



**INTERPOL**



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## 1. Welcoming letter

*Dear Delegates,*

Allow us, Juliana Bedoya and Emiliana Castaño, the privilege of extending our warmest greetings as your presidents for the Interpol Committee, Version XIV.

To say that we are merely delighted to lead you in this commission would be an understatement. The depth of our enthusiasm exceeds mere words. We recognize that this committee presents a unique challenge, with its own distinctive protocols and operational methods. However, it is precisely these attributes that make it an unparalleled opportunity for each of you to showcase your true potential as delegates.

Within these UN models, between the vibrant exchanges of ideas and perspectives, lies the stage for you to excel. This is where your arguments can ascend to new heights, where you can distinguish yourselves amidst a heightened level of complexity within the UN models and with the best of delegates. Therefore, we encourage each of you to push beyond your limits, to strive for excellence in every discourse, and to emerge from this experience with a profound sense of accomplishment.

UN Models serve as a platform for future leaders, a nexus where the world's changemakers converge. As your presidents, it is our aspiration to nurture and guide you along this transformative journey. Our aim is to facilitate an environment wherein you not only offer the best versions of yourselves but also acquire invaluable skills that will serve you well beyond these halls.

With that said, we invite you to embrace this challenge wholeheartedly. Let us together endeavor to make every moment count, to leave no stone unturned in our pursuit of



excellence. For in doing so, we not only elevate ourselves but also contribute to the collective advancement of our global community.

Welcome to the Interpol Committee of the XIV version of CCBMUN. Let us embark on this journey together, resolute in our commitment to making a difference.

*Warm regards,*

Juliana Bedoya

Emiliana Castaño

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## **2. Introduction to the committee**

### ***2.1 Historical Background***

Our full name is the International Criminal Police Organization and we are an intergovernmental organization. We have 196 member countries, and we help police in all of these countries working together to make the world a safer place.

To do this, we enable nations to share and access data on crimes and criminals, and we offer a range of technical and operational support.

The INTERPOL was created in 1914 when police and lawyers from 24 countries first got together in Monaco at the first International Criminal Police Congress (14 to 18 April 1914), to discuss identification techniques and catching fugitives. For more than 100 years, police across the globe have been cooperating to prevent and fight crime.

After the First World War, the idea of an international police body was revived by Johannes Schober, President of the Vienna Police. The International Criminal Police Commission was established in September 1923, with headquarters in Vienna. The 4th General Assembly in Amsterdam adopted a Resolution that each member country should establish a central point of contact within its police structure; this was the forerunner



of today's National Central Bureau. These specialized departments were established to deal with criminal records, currency counterfeiting and passport forgery. In 1932, new statutes were established creating the role of Secretary General. The first Secretary General was the Austrian Police Commissioner Oskar Dressler.

Belgium led the rebuilding of the Organization after the Second World War with a democratic process to elect the Executive Committee. The Headquarters moved to Paris, France. In 1947, the system of color-coded notices was created, and it expanded over the years to cover other alerts. Nowadays, the Red Notice for wanted persons remains a key tool for international security.

While some of the basic crimes remain unchanged over the years (Eg. murder, robbery), other crimes have followed technological, economic and sociological developments in our world (such as cybercrime and people smuggling).

Additionally, the very first initiatives to discuss extradition procedures, identification techniques and record keeping are still at the heart of the role of the international police up until today. Locating fugitives remains a core activity, biometrics have replaced paper fingerprints, and databases contain millions of global records of criminal data.

The committee began as the International Criminal Police Commission, created in 1923, and became the International Criminal Police Organization-INTERPOL in 1956.

## ***2.2. Functions and Powers.***

Interpol empowers law enforcement agencies to make a long-term difference to their national security. It also provides police with the knowledge, skills, and sustainable tools needed to meet today's challenges. Interpol offers investigative support, such as forensics and



assistance in locating fugitives around the world, as well as coordination support for on-the-ground operations.

