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THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

GLOBAL STANDARDS  
TO COMBAT CORRUPTION  
IN POLICE FORCES / SERVICES

## **Leading the fight against corruption.**



Corruption undermines the effectiveness of law enforcement, the efficiency and legitimacy of police forces/services in the performance of their functions and erodes the public confidence in law enforcement and justice. I have been outspoken on this issue for many years and firmly believe that effective policing requires the combating of all forms of corruption in the performance of policing functions and the promotion of high standards of honesty, integrity and ethical behaviour for police officers and other employees of police forces/services.

Since 1998, the Interpol Group of Experts on Corruption (IGEC) have been supporting our Anti-Corruption Program with its expertise and advice. The IGEC includes distinguished members from law enforcement, as well as senior representatives from the international community dedicated to combating corruption.

Using the Interpol General Assembly, the IGEC provided the Interpol Member States with a framework for combating corruption, by formulating an Anti-Corruption strategy. This strategy culminated in the proposal of the “Global Standards to Combat Corruption in Police Forces/Services”. These ‘Standards’ consist of several principles and numerous measures designed to improve the resistance to succumbing to corruption as well as the efficacy in combating it, and represent an ideal to which we are confident that our Member States will strive towards. These “Standards” have been well received by the international law enforcement community and mark the beginning of a pro-active approach to combating this crime. I am confident that our Member States will leave no stone unturned in ensuring a speedy implantation thereof.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ronald K. Noble". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Ronald K. Noble  
Secretary General



**GLOBAL STANDARDS TO COMBAT CORRUPTION  
IN POLICE FORCES/SERVICES**

**Article 1**

**Objectives**

- 1.1 To ensure that the police forces/services of each Member State of Interpol have high standards of honesty, integrity and ethical behaviour in and in connection with the performance of their policing functions.
- 1.2 To promote and strengthen the development by each Member State of Interpol of measures needed to prevent, detect, punish and eradicate corruption in the police forces/services within its national boundaries and to bring to justice police officers and other employees of police forces/services who are corrupt.

**Article 2**

**Definitions**

**Corruption** includes:

- 2.1 The solicitation or acceptance, whether directly or indirectly, by a police officer or other employee of a police force/service of any money, article of value, gift, favour, promise, reward or advantage, whether for himself/herself or for any person, group or entity, in return for any act or omission already done or omitted or to be done or omitted in the future in or in connection with the performance of any function of or connected with policing.

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- 2.2 The offering or granting, whether directly or indirectly, to a police officer or other employee of a police force/service of any money, article of value, gift, favour, promise, reward or advantage for the police officer or other employee or for any person, group or entity in return for any act or omission already done or omitted or to be done or omitted in the future in or in connection with the performance of any function of or connected with policing.
- 2.3 Any act or omission in the discharge of duties by a police officer or other employee of a police force/service which may improperly expose any person to a charge or conviction for a criminal offence or may improperly assist in a person not being charged with or being acquitted of a criminal offence.
- 2.4 The unauthorized dissemination of confidential or restricted police information whether for reward or otherwise.
- 2.5 Any act or omission in the discharge of duties by a police officer or other employee of a police force/service for the purpose of obtaining any money, article of value, gift, favour, promise, reward or advantage for himself/herself or any other person, group or entity.
- 2.6 Any act or omission which constitutes corruption under a law of the Member State.
- 2.7 Participation as a principal, co-principal, initiator, instigator, accomplice, accessory before the fact, accessory after the fact conspirator or in any other manner in the commission or attempted commission of any act referred to in the preceding provisions of this Article.

**Police force/service** means each police force/service or other official body with a responsibility to perform policing functions within the national boundaries of the Member State.

### **Article 3**

#### **Principles**

- 3.1 To make corruption within police forces/services a high-risk crime.
- 3.2 To promote and maintain a high standard of honesty, integrity and ethical behaviour within the police forces/services of each Member.
- 3.3 To foster the recruitment and training as police officers of persons of high levels of integrity, honesty, ethical standards and expertise.

### **Article 4**

#### **Measures**

Each Member of the Organization commits to:

#### **Standards of Conduct**

- 4.1 Establishing and maintaining high standards of conduct for the honest, ethical and effective performance of policing functions;
  - 4.1.1 Such standards should be mandatory and be directed towards an understanding and application of honest, ethical and appropriate behaviour, the avoidance of conflicts of interest, the proper use of public resources in and in connection with the fair and impartial application of the law, the performance of policing functions, the reporting of acts of corruption in and in connection with the performance of policing functions, and the establishment and strengthening of public confidence in police officers and police forces/services as part of the system of justice;

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- 4.1.2 Such standards should accept that it is an obligation of the police force/service to seek out and effectively deal with corruption within the police force/service;
- 4.1.3 Such standards should impose an obligation on police officers and other employees of a police force/service to report to the appropriate person or authority acts or omissions which constitute or may constitute corruption within the police force/service;
- 4.2 Setting up and maintaining effective mechanisms to oversee and enforce the high standards of conduct required in and in connection with the performance of policing functions;

