



INTERPOL STATEMENT

by

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FIFTH CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO THE ARMS TRADE TREATY

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At the outset, let me congratulate you on your Presidency and on the transparent and well-structured preparations for the Fifth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty.

The ATT promotes the global interest to establish the common international standards for preventing and eradicating the illicit trade in arms, ammunition and their diversion, thus contributing to international and regional peace, security and stability, and reducing human suffering. This subscribes to INTERPOL vision of ***Connecting Police for a Safer World*** and its mission ***Preventing and Fighting Crime Through Enhanced Cooperation and Innovation on Police and Security Matters***.

INTERPOL offers unique Policing Capabilities and Protocols to address the modern hybrid threats that are currently facing the world. Some of these Policing Capabilities can be used to implement and to report on the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty. The INTERPOL Firearms Programme offers to Law Enforcement Agencies worldwide, three unique Policing Capabilities to address the ever present threat of gun crime, terrorism and other forms of organized crime. Funded by the European Union (EU), the INTERPOL illicit Arms Records and tracing Management System (iARMS) provides a centralized system for reporting and querying of Stolen, Lost and Trafficked/Smuggled firearms and enables member countries to share information and trace illicit firearms. This is crucial in the implementation of the ATT as it offers countries the capability to find out if the firearms are illicit at the time of import, transit, transfer or export and thereby prevent diversion and also as platform for the exchange of illicit firearms data and tracing of firearms.

iARMS database, as a record management system that allows countries to systematically share information and trace illicit firearms, encourages countries to keep records of firearms during their lifecycle and for a minimum of 30 years (default value for storing information in iARMS database). This is in tandem with the ATT which encourages record keeping for tracing of firearms. iARMS

can therefore be used to support the implementation of ATT in member countries.

iARMS database is available in all 194 INTERPOL member countries through the INTERPOL I-24/7 system which interconnects countries and provides them with a platform for sharing of illicit firearms data and promotes international cooperation and assistance and is used as a platform for law enforcement cooperation. This is in tandem with the provisions of Articles 11-16 of the ATT.

The INTERPOL Firearms Reference Table (IFRT) offers extensive information about firearms makes, models, manufacturer specifications, firearms marking descriptions and a range of information on firearms. Based on the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's (RCMP) Firearms Reference Table, the IFRT has been developed in partnership with the RCMP in order to provide a globally accessible resource of firearm markings, references and images – all of which help support law enforcement officers around the world to accurately identify a firearm. This is crucial for Frontline officers to be able to accurately identify a firearm and cross check with import, transfer and export declarations in order to prevent diversion.

The INTERPOL Ballistics Information Network (IBIN) provides a ballistic network which allows international cross sharing and comparison of ballistic evidence, as part of INTERPOL's Forensic data sharing capabilities to assist transnational investigations. By comparing ballistics evidence, Law Enforcement Agencies are able to link crimes that have been committed in different jurisdictions.

The Firearms Programme Policing Capabilities assist Law Enforcement Agencies to solve criminal firearms trafficking that would not otherwise have been solved by tracing the history and ownership of illicit firearms to find the point in the chain of custody at which the firearms were diverted into the illicit chain of supply. These Policing Capabilities are at the disposal of the Law Enforcement Community to assist in the prevention and control of illicit trafficking of firearms and related hybrid threats of terrorism, drugs trafficking,

motor vehicle thefts, maritime piracy, environmental crimes and fugitives mobility, all of which use firearms as the preferred weapon of choice.

INTERPOL Policing Capabilities therefore are crucial in implementing essential aspects of the ATT in terms of ensuring that diversion of Small Arms and Light Weapons at the time of import, transit, transfer and export is prevented.

In conclusion INTERPOL encourages countries to continue efforts against the illicit flow of arms and ammunition as enshrined in the ATT. INTERPOL will continue to support and promote the Treaty's implementation and universalisation during engagements with member countries.

Thank you for your attention.