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IGP SPEECH AT THE 24TH INTERPOL AFRICA REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The Right Honourable, Prime Minister,

Honourable Ministers,

INTERPOL Secretary General, Prof Jurgen Stock

Excellency the Dean of Ambassadors,

Chiefs of Police here present,

Distinguished Heads of Delegations and Institutions,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Join me to thank the Right Honourable Prime Minister for presiding over the opening of this conference.

We are greatly honoured to be joined here by our colleagues and partners from across Africa and beyond for the 24th INTERPOL Africa Regional Conference.

We further recall and appreciate the decision of H.E the President of the Republic of Rwanda to host the 24th INTERPOL Africa Regional Conference in Rwanda following the 84th INTERPOL General Assembly that was also held here in November 2015. This is a demonstration of Rwanda's continued support towards law enforcement in Africa as well as peace and security across the globe.

Let me also take this opportunity to appreciate the Interpol leadership, Chiefs of Police and all delegates to this conference

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for sparing time to come to Kigali for this conference that will discuss security issues affecting our continent.

Rwanda National Police is happy to host such an important gathering where we shall have the opportunity to share knowledge, ideas and experience, with the aim of making Africa and the whole world a safer and better place to live.

It is a great moment to reflect on the changing nature of law enforcement and how we can work together to build synergies that deliver our respective mandates as law enforcement agencies and indeed INTERPOL's continued efforts to fight against modern security and policing threats that are transnational and organized in nature.

Right Honourable Prime Minister,

Distinguished Guests,

The nature and modalities of crime are constantly shifting, especially with regards to internet and other technological advancements. Terrorism, extremism, cyber-enabled crimes, human trafficking and smuggling, online child exploitation, trafficking in illicit drugs and money laundering, among others, are being facilitated and amplified by the information technology and the internet.

The fact is that modern criminality has networks that transcend national jurisdictions. This means that, the only alternative is to enhance collaboration by having well-trained and equipped Police officers and other law enforcement agencies prepared to

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effectively confront these emerging and ever sophisticated crimes.

In this regard, alongside the conference we are attending today, Rwanda is also hosting a Table Top Exercise on countering cyber-enabled terrorism. The exercise brings together law enforcement officers from Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation (EAPCCO) in efforts geared towards enhancing their knowledge and skills in prevention and response to Hi-tech crimes.

Right Honourable Prime Minister,

Distinguished Guests,

Hosting this conference and exercise in Rwanda reflect a strong indication that we are more than willing and ready to work together as member states of INTERPOL. Moreover, we are also eager to partner with local and international law enforcement agencies in order to make our countries, regions and the World as safe and free as possible from criminal activities.

Over the course of this conference, we should be able to grapple with the challenges we face in efforts to jointly fight crime in Africa with a bigger picture in our minds – “Connecting Police institutions for a safer world”.

It is my sincere hope that this conference will be able to draw strategies that commit us to uphold shared values and to drive a sense of common purpose in our sub-regions, continent and the world at large.

I Thank You