INTERPOL’s measures to combat the global threat of Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives (CBRNE) terrorism

Executive Summary

- The use of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) materials by terrorist groups such as Daesh, criminals, and other non-state actors has become one of the most significant challenges to today’s global security.

- In 2010 INTERPOL made the strategic decision to launch a comprehensive CBRNE terrorism prevention and response capability in support of its 190 member countries. The INTERPOL methodology for countering the threat of CBRNE consists of four main pillars:

1. **Intelligence and Operational Data Services:**
   - Facilitating the exchange of information among member countries in a secured fashion and identifying criminals and criminal organizations through intelligence analysis represents the foundation of the CBRNE Sub-Directorate’s work.
   - INTERPOL’s CBRNE Sub-Directorate collects information on CBRNE incidents; analyzes the information and conducts threat assessments; shares intelligence and analysis regarding CBRNE threats and incidents with INTERPOL’s member countries and partner agencies through monthly *(INTERPOL CBRNE Digest)* and ad-hoc reports.
   - Specialized databases such as Geiger and Watchmaker provide operational and specialized support to member countries through the sharing of INTERPOL Notices and warning messages on individuals involved in illegal CBRNE activities.

2. **Capacity Building:**
   - Given the gravity of a CBRNE terrorist attack and its consequences, prevention and countermeasures constitute an essential element in both national and international strategies.
   - INTERPOL engages in efforts to increase the level of CBRNE awareness in law enforcement agencies; delivers training sessions in order to increase law enforcement capabilities; provides prevention methodologies for use by member countries.
   - Major INTERPOL CBRNE capacity building programmes include:
     - Counter Nuclear Smuggling (CNS) Workshops
     - Radiological Nuclear Investigations Training Courses
Radiological Nuclear Table Top Exercises
Programme S3OMMET (Safe, Secure, Surveillance of Microbiological Materials and Emergent Technologies)
Bioterrorism: Risks and Controls (BRC) Workshop
Chemical Awareness Scene Management (Chasm) Course
INTERPOL Chemical and Explosives Countermeasures Course
Radiological Crime Scene Management Workshops

3. Investigative and Operational Support

- On request, INTERPOL can provide operational support to its member countries in the form of an Incident Response Team. In the event of a terrorist attack, staff with expertise in CBRNE matters can be deployed in these teams.
- In addition, INTERPOL runs a number of initiatives, projects and operations to support the international law enforcement community in tackling the illicit trafficking of CBRNE materials:
  - Operation Fail Safe
  - The Global Alliance to Combat the Threat of Improvised Explosives Devises (IEDs)
  - Operation CHASE (Chemical Anti-Smuggling Enforcement)
  - Programme Global Shield (In cooperation with the World Customs Organization)
  - Project RHINO (Response capability, Hazard assessment, Infection control, National coordination and Operational Change)

4. Working in Partnership

- Due to the complex nature of CBRNE prevention and response, a multi-disciplinary approach is essential. Action needs to be coordinated at a national governmental level, ensuring close cooperation and information exchange between the various ministries, agencies and institutions involved.
- This inter-agency approach needs to be extended on an international level. INTERPOL works in the global arena, connecting our worldwide network of member countries and maintaining close partnerships with other international agencies and initiatives that are specialized in the CBRNE field.