Interpol has a broad area of intervention helping countries to fight the following crimes:

- Corruption
- Counterfeit Currency And Documents
- Crimes Against Children
- Cultural Heritage Crime
- Cybercrime
- Drug Trafficking
- Environmental Crime
- Financial Crime
- Firearms Trafficking
- Human Trafficking
- Illicit Goods
- Maritime Crime
- Organized Crime
- People Smuggling
- Terrorism
- Vehicle Crime
- War Crimes

The Interpol works to achieve Seven Global Policing Goals as uprising security challenges increasingly threaten sustainable development. These Goals were created to

address a range of issues related to crime and security. The Interpol Global Policing goals are expected to be achieved by 2030, jointly with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals due to their capabilities and the power they hold. Not only that but the UNSDG it's the oldest international law enforcement police organization in the world. The Seven Interpol Global Policing goals consist of:

- Counter the threat of terrorism
- Promote border integrity worldwide
- Protect vulnerable communities
- Secure cyberspace for people and businesses
- Promote global integrity
- Curb illicit markets
- Support environmental security and sustainability

The International Criminal Police Organization does not work like common law-enforcement agencies and state forces. The International Criminal Police Organization works as an administrator and source to member countries giving database assistance.

INTERPOL's analysis systems are a tool to fight international crimes. The Interpol works under each member's existing laws, and in the spirit of the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights"- as stated in its constitution. Therefore, under the Interpol's Constitution article 3 declares that "it is strictly forbidden to undertake any intervention or activities of a political, military, religious or racial character." (ICPO-INTERPOL, 1956, p. 3) Therefore, the Interpol must remain politically neutral.

The databases of the Interpol are a network that offers to member countries information about all the areas of intervention of the organization's working 24/7/365. These

databases hold information about organized crime networks, firearms trafficking, stolen property (art, vehicles, vessels), travel and official documents (counterfeit and documents), forensics, and individuals. The main database and the most important in the organization is The Notices system.

The Notices work under the colored notice system of the Interpol, that are alerts of fugitives, allowing members to share crime-related information. In most cases the notices are private, but in some cases they are published to request help from the public. The color notifications are:

Red Notice:

To seek the location and arrest of a person wanted by a legal jurisdiction or an international tribunal seeking his/her extradition.



Yellow Notice:

To help locate missing persons, often minors, or to help identify people who are unable to identify themselves.



Blue Notice:





To collect additional information about a person's identity, location or activities in relation to a crime.



Black Notice:

To seek information on unidentified bodies.



Green Notice:

To provide warning about a person's criminal activities, where the person is considered to be



a possible threat to public safety.

Orange Notice:

To warn of an event, a person, an object or a process representing a serious and imminent threat to public safety.



Purple Notice:

To seek or provide information on modus operandi, objects, devices and concealment



methods used by criminals.

INTERPOL–United Nations Security Council Special Notice: Issued for groups and individuals who are the targets of UN Security Council Sanctions Committees. (INTERPOL, 2022)



### **3. Topic A: Dismantling of the terrorist group ISIS and Jemaah Islamiyah in the Middle East and Southeast Asia.**

#### ***3.1 Introduction to the topic:***

ISIS, which stands for the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, is a terrorist group that is considered a significant threat for global security, especially for the Middle East and Southeast Asia. Isis have different key objectives which they look to achieve with multiple

violent, inhuman and illegal means as it has several terrorist attacks and the use of violence. Some of these objectives are to establish a global caliphate, or Islamic state, governed by its own interpretation of the Islamic law; they seek to spread their extremist ideology, which emphasizes the need for a global Islamic state and the need to purge society of “perceived impurities and non-believers”; to gain and maintain control over territory, particularly in the Middle East and North Africa; to disrupt the global order and challenge the authority of Western powers, particularly the United States; they aim to establish a global network of supporters, sympathizers, and affiliates; to finance its operations through various means, including extortion, kidnapping, and theft; and finally to a strong online presence, using social media and other platforms to spread its ideology, recruit new members, and disseminate propaganda.

ISIS is considered a global threat because of its significant global presence, which allows them to spread their ideologies and perform terrorist attacks with the help of sympathizers and followers they find all around the world. ISIS is known for their violent tactics which including mass killings, beheadings, and other forms of terrorism, these create fear and represent a significant threat to international security; because of this multiple efforts were extended in order to dismantle ISIS and although it was successful to some extent reducing the group's territorial control and their leadership around the world. However, this was not the end of ISIS since they are linked to another terrorist group which continues to operate in the same regions, this group is recognized as Jemaah Islamiyah.

