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United Nations General Assembly 80th Session

First Committee – Disarmament & International Security

Thematic Dialogue: Conventional Weapons

Delivered by Miri Aung, Adviser, Special Representative of INTERPOL to the United Nations

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Opening

- **Mr. Chair,**
- **Excellencies,**
- **Distinguished delegates,**
- Firearms trafficking is a fundamental threat to peace.
- It is a cause of conflict – as it generates profits for criminal, terrorist, and armed groups engaging in violence.
- It is an effect of conflict – as weapons are often diverted from warzones.
- And it is a source of daily destruction – as firearms facilitate crimes which impede development, from murder to trafficking in persons.
- Allow me to highlight three ways in which INTERPOL is countering this threat.

INTERPOL's Capabilities

- First, we enable information-sharing to trace the movements of illicit firearms.
 - Our iARMS database is the only global database of stolen, lost, and trafficked firearms, with 2 million records. Since 2013, police officers have conducted more than 2.1 million queries and tracing operations



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through iARMS, revealing trafficking patterns and exposing criminal networks.

- For a firearm to be traced, it must first be accurately identified.
 - That is why we also created the INTERPOL Firearms Reference Table, an interactive online tool assisting police in identifying firearms based on their technical characteristics.
- Second, we lead multinational operations to remove illicit firearms from circulation.
- In 2023, we coordinated Operation Trigger 9, our largest-ever firearms operation which seized over 93,000 firearms and over 330,000 rounds of ammunition from Central and South America.
 - It also seized drug supplies worth 5.7 billion USD, demonstrating the links between firearms trafficking and other organized crime.
- Finally, we strengthen the capacity of law enforcement to combat this threat.
- From 2020 to 2024, we trained more than 550 officers from 76 countries in firearms identification, tracing, and investigation.
 - We also developed the Firearms Recovery Protocol, guiding police to systematically investigate recovered firearms.

Conclusion



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- Mr. Chair,
- Global police cooperation is essential to eradicate the illicit trade in firearms.
- INTERPOL's contributions have been recognized in the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, the International Tracing Instrument, and multiple reports of the Secretary-General.
- INTERPOL remains firmly committed to protecting civilians from firearm violence - and to building a more peaceful world.
- I thank you.