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### **United Nations police and the fight against corruption**

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## UNITED NATIONS POLICE AND THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

Luis Carrilho <sup>28</sup>

Thank you for the invitation to be in this very high-level International Congress. It is a pleasure and an honour for me to join you on behalf of almost 10,000 United Nations police officers, coming from more than 90 countries authorised to serve on the front lines in 16 peace operations around the world.

For the ones that are less familiar, the United Nations Police are central to multilateral efforts to prevent, mitigate and resolve violent conflict at operational, structural and systemic levels. We are a key of sustainable development agenda, the common agenda and the Secretary General action for peacekeeping initiatives.

As our Secretary General and Member States always affirmed, it is often the breakdown of law and order that triggers United Nations deployments and conversely the establishment or reestablishment of policing and other rule of law functions that allows United Nations peace operations to downsize and eventually withdraw. By helping all states authorities maintaining law and order, protect civilians and engage with local populations through communityoriented policing, United Nations Police have helped pave the way for some of the largest United Nations peacekeeping missions to transition and turn over primary security responsibilities to host the state counterparts like it was the case of East-Timor.

United Nations police support security systems and justice systems, including Prosecution Units and Court. Although we are

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not usually directly involved in fighting corruption, we deploy to conflict, often a fertile ground for transnational organised criminals that moves faster and thrive on corruption, threatening the rule of law, democratic governance and the regional and global security. Through our work, to prevent encounter corruption, United Nations provides a range of tailored technical assistance, including drafting anticorruption policies, laws and codes of conduct, strengthening asset declaration and whistleblower protection systems, advising on investigations, prosecuting corruption, including through international cooperation.

One meaning of delivering this support to Member States and in the Peace Operations is our standing police capacity and other rule of law capacities in our base in Brindisi, Italy, which comprises diverse specialised expertise in police capacity development in building, community oriented policing, investigation and prosecution, prison management, security and anticorruption expertise.

In addition, the Strategic Guidance Framework (SGF) for international policy, so called “Police Doctrine”, developed by the United Nations Police and Member States, stipulates how we assist the policing services in building a culture of accountability through the systemic inclusion of United Nations core values into training. Through our mentoring and colocation, we can model appropriate behaviour for all state authorities and their interactions with local communities.

Let me give you a few examples:

The United Nations Police in MINUSCA (United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (also called MINUSCA, which is an initialism of its French name (Mission multidimensionnelle Intégrée des Nations Unies pour la Stabilisation en Centre Afrique), works with the internal security forces, police and gendarmerie, to implement strategies to educate new recruits about corruption and bribery.

Since 2019, UNPOL (United Nations Police) has conducted at least three such trainings each year and another three are being planned for more than 150 personnel only this year.

Anticorruption issues are discussed routinely during colocation activities, with the national police and gendarmerie and in all the

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activities done together. In South Sudan, United Nations Police have contributed to the development of an ethic and anticorruption brochure for the South Sudanese National Police Service, translated into Arabic. Meanwhile, the transition support plan of the

Advisory Police Unit in our mission in Darfur, Sudan, includes support to the Sudan police force on strengthening accountability mechanisms for reporting and investigating complaints of police misconduct.

The Secretary General action for Peacekeeping initiative or, A4P (Action for Peacekeeping) or A4P+ (Action for Peacekeeping plus), calls on all stakeholders to collectively address the challenges facing peacekeeping, including increasing accountability to our peacekeepers, insuring their safety and security and fighting impunity for those who carry attacks against them.

With the recent establishment of the United Nations inter-agency task force on policing, co-shared by the United Nations Department of Peace Operations, Police Division and the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crimes (UNODC), which Marco Teixeira is the head of the program in Mozambique, we expect to see greater coordination on policing and law enforcement matters across the United Nations system. It will bring together the expertise and resources of all United Nations partners and will strengthen our collective efforts to address corruption, including its root causes and links to other aspects of peace, security and development, creating a stable environment for all to live in peace and security.

In addition, we will bring together senior officials from our member states, for the “Third United Nations Chiefs of Police Summit”, called UNcops, this September, to explore today’s most global security challenges and the most effective global policing responses. With no doubt, corruption and the nexus with organized crime will figure preeminently in the discussions.

As we all know, when it comes to corruption and other transnational threats, national borders should be the last line of defence, not the first. That means working together, in partnership, to further enhance our relevance, credibility and impact.

In the eyes of the people, we are sworn to protect and serve.

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### **(Resumo em português)**

O autor fala sobre a Polícia das Nações Unidas enquanto entidade fundamental para os esforços multilaterais de prevenção, mitigação e resolução de conflitos violentos nos níveis operacional, estrutural e sistémico. É uma chave da agenda de desenvolvimento sustentável, da agenda comum e da ação do Secretário-Geral para iniciativas de manutenção da paz.

A Polícia das Nações Unidas apoia os sistemas de segurança e os sistemas de justiça, incluindo as Unidades de Acusação e os Tribunais. Embora geralmente não estejam diretamente envolvidos no combate à corrupção, tratam desse assunto no conflito, muitas vezes um terreno fértil para criminosos organizados transnacionais que se movem mais rápido e prosperam na corrupção, ameaçando o estado de direito, a governança democrática e a segurança regional e global.

Por meio do trabalho que desenvolvem para prevenir a corrupção, as Nações Unidas fornecem uma gama de assistência técnica personalizada, incluindo elaboração de políticas anticorrupção, leis e códigos de conduta, fortalecimento da declaração de ativos e sistemas de proteção de denunciadores, assessoria em investigações e repressão à corrupção, inclusive por meio da cooperação internacional. Dá exemplos sobre a atuação da Polícia das Nações Unidas nas operações de paz da República Centro-Africana e no Sudão do Sul.