

# INTERPOL SECRETARY GENERAL'S FOREWORD

The threat of bioterrorism is real. It is becoming increasingly possible for terrorists to be able to produce and deploy bio-weapons, as the volume and sophistication of the necessary information becomes ever more accessible through publications, the internet, and other sources. Given the magnitude of the harm that could be caused by a bioterrorist attack - an untold number of deaths is possible — it is clear to Interpol that we must take this threat seriously.

This Bioterrorism Incident Pre-Planning and Response Guide provides important tools to use in prevention and response efforts. Other tools are also provided by Interpol, including web resources and training opportunities available through the Bioterrorism Unit working in conjunction with National Central Bureaus.

It should be noted, however, that all of these tools must be understood within the framework of a comprehensive approach involving all the relevant constituencies, including police, customs, immigration, health professionals, bio-safety, bio-security, legal, emergency management offices, military/security organizations, intelligence services, environmental management, agriculture, and other relevant private and public organizations (local, regional, national, and international). These diverse professional communities must forge effective partnerships in order to ensure an integrated and coordinated approach, and to maximize the synergies of our complimentary skills, methodologies, perspectives, and resources.

I therefore urge all of you to work with us in putting in place the cross-cutting relationships, information channels, protocols, procedures, and practices that are necessary to most effectively respond in the event of a bioterrorist attack, and, more importantly, to most effectively prevent any such attacks from occurring in the first place.

Ronald K. Noble  
Secretary General