



POLICING IN THE AGE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Opportunities, Governance and the Future of Public Safety

DATE & TIME 7 July 2026, 10:00 – 11:30

VENUE Conference Room 3, UN Headquarters, NY

Background

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming the way societies prevent, investigate, and respond to crime. From intelligence analysis and criminal investigations to predictive analytics, digital forensics, and operational decision-making, AI technologies are increasingly becoming part of the daily reality of law enforcement agencies worldwide.

For police organizations, AI offers unprecedented opportunities to enhance efficiency, improve situational awareness, strengthen crime prevention, and better allocate limited resources. At the same time, the emergence of powerful AI systems raises significant questions regarding governance, accountability, transparency, human oversight, privacy, and public trust.

Beyond operational considerations, AI is also reshaping the strategic environment in which police services operate. Criminal networks, organized crime groups, and terrorist actors are increasingly exploiting AI-enabled technologies to facilitate cybercrime, fraud, online exploitation, disinformation, and other forms of illicit activity. Law enforcement agencies must therefore adapt not only to the opportunities created by AI, but also to the evolving threats it enables.

As Member States seek to harness the benefits of AI while mitigating associated risks, questions relating to data governance, digital sovereignty, ethical standards, capacity-building, and public-private cooperation have become increasingly important. The challenge is not whether AI will influence policing, but how police institutions can adopt and govern these technologies responsibly, effectively, and in a manner that preserves public confidence.

Against this backdrop, the Strategic Police Advisory Group (SPAG) is organizing this side event during the 2026 United Nations Chiefs of Police Summit (UNCOPS). The event will bring together senior law enforcement leaders, international organizations, the private sector, and civil society to explore the opportunities, challenges, and strategic implications of AI for the future of policing.

Objectives

- › Examine how AI is transforming policing and public safety institutions worldwide.
- › Explore opportunities to strengthen operational effectiveness, investigations and intelligence analysis.
- › Discuss governance challenges: accountability, transparency, human rights and public trust.
- › Consider implications for data governance, cybersecurity and digital sovereignty.
- › Promote dialogue between law enforcement, the private sector and civil society.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS

Lucas Philippe

President
INTERPOL

Lisa Monaco

President, Microsoft Global Affairs
Former U.S. Deputy Attorney General
Former U.S. Homeland Security Advisor

David Polgar

Founder & President
All Tech Is Human

OPENING REMARKS & MODERATION

Jean-Pierre Lacroix

Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations
Opening Remarks

Odhran McCarthy

United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)
Moderator — Setting the Scene

Agenda — Tuesday, 7 July 2026, 10:00 – 11:30

10:00	Opening Remarks	Jean-Pierre Lacroix — Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations
10:10	Introduction by SPAG	
	Setting the Scene	Odhran McCarthy — United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)
10:20	Keynote Addresses	Lucas Philippe — President, INTERPOL Lisa Monaco — President, Microsoft Global Affairs
10:45	High-Level Interactive Discussion	Lucas Philippe — President, INTERPOL Lisa Monaco — President, Microsoft Global Affairs David Polgar — Founder & President, All Tech Is Human
11:25	Closing Remarks by SPAG	

Questions & Practical Information

Given the event's duration and organizational matters, delegations wishing to submit questions for the panel are invited to send them by 5 July 2026 to Emmanuel Houzé, Strategic Police Advisory Group (SPAG), at emmanuel.houze@diplomatie.gouv.fr.

The event is open to Member States' Ministers and Police/Gendarmerie leaders, United Nations entities and all delegations participating in UNCOPS V.

About the Strategic Police Advisory Group (SPAG)

The Strategic Police Advisory Group (SPAG) brings together **Police Advisers from United Nations Member States based in New York**. Reflecting the diverse composition of Permanent Missions, SPAG members include police officers, military officers, diplomats, and other professionals engaged in policing, peace and security, and law enforcement-related issues at the United Nations.



SPAG is led by a bureau of three representatives elected annually by its members. The current leadership consists of the **Chair from the United Arab Emirates** and two **Vice-Chairs from Nigeria and France**. The strength of SPAG, however, lies in the active engagement of its broader membership, whose expertise, commitment, and participation contribute to the dynamic nature of the group.

Each month, Member States host SPAG meetings focused on policing issues relevant to the United Nations agenda, including police components in peace operations, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, transnational organized crime, environmental crime, capacity-building, and other emerging security challenges.

Leveraging New York's unique role as a global diplomatic hub, SPAG benefits from a wide range of perspectives and expertise. Regular briefings are delivered by the **United Nations Secretariat**, including the **Police Division** and other UN entities, as well as specialized agencies such as **UNODC, UNOCT, UNICRI, UN WOMEN**, and many others. SPAG also engages with distinguished practitioners, academics, private-sector leaders, and senior officials from around the world who visit New York throughout the year.

This event reflects the type of strategic dialogue that SPAG seeks to foster for the benefit of its members: bringing together diverse perspectives, strengthening understanding of emerging challenges, and promoting the exchange of experiences and good practices among Member States and partners.

SPAG's motto — "**Advise, Align, Achieve**" — captures its commitment to supporting informed dialogue, building common understanding, and advancing collective action on policing issues within the United Nations system.

If your Permanent Mission has not yet designated a Police Adviser, now is the time to consider doing so. **Joining SPAG** offers an opportunity to amplify your country's voice on policing matters at the United Nations, contribute to a growing network of experts, and help shape the future of international police cooperation.

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