Mr Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

INTERPOL highly appreciates the opportunity to elaborate on the technical assistance and the available tools of our Organization which are relevant to the implementation of Chapter VI of the UNCAC pertaining to “technical assistance and information exchange”.

Corruption serves as a critical enabler for various crimes. At INTERPOL, we are increasingly identifying a link between corruption and environmental crime.
Corruption fuels illegal activities such as deforestation, pollution, and wildlife trafficking through compromising regulatory frameworks. It creates a vicious cycle, where illicit gains from environmental exploitation enable further corrupt practices, causing ecological harm.

A coordinated international law enforcement response is crucial to effectively combat financial fraud and corruption associated with environmental crimes.

To give you a better idea of how INTERPOL’s tools can enhance technical capabilities of national agencies leading anti-corruption initiatives, I would like to highlight a recent workshop organized in Ghana under the Operation Tentacle Africa II in April 2024.

Co-organized by the World Customs Organization in collaboration with the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units and INTERPOL, the workshop launched the Hybrid Operation Tentacle - Africa II across 16 countries in West Africa. This workshop further enhanced the capacity of the participating law enforcement agencies in combating money laundering and terrorism financing activities before, during and post operation.

Furthermore, in line with the ongoing joint activities between INTERPOL and AFRIPOL, a training on financial crime investigation for
16 countries from both East and Southern African states will be delivered by the INTERPOL Financial Crime and Anti-Corruption Centre in July 2024. The training is part of the Africa ISPA project, funded by Germany, designed to strengthen regional and international collaboration in conducting both traditional and financial investigations.

Another illustration of technical assistance delivered by INTERPOL to its member states is the CRIMJUST project which seeks to assist beneficiary countries in combating transnational organized crime by enhancing law enforcement and prosecution strategies. Jointly with UNODC, INTERPOL offers a training on "Parallel Financial Investigations to Follow Illicit Financial Flows" for participants from National Police and INTERPOL National Central Bureaus, Financial Intelligence Units, and Public Prosecutor’s Offices. The participating countries learn about the specific capabilities of INTERPOL’s databases and tools in enabling international cooperation, with a focus on the exchange of information, identification of assets, dismantling of criminal networks, as well as tracing and identifying the proceeds of crime and the subsequent recovery of the assets.

To conclude, INTERPOL stands by our commitment to enhance technical assistance by developing specialized tools and capabilities
that suit the needs of our 196 member countries in addressing the
global financial crime and corruption threat landscape of today and the
future.

I thank you for your attention.