Jemaah Islamiyah is is a Southeast Asian Islamist militant group based in Indonesia, and it is dedicated to the establishment of an Islamic state in Southeast Asia, with a main objective of reviving a pure form of Islam and establish a pan-Islamic state in Southeast Asia,

governed by the tenets of Sharia. Jemaah Islamiyah are connected with the ISIS group since they continue to have the same regional network, which includes groups like the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) in the Philippines, Gerakan Mujahidin Islam Pattani (GMIP) in Thailand, and Kumpulan Mujahidin Malaysia (KMM) in Malaysia. It is important to highlight that both groups have fairly similar ideologies and methods to achieve those objectives. Moreover, JI's co-founder and former leader Abu Bakar Bashir pledged loyalty to ISIS in July 2014, indicating a significant connection between the two groups. Furthermore, ISIS helped JI to expand its presence in Indonesia posing a threat to the countries in this region, however JI has also played a significant role in ISIS's expansion in Southeast Asia, particularly in Indonesia, where it has helped to recruit and radicalize members. In addition to this, JI has recruited members from Indonesia and other Southeast Asian countries, including Malaysia and the Philippines, to join ISIS in Syria and Iraq.

These connections between both groups have generated a big concern to the international community and especially to the affected regions since it is suspected that after the loss of power from ISIS, Jemaah Islamiyah started operating with ISIS in order to join forces and help ISIS get back on their feet. This is suspected because of the multiple connections ISIS and JI have had throughout the years and the continuous operations of JI in the Southeast Asian territories. Authorities consider that the extremist Islamic organizations have become an issue that has to be addressed since their efforts have not been enough, and the joint forces of these two widely known and influential terrorist groups can pose a bigger threat than they had expected after the dismantling of ISIS.

### ***3.2 Historical context***

ISIS was originally founded in 2006 by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, a well known Jordanian militant, and was recognized as “Al-Qaeda in Iraq” an organization which focused on attacking the US forces entering the country. With time ISIS expanded its operations in Iraq and Syria, capturing key cities like Mosul and Raqqa. It also established a strong online presence, using social media to spread its ideology and recruit new members. ISIS continued to forge its ideology in order to expand their beliefs all around the world, this ideology consists in a radical interpretation of Islam, emphasizing the need for a global Islamic caliphate and the establishment of a pure Islamic state. It also emphasizes the importance of jihad and the need to eliminate perceived enemies of Islam. With the passage of time ISIS generated multiple international links, and gained a lot of territory as well as started to be identified as a terrorist group due to the amount of attacks it generated throughout the years, this being:

