

CHAPTER 25

INTERPOL AND COORDINATION WING

25.1 INTERPOL– is the telegraphic address of the International Criminal Police Organization– ICPO. The origin of Interpol dates back to April 1914 when the first International Police Congress was held in Monaco. In this congress, Police Officers and Legal Experts from 14 different countries and territories studied the possibility of establishing an International Criminal Records Office as well as harmonizing extradition procedures. The outbreak of the First World War prevented any further progress. The Second International Police Congress met at Vienna, Austria in 1923 and set up the International Criminal Police Commission. After the Second World War, a Conference was held in Brussels to reactive the ICPC and the whole concept of International Police Cooperation was revived.

25.2 Interpol, at present is the only official international Police cooperation organization, solely and permanently responsible for ensuring day-to- day Police cooperation across international borders. Presently, it has a membership of 182 countries. The list of 182 countries who are members of the Interpol, is at Annexure 25-A. Each of the 182 member- countries has a National Central Bureau (NCB) responsible for exchanging information and data and for coordinating the functioning within its own country and with other member-countries including INTERPOL Headquarters.

25.3 The Interpol Secretariat General (IPSG), is a permanent body of the Organization with its Headquarters located at Lyon, France. It is responsible for processing all information and for handling International Police Cooperation in criminal matters. It has sufficient means to enable it to respond immediately to NCBs making requests for Police cooperation. The coordination is achieved by computerized processing and electronic archive system. The Headquarter arranges issue of international notices and summaries of criminal cases. It also organizes meetings and symposia on cases or topics of special interest to Police and the legal profession.

STRUCTURE OF INTERPOL HQ

25.4 The current structure of Interpol Headquarter comprises a General Assembly, the Executive Committee and the IPSG headed by the Secretary General. In the Interpol Headquarter, the directorates of Specialized crimes, Operational Police support, Information systems and technology, Administration, Finance and Communication and Publications along with Legal Counsels office are the functional units. The National Central Bureaus in each country along with their Interpol liaison offices located in various states are the most important field units of this structure.

25.5 FUNCTIONAL GUIDELINES OF INTERPOL

Purpose of INTERPOL

25.5.1 Under Article 2 of the Organization’s Constitution, Interpol’s aims are :

- (a) To ensure and promote the widest possible mutual assistance between all criminal Police authorities, within the limits of the laws existing in the different countries and in the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- (b) To establish and develop all institutions likely to contribute effectively to the prevention and suppression of ordinary law crimes.

The limits of its operation are laid down in Article 3

- 25.5.2 It is strictly forbidden for the Organization to undertake any intervention or activities of a political, military, religious or racial character.
- 25.5.3 According to the interpretation given to Article 3, a political offence is one which is considered to be of a predominantly political nature because of the surrounding circumstances and underlying motives, even if the offence itself is covered by the ordinary Criminal Law in the country in which it was committed. This interpretation, based on the predominant aspect of the offence, is embodied in a Resolution adopted by Interpol's General Assembly in 1951.
- 25.5.4 In addition, a Resolution adopted in 1984 states that, in general, offences are not considered to be political when they are committed outside a "conflict area" and when the victims are not connected with the aims or objectives pursued by the offenders.

Cooperation Principles

- 25.5.5 International Police Cooperation with the ICPO-INTERPOL has always been conducted in accordance with the guiding principles listed below:
- (a) *Respect for national sovereignty*: Cooperation is based in the actions taken by the Police forces in the various Member-States. They operate and cooperate within their own national boundaries in accordance with their own national laws.
 - (b) *Enforcement of ordinary criminal law*: The Organization's field of activities is limited to crime prevention and law enforcement in connection with ordinary criminal offences. This is the only basis on which there can be agreement between all Member- States.
 - (c) *Universality*: Any Member- State may cooperate with any other and cooperation must not be impeded by geographical or linguistic factors.
 - (d) *Equality of all Member-States*: All the Member-States are provided with the same services and have the same rights, irrespective of the size of their financial contributions to the Organization.
 - (e) *Cooperation with other agencies*: Cooperation is extended through the National Central Bureaus to any Government agency concerned with combating ordinary criminal offences.
 - (f) *Flexibility of working methods*: Although governed by principles designed to ensure regularity and continuity, working methods are flexible enough to take account of the wide variety of structures and situations in different countries.
- 25.5.6 Respect for these principles means that Interpol cannot have teams of detectives with supranational powers who travel around investigating cases in different countries. International Police cooperation has to depend on coordinated action on the part of the Member-States' Police forces, all of which may supply or request information or services on different occasions.

