

# INTERPOL

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# INTERPOL

## Topics

Topic A: The use of digital footprint as a tool to solve crimes.

Topic B: Drug trafficking in the digital age: the role of social media and Cryptocurrencies.

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Conference Officer: Lucía Pedraja Pinto

## Introduction to the chairs

Welcome delegates to the INTERPOL committee, my name is Macarena Loustalot Laclette Vallejo and I will be your President, I will be the head of your debate. We will be discussing the following topics: The use of digital footprint as a tool to solve crimes and Drug trafficking in the digital age: the role of social media and Cryptocurrencies. We are so excited to have you all be part of this committee and we hope you enjoy it as much as we do. If you have any doubts please contact me on my e-mail;

[macarena.loustalot-laclette@bab.edu.mx](mailto:macarena.loustalot-laclette@bab.edu.mx).

Hello delegates, my name is Katia Suarez Arevalo and I will be your Moderator for this year's INTERPOL committee. I will be helping you to moderate the debate and help you keep everything in order.. I hope you can learn and debate for your country and especially have a good time. We will be touching topics mainly about crimes and digital media. If you have any questions don't be afraid to get in touch with me by my e-mail;

[katia.suarez@bab.edu.mx](mailto:katia.suarez@bab.edu.mx)

Hello my name is Lucía Pedraja Pinto and I will be your conference officer in the INTERPOL committee. I will help with the organization and flow of the debate. I am very excited to work with all of you, if you have any questions you can contact me via email;

[lucia.pedraja@bab.edu.mx](mailto:lucia.pedraja@bab.edu.mx)

## Introduction to the committee

With 196 member nations, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) is the biggest international police organization in the world. The main goal of INTERPOL, which was established in 1923 and has its headquarters in Lyon, France, is to promote international collaboration between law enforcement organizations in the fight against transnational crime. Fighting organized crime, drug and human trafficking, cybercrime, terrorism, and other global threats are all included.

The structure of INTERPOL is made up of various essential parts. The highest decision-making body, the General Assembly, meets once a year to elect Executive Committee members, approve decisions, and establish policies. The General Assembly elects the Executive Committee, which is in charge of managing the General Secretariat's operations and making sure that decisions are carried out. Under the direction of the Secretary-General, the General Secretariat supervises day-to-day operations and plans global police projects. As the point of contact between INTERPOL and national law enforcement organizations, each member nation has a National Central Bureau (NCB). The Commission for the Control of INTERPOL's Files (CCF) also manages requests related to personal data that the organization holds and assures data security.

- **Power and responsibility**

INTERPOL has the authority to maintain international criminal databases, allow safe communication between police forces across the globe, issue color-coded notices, like Red Notices, for wanted persons, and offer operational support and training for international investigations. |

However, INTERPOL does not have its own police officers and has no ability to make arrests or carry out investigations on its own. It must respect national sovereignty, which means that member nations have the final say over how to react to INTERPOL alerts. Furthermore, Article 3 of its Constitution forbids INTERPOL from getting involved in racial, religious, military, or political issues.

INTERPOL has a significant impact on the committee's subjects. INTERPOL's cybercrime division is essential to using digital footprints as a tool to solve crimes. It connects criminal activities across borders and tracks suspects using digital footprints like IP addresses, metadata, and online behavior. Its global databases and secure communication systems are essential for monitoring digital evidence and organizing investigations.

In drug trafficking in the digital age, INTERPOL keeps an eye on how cryptocurrencies and social media platforms are used to support the illegal drug trade. To avoid detection, criminals frequently take advantage of blockchain transactions' anonymity and encrypted messaging apps. To track these transactions and take down online drug networks, INTERPOL works closely with financial institutions and tech companies.

The current situation of the committee involves adapting to evolving crime by focusing on digital and transnational threats through coordinated international operations. Recent activities include arresting cybercriminals, recovering millions in financial crime operations, seizing synthetic drugs, and targeting terrorism and organized crime in Africa. The key initiatives are: cybercrime, financial crime, counter terrorism and organized crime, drug seizures, adapting to new threats and faster notice processing.

