



Remarks by the
INTERPOL Secretary General

Dr J. Stock

at the

29th SADC Chiefs of Police Sub-Committee

Annual General Meeting

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Lusaka, ZAMBIA

Delivered by Mr. Sello Moerane Head of INTERPOL Regional Bureau

Harare for Southern Africa

SALUTATION

A very good morning to you all.

It is an honour for me to be here and in particular, to represent the INTERPOL Secretary General, Mr Jurgen Stock at the 29th Annual General Meeting of the SARPCCO Chiefs of Police made possible by the expeditious logistical arrangements and commitment of a myriad resources by the Zambia Police, and the Zambian Government.

Guest of Honour, Minister of Home Affairs and Internal Security of the Republic of Zambia, Mr Jack Jacob Mwiimbu, State Counsel, MP; It is pleasing to note the presence of political leaders here, corroborating the high levels of political will that SARPCCO is known for, and not mentioning the presence of all police chiefs and their delegations notwithstanding pressing commitments at home, after all policing is a 24/7 calling.

I am aware that today's meeting is the third of three since the week's beginning and a lot of key conversations aimed at improving Southern Africa's response to TOC have been had. However, significant the conversations, what matters most is implementation and INTERPOL is

possesses free-to-use, state of the art policing capabilities at your disposal. INTERPOL also committed to continue tailoring its operational delivery, through its regional presence, and strong partnership with organizations like SARPCCO.

Distinguish Chiefs of Police, This brings me to the recently launched meetings of chairpersons of African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organizations. These are high level meetings conceived on the need to derive solutions for Africa's security threats from Africa's authorities instead of relying on global projections. The first meeting of December 2022 concluded with a solid understanding of criminal threats faced by African officers at the frontlines, and how they are translated into regional priorities. On this, we committed to coordinate and avoid duplication of efforts, facilitate the digitalization of criminal data by law enforcement agencies, enhance and develop the scope and work of INTERPOL's Regional Bureaus in Africa and finally to encourage greater use of INTERPOL police databases. On the subject of the latter, Africa's use of INTERPOL Databases only accounts for 3% of the Global numbers which is something we can improve on. However, SARPCCO accounts for the majority of police data contributed by Africa.

Honourable Minister, Ladies and gentlemen, The second such meeting was on 26th of April 2024 whereupon we reflected on progress made in implementing resolutions of the first meeting and I am pleased to announce that engagements with the SARPCCO Chairperson, Mr. Musamba had positive outcome in the official recognition of Stock theft as a priority form of TOC, further underscoring the importance of putting you at the centre of solutions for Africa's security threats. Mr Musamba was brief yet overwhelmingly convincing in his argument for stock theft, bringing the world's attention to the parallel economy of cattle rustling that has nexus with other TOCs including terrorism.

At the core of the fight against terrorism in Africa lies NTERPOL's support to AFRIPOL, through INTERPOL's Support Programme for the African Union in relation to AFRIPOL (ISPA), to develop its Counter Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime strategies. These strategies are shaped by regular consultations with African Authorities and Communiqués of Regional Police Organizations Annual General Meetings. To ensure cohesive priority setting across the national, regional and global level.

Guest of Honour, Distinguish Delegates, In the framework of our engagement with ISPA, we succeeded to jointly carry out key operations, all based on the sharing of data through the INTERPOL Information

System. In counterterrorism, Operation FLASH-PACT was the First INTERPOL-AFRIPOL counter terrorism operation aimed at strengthening the ability of border officers in the frontlines to identify suspected terrorists and dismantle the networks behind them.

Guest of honour, Dear Chiefs of Police, support to SARPCCO, through our Regional Bureau in Harare has been consistent and I am delighted to inform you that RB Harare is amongst our best performing Regional Bureaus. Further, I will hasten to heap praise on the conducive working relationship INTERPOL has cultivated with SADC as part of our strategic work to tighten relationships with African Regional Economic Bodies. At the core, is the complementarity of the role of our Regional Bureaus with the SADC Secretariats of the regional police bodies. As a consequence of this relationship, SARPCCO is the main collaborating partner for INTERPOL in SADC region and together we have achieved numerous successes in the spirit of fighting TOC.

Guest of Honour, I beg your indulgence to elaborate on a handful of such successes. In August, INTERPOL joined hands with both EAPCCO and SARPCCO for Operation USALAMA X targeting a range of cross border crimes such as human and drug trafficking, wildlife crimes, copper

cables, smuggling of precious minerals and trafficking of small arms and light weapons. The operation saw almost 700 arrests across numerous cross border crimes, in particular illegal migration and drugs trafficking. Each of those arrests speak volume to the operational impact we can bring through our cooperation framework. On the same vein, I am delighted to note that SARPCCO commits itself to conducting a host of operations like Basadi, thus promoting the visibility and participation of female officers in fighting TOC, as well as the joint Operations targeting the full spectrum of TOC.

Guest of Honour, Distinguish Chiefs of Police, Through the IBMTF Directorate the regional bureau is conducting an ongoing series of national operations codenamed **STOP**. The series has seen great results in Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Crime intelligence taking its rightful place during these operations is a welcome observation, just as is the news that SARPCCO now produces a threat assessment report to aid in categorisation of crimes and prioritisation of resource allocation.

On the subject cross border crimes, I am acutely aware that Southern Africa remains the only region without an integrated border management frameworks however be assured that INTERPOL is working

closely with the Regional Bureau in Harare to render any form of assistance as required.

Ladies and gentlemen, the RB Harare quarterly reports further indicate a total of 47 activities having been conducted, impacting 1012 officers, 30% of whom are female. These are numbers are commendable, however I would also encourage the region to adopt the practice of conducting post-intervention follow-ups either by way of surveys or physical assessments to effectively measure the impact of various activities.

In conclusion, Honourable Minister, I assure you that Africa's policing will continue to be among the top priorities on INTERPOL' agenda to address your needs and contribution to global security. If we project our complimentary efforts, at a strategic and operational level, the next decade can see the richest police landscape ever faced by law enforcement, in Africa and around the World. Through INTERPOL's Vision 2030 initiative, we will move forward on identifying how we can best leverage technology to meet member countries' evolving needs, building on initiatives such as the Toolkit for Responsible AI Innovation in Law Enforcement launched in 2023.

Our updated Global Policing Goals provide a focus on the collective efforts of the international law enforcement community to create a safer and more sustainable world for future generations.

I further reiterate my pledge to assist SARPCCO in establishing an integrated border management policy.

Thank you

Merci Beaucoup

Muito Obrigado