization heads the Executive Committee and is elected by the General Assembly for a period of four years. INTERPOL's Constitution requires that the President:

- Preside at meetings of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee and direct the discussions;
- Ensure that the activities of the Organization are in conformity with the decisions of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee;
- Maintain, as far as possible, direct and constant contact with the Secretary General of the Organization.

The Secretary General heads the General Secretariat in Lyon, France, and is effectively the Organization's chief full-time official. He is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day work of international police cooperation along with the implementation of the decisions of the General Assembly and Executive Committee. The Secretary General is appointed by the General Assembly for a period of five years and may be re-elected.

Sources:

INTERPOL Official website <http://www.interpol.int/en>

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