

**TALKING NOTES FOR DR. FRED MATIANG'I, EGH,
CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND
CO-ORDINATION OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENT
DURING THE 10TH AFRIPOL STEERING COMMITTEE
MEETING ON 30TH MARCH, 2022**

- **The President of Interpol H.E. Ahmed Nasser Al-Raisi**
- **The President of AFRIPOL – Mr. Hilary Mutyambayi**
- **The AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security**

- **The Executive Director, AFRIPOL, Dr. Tarek A. Sharif**
- **H.E. Serge Hervé Ngoma, GABON**
- **H.E. Dieudonné Amuli Bahigwa, DRC (EAPCO)**
CHAIRMAN
- **H.E. Ahmed Hamaida Altajouri, LIBYA**
- **Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen**

Good Morning!

1. Shared Security Threats:

African governments are grappling with a variety of entrenched cross-border crimes such as drug and human trafficking, small arms trade, theft of motor vehicles, livestock rustling, smuggling of contrabands and general organised theft.

2. New Crime

Governments are also increasingly being called to action against threats posed by emergent and complex crime such as money laundering, cybercrime, mobile phone fraud, identity-theft, phishing scams, trade in counterfeits, kidnapping, trafficking of prohibited and endangered wildlife products, pyramids and related phony investment schemes among others.

3. Terrorism, Radicalisation

Africa is increasingly coming under the threat of terrorism and religious extremism. Our nations are nursing the ripple effect of traditional geopolitical leanings and international disputes including the war in Ukraine. Terror networks are often international in nature.

4. Plagues and the Exigencies of Health Pandemics

The Corona pandemic and, to a lesser extent, the outbreaks of Ebola, have taught us the reality of non-traditional sources to national and regional insecurity. The cross-border pressure posed by Corona for instance has served vital lessons on why security agencies must also collaborate in planning for the unforeseeable.

5. Global Village, Global Crime

Investments in infrastructure including roads, rail, air transport, internet and telecommunication and the easing of restrictions on cross-border travel is encouraging faster and frequent interaction of people and goods among African neighbours. Growth in cross-border crime statistics attest to these investments also supporting international crime by making it easier for

perpetrators and their networks to operate across borders.

6. Transnational Crime and Strain on Limited Resources

Combating international crime is an expensive undertaking. Rising transnational crime and the complex nature of some of it obliges governments to allocate more resources to security budgets. Spending

more in intelligence gathering, policy reforms, costly equipment and more officers for strategic deployment has become inevitable.

7. Shared Solutions for Shared Problems

Partnerships such as Afripol and Interpol are essential for pooling resources to combat shared security threats. Sharing intelligence, advanced training, and harmonisation of border-monitoring policies and

resources are vital. It is necessary for partner states to progressively review and retool security policies and doctrines to match arising needs.

8. Kenya's Position

Kenya is cooperating with international partners to fight Transnational Organized Crime including the Regional Operation Centre Khartoum (ROCK). We have

seconded an officer specifically dealing in trafficking of human beings.

9. Afripol Commitment

Kenya is keen to operationalise AFRIPOL. As we sit here today, the Kenyan office is up and running at the NCB Nairobi DCI Headquarters.

10. We appreciate the INTERPOL's EAC project funded by the European Union which aims to modernize our National Central Bureaus as well as enhance extension of INTERPOL tools to boarder points and to other law enforcement agencies. We will continue working closely with our neighbours to better protect our citizens.

11. Integrated Border Management

To better identify shared priorities and to plan for appropriate strategies, governments must collaborate in developing border management protocols. These are essential to the facilitation of legitimate trade and lawful flow of people while closing the doors to criminals and their criminal elements.

12. Regional Agreements

Regional security pacts should be at the core of the drive for greater pan-African integration. Security is a critical trade enabler. The promotion of cross-border business must incorporate well-thought and implemented measures to combat crime.

13. Taking Advantage of Continental/Global Structures

Afripol, Interpol and other international security partnerships exist as a vindication of the necessity of these partnerships. Recently, the UN launched the Regional Counter-terrorism office in Nairobi. Synergising the activities of these bodies and strengthening existing bonds is desirable.

A. Cooperation in Policing

14. I am glad that you have recognized the need for a meeting to reflect on a variety of operational issues. I am confident that among other resolutions that you may arrive at, you will consider a strong regional cooperation through building a strong network of law enforcement agencies in the region that will provide consistent and continuing cooperation for responses.

- 15.** It is also incumbent upon us to create and provide training focusing on seamless, unified responses to large multijurisdictional incidents by relying on defined collaborative guidelines.

- 16.** We must step up our collaboration and ensure coordination of responses that support shared objectives while respecting the policies and missions of individual agencies.

B. Information-Sharing

17. Security chiefs should continuously engage each other to adopt best practices, and encourage clearly understood, uniform language. One guiding principle that serves as a secret to success for a police leader is to ask others for best practice examples.

C. Involvement of Civilians

18. The purpose of the cooperation is to support the efforts of the Member States on the African continent to respond to evolving security threats and to promote the rule of law and human security. We must work together to counter crime and promote justice and integrity.

Fred Matiang'i, PhD, EGH
CABINET SECRETARY