2007: Baghdad bombings

2007: Qahtaniyah bombings

2009: August Baghdad bombings

2009: October Baghdad bombings

2010: April Baghdad bombings

2010: May Iraq attacks

2010: November Baghdad bombings

2011: January Iraq suicide attacks

2014: June Beirut US embassy shooting

2016: April Baghdad bombing



2016: May Samawa bombing

2016: May Baghdad bombings

2016: Real Madrid Fan Club massacre

2016: May Baghdad bombings

2016: Yemen bombings

2016: Kazakhstan Aktobe shootings

2016: France Magnanville stabbing

2016: Malaysia Movidia Bar grenade attack

2016: Turkey Atatürk Airport attack

2016: Libya Zliten truck bombing

2016: Egypt Hurghada attack

2016: Turkey Istanbul bombing

2016: Indonesia Jakarta attacks

2016: Saudi Arabia Mahasen mosque attack

2016: Syria February Homs bombings

2016: Syria February Sayyidah Zaynab bombings

2016: Turkey March Istanbul bombing

2016: Belgium Brussels bombings

2016: Yemen Aden car bombing

2016: Iraq Iraqi soccer stadium bombings

2016: Bangladesh murder of Xulhaz Mannan

2019: August Daquq mortar attack

2019: November Tajikistan border post attack



2019: December Nigeria ISWAP video

2021: July Baghdad market bombing

Nevertheless, multiple countries which felt threatened by ISIS attacks started initiatives in order to dismantle this belligerent group. Some of the ways governments use to counterattack this organization was to target ISIS finances, recommending the U.S government to develop a comprehensive national strategy to counter ISIS's fundraising tactics as well as work with other countries to eliminate this violent-based fundraising tactics, this tactics include the black market oil and gas, antiquities, extortion, kidnapping, and Gulf state support. On the other hand, the U.S also held extensive military operations against ISIS with the intention of reducing the territory they had gained with time, the U.S.A approached this military operations by various means such as, airstrikes, ground battles, and special operations raids, for example the August 2014 airstrikes to ISIS positions and infrastructure, followed by the September 2014 airstrikes which expanded to Syria, and in 2015-2016 airstrikes were held yet again with the help of Russia in Syria. Nevertheless, the attacks were not only airstrikes and in September 2014 US troops were deployed to Iraq to support the Iraqi Security Forces, then again in 2015 Iraqi forces with the help of the US reclaimed cities like Ramadi and Fallujah, and following this in 2016 Syrian Democratic Forces, with US support, recaptured key cities like Manbij and Raqqa. Furthermore, there were also multiple special operations attacks created by the United States to dismantle ISIS, some of them were in 2014 when US special operations forces were deployed to Iraq to advise and assist local forces, and in 2015 when US special forces continued to support local forces in Iraq and Syria. Lastly, the United States helped heavily with the training and equipment of Iraq and Syrian forces on ground combat in order to guide and assist them to victory.

Iraqi authorities also launched multiple operations and campaigns in order to regain power over cities such as Mosul. Some of these operations are the recapture of Mosul, the recapture of Ramadi and Fallujah, the Mosul offensive, the Hawijah offensive, The Al Qaim, Anah, and Rawah Offensives, and clearing the Middle Euphrates River Valley. It is important to highlight that although these offensives were successful regaining a significant part of the territory ISIS had gained it has not disappeared entirely, having presence in some places especially in the Middle East. This leads to the Iraqi government's ongoing operations against ISIS, especially to face the threat of ISIS linking with yet another terrorist organization that continues to be active and everytime more threatening, Jemaah Islamiyah.

Jemaah Islamiyah was founded in 1993 by Al-Qaeda-influenced followers of the older Darul Islam armed separatist movement in Indonesia after World War II, and its current leader is speculated to be Abu Bakar Bashir, an Indonesian of Yemeni descent. However, it is important to highlight that although the group was created in the 1990s when they were linked with Al-Qaeda leaders in Afghanistan, it was only until the 2000s that JI (Jemaah Islamiyah) started to be recognized as a terrorist group since they had already committed various terrorist attacks against several nations. Some of the attacks performed by this organization are:

2000 Church Bombings in Indonesia: December 2000 - 18 people killed.

2000 Manila Bombings: December 2000 - 22 people killed.

2002 Bali Bombings: October 2002 - 202 people killed, most of them foreign tourists.

2003 JW Marriott Hotel Bombing: August 2003 - 12 people killed.

2003 Australian Embassy Bombing: September 2004 - 3 people killed, over 100 wounded.



2005 Bali Bombings: October 2005 - 20 people killed, 129 injured.

2009 JW Marriott and Ritz-Carlton Hotel Bombings: July 2009 - 9 people killed, 50 injured.

2009 Rizal Monument Bombing: September 2009 - 1 person killed, 7 injured.

2010 Cagayan de Oro City Hall Bombing: February 2010 - 1 person killed, 7 injured.

2014 Rizal Monument Bombing: June 2014 - 1 person killed, 7 injured.

2015 Davao City Bombing: January 2015 - 1 person killed, 7 injured

The 2002 Bali bombings has been recorded as one of the deadliest terrorist attacks in Southeast Asian history, and although Indonesian authorities responded quickly to this attack prosecuting multiple leaders from this terrorist organization the attention shifted to the Middle East and potential threats to Europe this group may represent. The terrorist activities of JI continued since in 2005, the group carried out a series of suicide bombings in Bali that killed twenty people and injured 129. The biggest threat that this group represents is the international cooperation they have, being linked to groups like ISIS and Al-Qaeda representing a huge threat on their own but an ever bigger one allied with other internationally recognized terrorist groups like this ones.

### ***3.3 Current situation***

Although ISIS has been neutralized in its majority by the multiple offensives done in the last years by The United States and authorities from Syrian and Iraq. However, it is suspected that ISIS still continues to operate being involved in multiple terrorist activities, including suicide bombings and other attacks, in both the Middle East and Southeast Asia, although authorities have not yet specified in which. Despite the loss of territory it is believed that ISIS still has numerous followers, the US authorities estimates it ranges 2,000 to 3,000. It is important to highlight that ISIS has had another important loss apart from territory and this

is their former leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, who was killed in a US military operation in October 2019, leaving as a concern to the Interpol if ISIS keeps operating who is their new leader.

