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RWANDA 2015
84TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Kigali, November 2nd to 5th

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HOSTING THE 84TH INTERPOL GENERAL ASSEMBLY: A POLICING MILESTONE IN RWANDA



Interpol Executive Committee and Rwandan officials in a group photo with President Paul Kagame at the opening of the 84th Interpol AGM.

In line with her quest for maintenance of law and order as well as participating in international peace and stability, Rwanda hosted the 84th INTERPOL General Assembly from November 2nd - 5th, 2015, in Kigali.

This came as a result of the unanimous vote during the 82nd Interpol General Assembly held in Cartagena De Indias, Colombia between October 21- 24, 2013, giving Rwanda a unanimous green light to host the 84th AGM. This vote was to be demonstrated later in 2014 when the Interpol flag was handed over to Rwanda as a symbol given to the next host, at the 83rd General Assembly in Monaco, France.

The 84th General Assembly was held under the theme: "INTERPOL 2020: Policing Global Threats in a Dynamic Environment." The theme is in line with keeping the Organization's mission for a safer world and also responded to the international community's expectations. It will broaden the scope to establish a global reform agenda with a clear roadmap for INTERPOL's development, covering strategic and operational governance, as well as the financial and technological requirements for a strong and effective INTERPOL.

It's an annual Interpol tradition of hosting a General Assembly in one of its 190 member countries which is in line with realizing its core functions

of;

Secure global police communications services known as I-24/7 (Information flow 24 hours/ 7days)

- Operational data services and databases for police
- Operational police support services
- Police training and development

The supreme session of the international police attracted about 1000 delegates from 150 Interpol member countries, who include Police Chiefs and senior law enforcement officials.

The President of the Republic of Rwanda, His Excellency Paul, officiated at the opening of the General Assembly on November 2.

The Head of State expressed Rwanda's appreciation for the solid cooperation with Interpol over the years and making the world a safer place.

He said: "Security is the foundation for everything. When it breaks down, the costs are huge: loss of life, destruction of trust within society and in public institutions, and economic stagnation. We experienced the worst of this in Rwanda where the country's security forces at the time were at the forefront of the genocidal machinery."

He further expressed Rwanda's sincere gratitude to Interpol for its efforts in tracking down fugitives wanted for genocide in Rwanda, and helping to deliver justice for victims



RNP band and Colour Party marching out of the conference at the end of the 84th Interpol General Assembly.

and survivors - even though there remains much work to be done.

The Head of State added: "Many more of these fugitives are still at large and we will have to continue working with Interpol, and the international community, to ensure justice is done. In the last twenty-one years, Rwanda has worked to build effective, citizen-focused governance institutions. One of them, notably, is the Rwanda National Police, which this year marks its 15th anniversary. Today, this young police force, working closely with communities, provides one of the most secure environments in the world, where Rwandans can pursue socio-economic transformation. The Rwanda National Police is also able to actively contribute to Interpol's mandate of a

safer world. National police forces should take full advantage of this platform in their daily work, to proactively keep abreast of emerging trends and innovative solutions, not just when crisis strikes."

Day One

INTERPOL President Mireille Ballestrazzi said: "Having to confront rapid and increasingly complex changes, and providing the appropriate responses, are an integral part of the development of any country and, of course, of any organization, which is what we will be addressing in the coming days," said President Ballestrazzi.

Rwanda's Inspector General of Police, Emmanuel K. Gasana, said: "For the past few

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Experts discussing some of the pressing security issues during the session.



Interpol SG Jürgen Stock, Interpol President Mireille Ballestrazzi and Rwanda's Minister of Internal Security Sheikh Musa Fazil Harerimana presiding over the closing of the Assembly.

years, we have worked together on key police events ranging from capacity building, to regional initiatives, international conferences and crime prevention campaigns. INTERPOL has also supported Rwanda's national police force, providing our borders with access to critical databases and policing tools. As a result, we are better able to detect and stop criminals. We therefore look forward to continued collaboration in building policing capacity, sharing information and finding new ways to confront security challenges together."

INTERPOL Secretary General Jürgen Stock said: "Just as the world's successful nations continually adapt to changing global complexities, international police cooperation must cultivate innovation into its strategic development to counter threats posed by transnational crime."

The first day of the General Assembly, later in the day, convened roundtable discussions on "Future Landscapes for International Policing." These discussions were in line with measuring the international readiness in policing.