25.6 NATIONAL CENTRAL BUREAU (NCB)-NEW DELHI:

- 25.6.1 Interpol New Delhi is the sole authorized agency in India for contacts with the Police agencies of other countries. It functions as a Branch of CBI and is under the control of a Deputy Director (DIG Rank) assisted by two Assistant Directors

(Interpol) of the rank of Superintendents of Police. Interpol Wing handles various matters like Extradition; Letters Rogatory; Preliminary Enquiries; Investigation in criminal cases; Inquiries in non-crime-related matters; Issuance of Interpol Notices; Verification of character and antecedents; Verification of telephone numbers, Passport details, Driving licenses; Drugs and counterfeit currencies; Coordination and Conferences; Negotiation of treaties of extradition and Mutual Legal Assistance in criminal matters etc.

- 25.6.2 For the purpose of effective discharge of its duties, the Interpol Wing of CBI is functionally divided into the various desks, such as: Investigations abroad, Investigations in India; Red Corner Notices; General enquiries, Extradition, Drugs and counterfeit currencies; Conferences, Protocol; Treaty negotiations and legal issues etc. Further restructuring and strengthening of Interpol Wing is under consideration.
- 25.6.3 Interpol-New Delhi has recently been uplinked to IPSPG through the Interpol Global Communication System 24/7, which has replaced the old X-400 system. The new system is capable of transmitting images, graphic files, audio, video attachments.
- 25.6.4 All the States/UT Police Forces and Commissionerates of Police have designated Interpol Liaison Offices who are in direct communication with Interpol Wing (CBI) through CBI Command Centre to facilitate expeditious exchange of information and extend cooperation.

COORDINATION WING

25.7 The Coordination Wing is a non- investigating Unit of CBI dealing with the general coordination and administrative matters, including Establishment, Accounts, Accommodation relating to Interpol and Coordination functions of CBI. It is headed by a Deputy Director (DIG), who is assisted by an Assistant Director (SP) and other executive, technical ministerial and specialized staff deployed at the Interpol, Command Centre and Coordination Wing.

25.8 The primary duty of Coordination Wing is to liaise and coordinate with Branches of CBI and other Departments/ Ministries, Law Enforcement Agencies, State/UT Police Forces and foreign Police/Missions and organizations as and when required. The following are the main areas which are being looked after by the Coordination Wing of CBI:

LOOK OUT CIRCULARS (LOC)

25.9 The Look Out Circulars are opened to trace the absconding criminals and also to prevent and monitor effectively the entry or exit of persons who may be required by law enforcement authorities.

- 25.9.1 The basic substantive guidelines regarding the publication of the LOCs in relation to Indian citizens issued by the MHA enunciate the following four cardinal principles:
- 25.9.2 The request for opening of LOC is required to be made to all immigration Check-posts in the country in the Official Format prescribed by the MHA.
- 25.9.3 The request for opening of LOC must invariably be issued with the approval of an Officer not below the rank of Deputy Secretary to the Government of India/Joint Secretary in the State Government/ Superintendent of Police concerned at the district level.
- 25.9.4 The originating agency must ensure that complete identifying personal particulars of the person, in respect of whom the LOC is to be opened, are clearly mentioned in the prescribed proforma. The LOC will not be opened for less than three identity parameters other than name of the subject.

- 25.9.5 An LOC is valid for a period of one year. However, in case the originating agency wants to extend the validity beyond one year it can ask for the extension before the expiry of the one year period. If no request is made for the extension of the LOC within the stipulated period of one year, the Immigration Officer concerned is authorized to suspend the LOC.

Nomination of Designated Officer

25.10 The Government of India has introduced the Passport (Amendment) Ordinance, 2001 Section 10-A which provides for issuing of notice for suspension/ revocation of passport by the Designated Officer. The Director/CBI has nominated the Dy Director (Coordination), CBI to exercise powers conferred by this amendment. The provision implies that it is imperative to nominate a Designated Officer by the respective State Government/Central Agencies to follow, enforce and execute the procedures envisaged in the Ordinance. It is however, reiterated that the powers so conferred by this Ordinance are only to be executed to cover those cases which fall under the purview of Section 10(3)(c) of the Passports Act, 1967. The Designated Officer will have the discretion to further delegate the powers to lower level functionaries to facilitate action to temporarily suspend a passport at the ground level, after obtaining the formal express approval from the Designated Officers as per the laid-down procedure.