On the other hand, Jemaah Islamiyah's biggest leaders including Abu Bakar Bashir, are still active and involved in the group's activities taking into account that JI has a big regional impact with cells and affiliates in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand. Without mentioning that they have great military capabilities, with multiple trained followers on bomb making and fighting of the ideology this organization preaches. With its great power in Southeast Asia they are still believed to be involved in various terrorist activities, including suicide bombings and other attacks. Knowing that Jemaah Islamiyah has become even a bigger threat to national security after the attempt of elimination to ISIS since both terrorist organizations have strong links and together could create an even bigger threat to international security than the ones the world has already experienced. Multiple governments have made joint efforts to face the issue of JI, and although they have prosecuted certain leaders and participants of these groups their efforts have been unsuccessful to eliminate this group completely.

Because this issue has a transnational nature, with the crimes made by these groups affecting several regions and countries it concurs with the Interpol. It is necessary to have an international attack on this issue with the intention of completely dismantling ISIS and JI, while also preventing these 2 terrorist groups from joining forces. Crimes like terrorism financing and weapons trafficking, cross international borders and require cooperation between law enforcement agencies from multiple countries. Interpol facilitates this

cooperation by sharing information, issuing Red Notices to apprehend fugitives, and coordinating joint investigations.

### ***3.4. Previous Resolutions***

The previous resolutions done by both The United States government and the government's most affected by the ISIS and Jemaah Islamiyah crisis were already mentioned before, however the Interpol has also extended multiple efforts in order to get closer to the resolution of this conflict. For instance, the Interpol has focused on facilitating international cooperation between the security forces of the countries that were implicated and interested in the resolution of this issue, encouraging the countries to cooperate with information and coordinating operations against these groups. Furthermore, the Interpol has helped facilitate the exchange of intelligence between security agencies globally, which has allowed the dismantling of cells and networks of these terrorist groups. Moreover, the Interpol has also emitted multiple red alerts for the capture of multiple leaders of this organizations, like the red alert for the capture of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, Abu Jandal al Kuwaiti, and Abu Mohammad al Adnani from ISIS, and the red alert for the capture of Abu Bakar Bashir from Jemaah Islamiyah.

Another initiative that the interpol has taken against these organizations is the dismantling of the financing networks these organizations used for their terrorist activities. The interpol worked closely with units of financial intelligence from different countries in order to detect and tackle the networks from which these organizations got the funds for their illegal activities.



On the other hand, Interpol has provided assistance and logistical support to the security forces of different countries in operations aimed at dismantling the activities of ISIS and Jemaah Islamiyah. While doing this the Interpol has implemented capacitation programs for the security forces of multiple countries with the intention of them to be prepared to address this kind of problems in the future and have more tools to eliminate this threat to their countries security.

### ***3.5 Guiding questions:***

- a. Has your country been affected by ISIS and Jemaah Islamiyah? How?
- b. Has your country had a similar terrorist threat to its national security? If so, how was it resolved?
- c. Has your country helped with any of the investigations or prosecutions related to these belligerent groups?
- d. Does your country have a big number of followers of the Islamic State and these extremist groups?
- e. Has your country contributed to the interpol by sharing information in order to facilitate the capture and eliminations of this and other terrorist groups?
- f. Has your country suffered or been affected indirectly by any of the attacks done by ISIS and Jemaah Islamiyah?

### ***3.6 Recommendations to the delegate***

This topic concerns the most 2 regions of the world, however this doesn't mean that your country doesn't have anything to do with the topic since most countries have been affected directly or indirectly by the actions of these extremist groups. This may be because your country has close relationships with a country that has been affected directly by this

crisis or because your country has a big support group to these terrorist groups. These groups have been so widespread around the world that every delegation has something that involves them and alarms them about this issue. We recommend that you look at what links your country with this issue if it is not in the 2 most affected regions.

On the other hand, if your country does make part of the most affected regions its expected for you to center your research in what has been done in order to eliminate and neutralize this groups, what has been successful, what has not been successful, and what can be done with the help of the interpol to eliminate this issue completely. These countries are closely related and affected, it would be better to center the efforts in the debate in the humanitarian side, in how has the population been affected, and using this as a base how can the international community, the interpol, and your own country do in order to better the security, eliminate this groups and most importantly prevent new victims to happen.