Experts and law enforcers also discussed on the issue of counter-terrorism – forming a global network to break the foreign terrorist fighter cycle. This was in line with the September 2014 UN Security Council powerful message sent to the international community to work as one against the unprecedented threat of mobile foreign terrorist fighters and to rely

on Interpol as a global information sharing platform against this menace.

The issue of organized and emerging crime was also exhausted.

On environmental security, delegates tackled the criminal threat to wildlife and environmental sustainability, owing to the fact that this is a threat to biodiversity that erodes national economies, destabilizes political order and harms communities leading to an impact upon national security.

Day One ended on high note with a special presentation by Rwanda's Minister of Gender and Family Promotion, Oda Gasinzigwa on Isange One Stop Centre, which was highlighted, appreciated and considered as one of the best models of preventing and responding to gender-based violence and child abuse.

Day Two

The second day of the Assembly started with a keynote from the Attorney General of the United States of America, Loretta Lynch, who emphasised that upholding the rule of law should be the government's foremost responsibility.

"The international community has come a long way in the last 15 years, but the fact that millions of individuals remain in forced labour reminds us of how far we have to go. We must

find ways to work even more closely together in order to end this affront to our values and stop this crime against humanity."

A panel of experts later discussed on 'Anti-corruption, financial crimes, and assets recovery – tackling the criminal threat to sustainable economic, political and social development' and creation of a new notice targeting criminal assets.

The panel of experts also addressed both human trafficking and consumer trends is substances including new psychoactive substances (NPS, heroin and cocaine under the topic "Drug Trafficking – New threats, new challenges and the need for a new approach."

The issue of Cybercrime was also reviewed. This was aligned on recent successes in the field showing encouraging steps towards such a new cohesive model for action against crime in cyberspace.

Day two was climaxed with valuable discussions on INTERPOL 2020, INTERPOL TOOLS-INNOVATION; enhancing member country border management capabilities – I-Checkit, trusted partnerships for global security; BASELINE, an ICSE tool empowering public and private entities to recognize, report and remove child-abuse material from their networks.

The I-Checkit enables airlines to submit travel document information for screening against INTERPOL's database of stolen and lost travel documents.

A database match triggers an instant alert among concerned countries so the situation can be investigated.

Day Three

The third day of the meeting discussed internal matters related to aligning operational demands and resources, governance and institutional matters and building new partnerships with other organizations like the International Telecommunications Union (ITU).

Discussions during the four-day session included IT experts, experienced police officers, high profile law enforcers including police chiefs, and heads of international organisations, among others.

At the conclusion of the 84th session, delegates expressed their profound gratitude to the Government of Rwanda for hosting a well organised event, which they said was one of the most organised and successful Interpol General Assembly ever.

The closing ceremony was presided over by the Minister of Internal Security, Sheikh Musa Fazil Harerimana, who emphasised the importance of international cooperation, networking, information sharing, capacity building as well as the need to get more organized than the criminals in dealing with transnational and organized crimes."

Minister Harerimana said: "Such AGM sessions are very useful to catch up and come up with new ideas and generate strategies on how to deal with emerging security challenges. Even then, we all know well enough that the ideas can only be useful if they are translated into actions. We must therefore leave this meeting resolving to put into action what we have learnt and agreed."

Interpol President Mireille Ballestrazzi hailed Rwanda for the well organized meeting and pointed out that; "This general assembly could not have been successful without the professionalism of Rwanda National Police...We have been enabled to progress in fighting organized crimes, cyber crimes, sex exploitation among children and border management. What you did here will make Interpol's work easier."

Prior to the official closing, elections for the new members of the executive committee and applications to host the 86th (2016), 87th (2017) and 88th (2018) sessions of the General Assembly were conducted with Indonesia, China, and Uganda to host the next AGMs respectively.

A day before the official opening of the AGM, on November 1, was also the fourth International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Sub-Saharan Africa meeting that brought together continental Police Chiefs; second 'Africa Working Group Meeting on Cybercrime for Heads of Units,' held on October 28, and training of 28 investigators from 10 African countries in 'Cybercrime Investigation Course' for the African region.

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Interpol General Assembly in pictures



IGP Emmanuel K. Gasana handing over the flag to his counterpart of Indonesia as a symbol of the next host.



Secretary General of Interpol Jurgen Stock, Minister Oda Gasinzigwa and Mireille Ballestrazzi, Interpol president on the panel, on Wednesday.



Delegates attending the session



Interpol SG, Interpol President and Rwanda's Minister of Justice Johnston Busingye during a press conference.