### **Recruitment, posting, promotion and termination**

- 4.3 Having and maintaining effective systems for the recruitment of police officers of high levels of integrity, honesty, ethical standards and expertise;
- 4.4 Ensuring that the systems for recruitment, posting, promotion and termination of police officers and other employees of the police forces/services are not arbitrary but are based on fairness, openness, ability and performance;

### **Training**

- 4.5 Having a system for instructing police officers and others engaged in and in connection with the performance of policing functions of the standards and ethical rules applicable to the performance of such functions;
- 4.6 Having and maintaining a system for the training, including on-going training, of police officers and other employees in the police forces/services which reinforces the high standards of conduct referred to in Article 4.1;

### **Corruption**

- 4.7 Putting in place deterrents to the bribery of those performing or engaged in or in connection with the performance of policing functions;
- 4.8 Using their best endeavours to ensure that the mechanisms and systems for the prevention, detection, punishment and eradication of corruption in and in connection with the performance of policing functions in its police forces/services are kept abreast of current practice as recognized by the General Assembly of Interpol;
- 4.9 Having an effective system that obliges police officers and other employees of the police forces/services to report, that enables them and members of civil society to report corruption, and that protects those who report corruption in good faith;
- 4.10 Establishing mechanisms to encourage participation by civil society in activities and efforts to prevent corruption in the police forces/services;
- 4.11 Establishing and enforcing procedures for the declaration and registration of the income, assets and liabilities of those who perform policing functions and of appropriate members of their families;

### **Systems**

- 4.12 Having and maintaining systems of revenue collection, money and property handling and for the control and preservation of evidence that ensure that those collecting or handling public money, dealing with evidence or handling property are accountable and that the systems are such as to deter corruption;
- 4.13 Having and maintaining systems for the procurement of goods and services that are based on openness, efficiency, equity and certainty

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of the rules to be applied and that seek the best value for money;

### **Monitoring**

- 4.14 Establishing a mechanism such as an oversight body or bodies to monitor the systems and measures established for preventing, detecting, punishing and eradicating corruption within the police forces/services and the adequacy, application and effectiveness of such systems and measures;
- 4.15 Conferring or causing to be conferred on a designated authority, whether internal or external, such powers to carry out investigations and bring to justice without fear, favour, affection or ill-will those who engage in corruption and dishonesty in the course of or in association with the carrying out of policing functions and adequately resourcing and funding such authority;
- 4.16 Providing for a system for the recruitment of officers for such designated authority who are of high integrity and which ensures that such officers are not disadvantaged by recruitment to any such designated authority;
- 4.17 Providing adequate safeguards to prevent abuse of powers by those engaged in the anti-corruption system and to minimize unnecessary infringements of individual rights;
- 4.18 Requiring public reporting at least once each year of the work and findings in relation to the monitoring of the systems and measures referred to in Article 4(k) and their adequacy, application and effectiveness;
- 4.19 On-going research in relation to current best practice for the prevention, detection, punishment and eradication of corruption in and in connection with the performance of policing functions;
- 4.20 Reviewing at appropriate and regular intervals the measures and systems for the prevention, detection, punishment and eradication of corruption in and in connection with the performance of policing

functions;

### **General**

- 4.21 Making corruption by a police officer or other employee of a police force/service a serious criminal offence;
- 4.22 Having legislation enacted to allow the proceeds of corruption and related crimes to be forfeited;
- 4.23 Bringing into being or causing to be brought into being such legislative, administrative and other measures as may be necessary to prevent, detect, punish and eradicate corruption in the police forces/services;
- 4.24 Taking all practicable steps to ensure that the rates of remuneration for police officers and other employees of the police forces/services are such as to enable them and their families to maintain a reasonable standard of living without having to resort to other employment or to corruption;
- 4.25 Reporting at least once each two years, or at such shorter intervals as the General Assembly may resolve, on the measures taken and the mechanisms and systems in place to implement the standards set out in this protocol and the effectiveness of such mechanisms, systems and measures;
- 4.26 Permitting the monitoring by and co-operating with such person or persons as may be appointed by the Secretary General for the purpose of monitoring the mechanisms, systems and measures in place in relation to its police forces/services to achieve the objectives and meet the standards referred to in this protocol and the effectiveness of such mechanisms, systems and measures.

**Article 5**

**Review**

The operation of this protocol shall be reviewed by the General Secretariat of Interpol on an ongoing basis and is to be the subject of a report to each session of the General Assembly that is held after the expiration of two years from the adoption of this protocol.

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**Current membership and contributors to the 'Global Standards'**

- Justice Barry O'Keefe                      Chairman  
Supreme Court New South Wales, Sydney, Australia
- Michel Girodo  
University of Ottawa, Canada
- Stefan Grobler  
South African Police Service, South Africa
- Michael Hershman  
Decision strategics & Transparency International, USA
- Dick Pijl  
Rijksrecherche, Netherlands
- Michael Clemens  
FBI, Baltimore, USA
- Abu Kassim bin Mohammed  
ACA, Malaysia
- Daniel Li  
ICAC, Hong Kong
- Andy Sellars  
Metropolitan Police Service, London, UK
- Kevin Ford  
Goldman Sachs & IACC
- Rainer Bühler  
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