### **3.7. Support links**

<https://daspr.org/jemaah-islamiyah-still-southeast-asias-greatest-terrorist-threat/>

<https://www.counterextremism.com/threat/jemaah-islamiyah-ji>

<https://ge.usembassy.gov/the-united-states-and-uae-partner-against-isis-propaganda/>

<https://www.start.umd.edu/publication/online-caliphate-internet-usage-and-isis-support-arab-world>

<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/timeline-the-rise-spread-and-fall-the-islamic-state>

### **3.8. Glossary**

- a. ISIS: Acronym for the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, a terrorist group known for its violent extremism and efforts to establish a global caliphate.



- b. Islamic State in Iraq and Syria: A terrorist organization aiming to establish a caliphate governed by its strict interpretation of Islamic law.
- c. Caliphate: An Islamic state led by a caliph, who is considered a political and religious successor to the prophet Muhammad.
- d. Islamic law: Also known as Sharia, it is a legal system based on the teachings of the Quran and the Hadith.
- e. Extremist ideology: Beliefs and values that advocate for extreme measures, often including violence, to achieve political or religious goals.
- f. Jemaah Islamiyah (JI): A Southeast Asian Islamist militant group dedicated to establishing an Islamic state in Southeast Asia.
- g. Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF): A rebel group based in the Philippines seeking autonomy for Moro Muslims.
- h. Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG): A militant group in the Philippines involved in terrorism and criminal activities.
- i. Gerakan Mujahidin Islam Pattani (GMIP): A militant group in Thailand aiming to establish an Islamic state in the Pattani region.
- j. Kumpulan Mujahidin Malaysia (KMM): A militant group in Malaysia advocating for the establishment of an Islamic state.
- k. Sharia: Islamic law derived from the Quran and the Hadith, encompassing both religious and secular duties.
- l. Al-Qaeda: A global militant Islamist organization founded by Osama bin Laden, responsible for numerous terrorist attacks.

- m. Jihad: In the context of extremist groups, it refers to a holy war waged on behalf of Islam against those perceived as enemies of the faith.
- n. Black market: An illegal market where goods or services are traded outside of government regulations and tax systems.
- o. Extortion: The practice of obtaining money or other benefits through threats or coercion.
- p. Kidnapping: The unlawful abduction and detention of a person, often for ransom or political leverage.
- q. Airstrikes: Attacks carried out by aircraft, targeting enemy positions, infrastructure, or forces.
- r. Ground battles: Direct combat engagements between opposing military forces on land.
- s. Special operations raids: High-risk, precision missions conducted by specialized military units.
- t. Syrian Democratic Forces: An alliance of Kurdish, Arab, and Assyrian militias in Syria, supported by the US, in the fight against ISIS.
- u. Terrorism financing: The funding of terrorist activities through various means, including illegal trade, extortion, and donations.
- v. Red Notices: Alerts issued by Interpol to seek the location and arrest of wanted persons for extradition.
- w. Financial intelligence: Information gathered and analyzed to understand and combat financial crimes, including terrorism financing.

## **4. Topic B: Financial fraud assessment: LockBit cybercriminal group**

### ***4.1 Introduction to the topic***

Transnational financial crime has grown exponentially in recent years, undermining global financial systems, impeding economic growth and causing huge losses to businesses and individuals worldwide. Corruption adds to the complexity of the problems, creating a fertile ground for organized criminal activities. This is where financial fraud assessment for countries comes into play. Financial fraud assessment is a critical tool for governments to identify and address weaknesses in their financial systems, safeguarding national wealth and promoting economic well-being. It is a national financial checkup, proactively seeking out vulnerabilities before they can be exploited. This type of crime has been boosted by the use of technology, which has been exploited by criminals to reach more people. Also technology boosted the facilities that make the process of cybercrime faster and in a more anonymous way. The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), large language models and cryptocurrencies combined with phishing- and ransomware-as-a-service business models have resulted in more sophisticated and professional fraud campaigns without the need for advanced technical skills, and at relatively little cost. LockBit is a highly dangerous ransomware group that has become a major cyber threat worldwide. Operating as a Ransomware-as-a-Service (RaaS), LockBit develops and distributes malicious software that encrypts victims' data, rendering it inaccessible. Known for its aggressive tactics and global reach, LockBit poses a significant risk to individuals, governments and organizations alike. LockBit employs a range of attack methods, including phishing, exploiting vulnerabilities, and brute-forcing passwords to gain access to systems. Once inside, Lockbit encrypts critical files, demanding a ransom for



decryption. To maximize pressure, they often steal data before encryption, threatening to leak it publicly if the ransom isn't paid.