Following World War I, nations recognized the need for stronger international collaboration to combat international crimes, leading to the creation of INTERPOL. It started out as a group that linked police departments from various countries so they could exchange information and track down criminals across borders. When it came under political control and lost many of its members during World War II, its operations were stopped. It was reconstructed after the war to reestablish international police cooperation and to break free from political influence. INTERPOL updated its communication systems and increased the number of its members in the decades that followed. It created networks and databases that allowed rapid information sharing between police departments worldwide. As international crime changed, INTERPOL started concentrating on topics like organized crime, terrorism, drug trafficking, human trafficking, and cybercrime. Today, it is one of the largest international organizations, helping nearly every country cooperate to ensure global security and justice.

## Topic Overview

Topic A: The use of digital footprint as a tool to solve crimes.

In the digital age, forensic investigations have evolved significantly, integrating new methodologies that address the complexities of modern crime. Central to this evolution is the analysis of digital footprints for traces left behind by individuals as they interact with various online platforms and devices. These digital footprints, encompassing everything from social media interactions and email communications to financial transactions and geolocation data, have become crucial in piecing together the puzzle of criminal activities. This is a problem because crime can be made much easier and even better, which isn't good. But the digital trail of criminals allows us to gain insight into who they are, what they did, and why.

We think it's worth discussing, since there are many opinions about whether using these tools to solve crimes is beneficial or not. Likewise, I believe that digital security varies greatly across countries, whether they are first-world, third-world, etc.

Topic B: Drug trafficking in the digital age: the role of social media and Cryptocurrencies.

The increased availability of illicit drugs on the Internet, the exploitation by criminal groups of online platforms including social media, and the increased risk of overdose deaths due to the online presence of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids are some of the key challenges for drug control in the Internet era. Using social media and other online platforms means drug traffickers can advertise their products to large global audiences. Various conventional social media platforms are being used as local marketplaces and inappropriate content is widely accessible to children and adolescents. Encryption methods, anonymous browsing on the darknet and cryptocurrencies are commonly used to avoid detection, posing difficulties for prosecuting online trafficking offences. Offenders can move their activities to territories with less intensive law enforcement action or lighter sanctions or base themselves in countries where they can evade extradition. The sheer scale of online activity is an added complication. In one case in France, law enforcement authorities collected more than 120 million text messages from 60,000 mobile phones. This is a problem because, since the sale and promotion of drugs began on

the internet, access to them has been facilitated for all audiences.

It's worth discussing because each country faces this conflict differently, as some of them are more aware than others, so the proposed solutions and actions being taken are different.

## Suggested Tools for Further Research, Documents of Significance, and Guiding Questions

### Documents of Significance

#### Topic A: The Use of Digital Footprint as a Tool to Solve Crimes

- United Nations Convention against Cybercrime (UNGA Res. 79/243, 2024) Establishes global standards for digital evidence handling and international cooperation on cybercrime.
- Budapest Convention on Cybercrime (ETS No. 185, 2001) First international treaty addressing internet and computer crime, including procedures for investigating digital footprints.
- UN General Assembly Resolution 45/121 (1990) Focuses on strengthening international cooperation in combating organized crime, including cyber-enabled offenses.
- INTERPOL Constitution – Article 2 & 3 Defines INTERPOL's mandate to promote international police cooperation while respecting human rights and neutrality.

#### Topic B: Drug Trafficking in the Digital Age

- United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Vienna Convention, 1988) Provides legal framework for international cooperation in combating drug trafficking, including digital methods.
- UNODC Synthetic Drug Strategy (UNODC/SD/2021) Outlines strategies to counter synthetic drug threats, including online sales and darknet markets.
- UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) Outcome Document on the World Drug Problem (2016) Encourages member states to address online drug trafficking and the misuse of digital platforms.
- UN Security Council Resolution 2178 (2014) Addresses the use of digital tools by transnational criminal networks, including those involved in drug trafficking.

## **Guiding Questions for Debate**

### **Topic A: Digital Footprints in Crime Solving**

- How can digital footprints be used ethically and effectively in criminal investigations?
- What safeguards should be in place to protect privacy while using metadata and geolocation?
- How can INTERPOL improve cooperation among member states with varying digital infrastructure?

### **Topic B: Drug Trafficking via Social Media and Cryptocurrencies**

- What role should tech companies play in monitoring and reporting illicit drug activity?
- How can international law enforcement track anonymous cryptocurrency transactions without violating privacy rights?
- What strategies can be implemented to protect youth from exposure to drug-related content online?

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