Biennial Conference of CBI, Heads of ACBx and others

25.11 One of the functions of the Coordination Wing is to conduct the Biennial Joint Conference of CBI in which apart from the CBI officials, the Heads of State Anti-Corruption Bureaux, CVOs and others participate. This is a prestigious All India Conference organized every 2 years.

DsGP/IsGP Conference

25.12 The DsGP/IsGP Conference is organized by Intelligence Bureau every year. Some of the recommendations of this Conference are communicated to CBI for necessary follow-up action and implementation. This work is carried out by the Coordination Wing.

D.P. Kohli Memorial Lecture

25.13 The DP Kohli Memorial Lecture is organized every year in April to celebrate the Foundation Day of CBI.

25.14 The Coordination Wing is also responsible to organize other conferences on the subjects of professional interest to the CBI.

25.15 The Coordination Wing also keeps data on Anti-Corruption, Vigilance and other subjects entrusted to it for purposes of coordination. It is the Unit responsible for undertaking coordination and cooperation between various organizations, agencies, Departments and national/international bodies, on behalf of CBI.

Publication of CBI Bulletin

25.16 The Coordination Wing publishes a monthly journal entitled CBI Bulletin, which has a wide circulation in India and abroad.

Fugitive Investigation Support Unit (FISU)

25.17 This Unit has been established in the Coordination Wing to facilitate and monitor investigation support in tracking Proclaimed Offenders, absconders and Fugitives wanted by the CBI, Interpol and other Law Enforcement Agencies.

INTERPOL MEMBER- COUNTRIES (182)

- A** Afghanistan|Albania | Algeria | Andorra | Angola | Antigua & Barbuda | Argentina | Armenia | Aruba | Australia | Austria | Azerbaijan
- B** Bahamas | Bahrain | Bangladesh | Barbados | Belarus | Belgium | Belize | Benin | Bolivia | Bosnia-Herzegovina | Botswana | Brazil | Brunei | Bulgaria | Burkina-Faso | Burundi
- C** Cambodia | Cameroon | Canada | Cape Verde | Central African Republic | Chad | Chile | China| Colombia | Comoros | Congo | Congo (Democratic Rep.) | Costa Rica | Côte d'Ivoire | Croatia | Cuba | Cyprus | Czech Republic
- D** Denmark | Djibouti | Dominica | Dominican Republic
- E** East Timor | Ecuador | Egypt | El Salvador | Equatorial Guinea | Eritrea | Estonia | Ethiopia
- F** Fiji | Finland | Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | France
- G** Gabon | Gambia | Georgia | Germany | Ghana | Greece | Grenada | Guatemala | Guinea | Guinea Bissau | Guyana
- H** Haiti | Honduras | Hungary
- I** Iceland | India | Indonesia | Iran | Iraq | Ireland | Israel | Italy
- J** Jamaica | Japan | Jordan
- K** Kazakhstan | Kenya | Korea (Rep. of) | Kuwait | Kyrgyzstan
- L** Laos | Latvia | Lebanon | Lesotho | Liberia | Libya | Liechtenstein | Lithuania | Luxembourg
- M** Madagascar | Malawi | Malaysia | Maldives | Mali | Malta | Marshall Islands | Mauritania|Mauritius|Mexico | Moldova | Monaco | Mongolia | Morocco | Mozambique| Myanmar
- N** Namibia | Nauru | Nepal | Netherlands | Netherlands Antilles | New Zealand | Nicaragua | Niger | Nigeria | Norway
- O** Oman
- P** Pakistan | Panama | Papua New Guinea | Paraguay | Peru | Philippines | Poland | Portugal
- Q** Qatar
- R** Romania | Russia | Rwanda
- S** St. Kitts and Nevis | St. Lucia | St. Vincent and the Grenadines | Sao Tome and Principe | Saudi Arabia | Senegal | Serbia and Montenegro | Seychelles | Sierra Leone | Singapore | Slovakia | Slovenia | Somalia | South Africa | Spain | Sri Lanka | Sudan | Suriname | Swaziland | Sweden | Switzerland | Syria
- T** Tajikistan | Tanzania | Thailand | Togo | Tonga | Trinidad & Tobago | Tunisia | Turkey
- U** Uganda | Ukraine | United Arab Emirates | United Kingdom | United States | Uruguay | Uzbekistan
- V** Venezuela | Vietnam
- Y** Yemen
- Z** Zambia | Zimbabwe