#### ***4.2 Historical context***

In the Mid- 2000s there was a significant rise in online banking and the adoption of digital payment methods. Consumers embraced the convenience of these new technologies, unknowingly creating vulnerabilities in the financial landscape. Traditional banks, accustomed to physical security measures, were challenged to adapt their cybersecurity protocols to this evolving digital environment. When late 2000's online banking gained traction, there was a general increase in cyberattacks targeting financial institutions. These early attacks often relied on brute-force methods, attempting to directly breach security systems through hacking attempts. While the exact origin of LockBit remains shrouded in mystery, it's generally accepted that the group emerged in late 2019. The initial version of the ransomware was relatively basic, focusing on file encryption and ransom demands. Early attacks primarily targeted smaller businesses and individuals, with ransom amounts typically in the thousands of dollars. The release of LockBit 2.0 in early 2020 marked a crucial turning point. This release was a significant improvement in the ransomware's capabilities, making it much more powerful and difficult to remove. Some of LockBit 2.0's primary features were:

- Improved encryption: Making files unrecoverable by using increasingly complex encryption techniques. As a supplementary form of extortion, data exfiltration involves stealing confidential information prior to encryption.
- Sites that publish stolen data: when the victims are unable to pay the ransom.
- Better infrastructure for command and control: Making it more difficult to sabotage the group's activities.

These developments in LockBit's software, make them go from being a small but dangerous threat to a significant international cybercrime organization.

In 2022, more specifically in September, a LockBit attack targeted Rio Tinto, a major global mining company, causing disruptions to its operations. Then, in October, LockBit claimed responsibility for an attack on Siemens Energy, a German multinational conglomerate, disrupting its operations and leading to significant financial losses.

In 2023, the first months of the year were tough. LockBit didn't seem to take a break.

January: The Royal Mail, the UK's national postal service, fell victim to a LockBit attack, causing widespread disruptions to mail delivery and online services.

February: A massive wave of ransomware attacks targeting VMware ESXi servers worldwide was attributed to LockBit, affecting thousands of organizations.

April: Perdue Farms, a major U.S. poultry producer, suffered a LockBit attack that disrupted its operations and led to product shortages.

### ***4.3 Current situation***

In recent months, LockBit has experienced severe condemnations. The operations of the cybercriminal group are being significantly disrupted by law enforcement agencies across the globe (FBI, Europol, and NCA). The infrastructure was seized, important individuals were arrested, and the ransomware belligerent group has been severely damaged. Law enforcement has dealt significant attacks to LockBit. The arrest and indictment of alleged leader Mikhail Astamirov in February 2024 marked a major victory. International cooperation has been crucial in dismantling the group's infrastructure and hindering its operations. Additionally, financial sanctions have limited LockBit's resources, making it more difficult to sustain its criminal activities.

Nevertheless, LockBit is still strong, and it continues to threaten the security of any type of organization with lack of cyber protection. Organizations must remain vigilant and maintain harsh cybersecurity defenses to protect against LockBit and other ransomware threats.

Interpol's collaboration with other law enforcement agencies and cybersecurity organizations has been vital in disrupting LockBit's operations and mitigating its impact. International organizations are uniting to stop the spread of cyberattacks made by these hackers and it has seemed to reduce them. The group's agility and the constantly changing cyber threat landscape makes it difficult to stop them, but not impossible. Governments and businesses around the world must maintain constant awareness and implement proactive defense plans that may be resolved in this committee.

#### ***4.4. Previous resolutions***

There is not a specific resolution for this type of financial fraud cyber crimes caused by LockBit. Still there are some international organizations that have made initiatives in order to fight against this problem. These initiatives are:

- The United Nations Convention on Cybercrime: It establishes a legal framework for cross-border collaboration in cybercrime investigation and prosecution.
- Budapest Convention on Cybercrime The objectives are to increase international collaboration and criminalize particular types of cybercrime.
- Global Cyber Security Forum: An international forum for talking about problems with cyber security and working together to find solutions.
- Programs for Building Cybersecurity Capabilities: The United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and the European

Union are just a few of the organizations that provide assistance to nations looking to strengthen their cybersecurity capacities.

These frameworks and initiatives to fight against cyber financial fraud, are a strong foundation to combat this problem. The international community has to look up for new solutions, plans, and agreements that are updated to the new threats.

