

Mr. Chair,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a distinct honor to address the United Nations Chiefs of Police Summit today, and in particular this session on strengthening international cooperation.

UNCOPS constitutes a unique forum where dialogue on policing flourishes between the relevant United Nations policing structures and national police authorities. In an international environment marked by geopolitical instability, man-made and natural crises, rapid technological change and constantly evolving threats, international police cooperation is not merely useful, but an absolutely necessary condition.

Greece, situated at the crossroads of three continents and at the external borders of the European Union, experiences the consequences of this volatility directly. The Hellenic Police is called upon to respond simultaneously to challenges relating to internal security, cross-border crime, border management, the protection of critical infrastructure, within the framework of safeguarding fundamental rights.

Organised crime has evolved into a modern, multidimensional security threat. Criminal organisations operate across borders, make use of advanced technologies, misuse the opportunities offered by cyberspace and Artificial Intelligence and engage in a wide range of criminal activities: from drug, arms and human trafficking to money laundering, cybercrime and environmental crime.

At the same time, poverty, social inequalities, armed conflicts, the climate crisis and migratory pressures create new fields of exploitation for international criminal networks. The most vulnerable are often the first to be targeted. For this reason, our policing action must remain effective, while being fully committed to the rule of law, the protection of human life and respect for human dignity.

At national level, the Hellenic Police is substantially enhancing its operational and organisational capabilities, with particular emphasis on combating organised crime. This is taking place by improving prevention and response to risks and threats and ensuring faster and more effective management of internal security crises. However, no national effort, no matter how strong, can succeed on its own against networks that operate beyond borders.

We need more, and better, cooperation. We need timely and high-quality information exchange, joint analysis, targeted use of existing police cooperation

channels, joint training initiatives and, where necessary, coordinated operational activities. Particular importance should also be attached to targeting the financial infrastructure of criminal organizations, in line with the follow-the-money principle, considering that this is where their real power lies, as well as to dismantling their leadership.

Technology must become a tool for law enforcement authorities, not an advantage for criminals. We must collectively invest in digital forensics, cybersecurity and the development of modern, interoperable information-exchange mechanisms, placing the protection of critical entities at the center of our efforts. At the same time, the responsible and reliable use of Artificial Intelligence technologies can significantly strengthen data analysis, the timely identification of threats and more effective support for operational decision-making, always in full respect of the rule of law, personal data protection and human oversight. Above all, however, we must invest in trust among our authorities.

Greece and the Hellenic Police remain firmly committed to their active participation in international and regional police cooperation mechanisms, with the aim of protecting citizens, upholding the rule of law and strengthening international peace and security.

In closing, I would like to underline that behind every strategy, every operational plan and every digital system stand the societies we serve, the victims we have a duty to protect and the future generations we are responsible for safeguarding.

Only through collective commitment, mutual trust and unwavering international cooperation can we guarantee a safer future for all.

Thank you.