The INTERPOL has been a crucial actor in the combat against cyber criminal gangs like LockBit, providing operational support to member countries, such as assistance with investigations, arrests, and asset seizures related to ransomware groups. The Interpol raises awareness about the threat of ransomware and provides guidance to individuals and organizations on how to protect themselves.

#### ***4.5. Guiding questions***

- g. Has your country been affected by cyber financial fraud? How?
- h. Has your country had a similar cyber threat to its national security? If so, how was it resolved?
- i. Has your country helped with any of the investigations or prosecutions related to the fight against LockBit? How effective has that help to other countries proven?
- j. Does your country have any enterprises / companies that have been attacked by LockBit?
- k. Has your country contributed to the interpol or any other organization by sharing information to facilitate the pursue and elimination of LockBit and other cybercriminal groups?
- l. Has your country suffered or been affected indirectly by any of the attacks done by LockBit?

- m. How does your country protect its national databases to prevent ransomware?
- n. Are there any specific cases of enterprises that have been attacked by LockBit in your country? Which ones are they, and to what extent were they affected?

#### ***4.6. Recommendations to the delegate***

Even though this topic is centered around LockBit attacks and its ransomware abilities, we expect you to find new ways to combat cybercriminal groups (not only LockBit). This is a problem that concerns national security, threatening the databases, finances and government files. Governments should also put some effort, so that big companies in their countries do not suffer any of these kinds of attacks affecting their citizens. If your country has been directly affected by financial fraud, more specifically LockBit, we recommend you look up the cases and study them, so you share first hand in committee what has been done in your country to prevent and stop these cybercrime activities.

If your country or any company in it hasn't experienced ransomware attacks, we recommend you to center your research on how your country protects its government from these attacks and how it has contributed to the international community and the Interpol to find solutions. An example could be an Interpol notice to pursue LockBit and other cybercriminal groups. Also, we recommend that you look up how your countries protect the companies in it.

#### ***4.7. Support links***

<https://www.cisa.gov/news-events/cybersecurity-advisories/aa23-165a#:~:text=LockBit%20ransomware%20operation%20functions%20as,conduct%20ransomware%20attacks%20using%20LockBit>



<https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/law-enforcement-disrupt-worlds-biggest-ransomware-operation#:~:text=In%20a%20significant%20breakthrough%20in,damaging%20their%20capability%20and%20credibility.>

<https://stonefly.com/blog/lockbit-ransomware-inside-the-cyberthreat-and-defense-strategies/#:~:text=into%20the%20attack.,Conclusion,has%20enabled%20it%20to%20proliferate>

<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/nca-leads-international-investigation-targeting-worlds-most-harmful-ransomware-group#:~:text=LockBit%20ransomware%20attacks%20targeted%20thousands,pounds%2C%20dollars%20and%20euros%2C%20both>

<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/two-foreign-nationals-plead-guilty-participating-lockbit-ransomware-group#:~:text=In%20the%20period%20between%20January,ransomware%20group%20in%20the%20world>

#### **4.8. Glossary**

- a. Ransomware-as-a-Service (RaaS): Ransomware is a type of malware which prevents you from accessing your device and the data stored on it, usually by encrypting your files. A criminal group will then demand a ransom in exchange for decryption.
- b. Phishing: Phishing is a cybercrime in which a target or targets are contacted by email, telephone or text message by someone posing as a legitimate institution to lure individuals into providing sensitive data such as personally identifiable information, banking and credit card details, and passwords.
- c. Cryptocurrencies: Cryptocurrencies are digital tokens. They are a type of digital currency that allows people to make payments directly to each other through an online system. Cryptocurrencies have no legislated or intrinsic value; they are simply worth what people are willing to pay for them in the market.

- d. **Cybersecurity:** Cybersecurity is the art of protecting networks, devices, and data from unauthorized access or criminal use and the practice of ensuring confidentiality, integrity, and availability of information.
- e. **Database:** A database is an organized collection of data stored in a computer system and usually controlled by a database management system (DBMS). The data in common databases is modeled in tables, making querying and processing efficient.
- f. **Data exfiltration:** Data exfiltration—also known as data extrusion or data exportation—is data theft: the intentional, unauthorized, covert transfer of data from a computer or other device. Data exfiltration can be conducted manually, or automated using malware.
- g. **Cybercrime:** Cybercrime is criminal activity that either targets or uses a computer, a computer network or a networked device. Most cybercrime is committed by cybercriminals or hackers who want to make money. However, occasionally cybercrime aims to damage computers or networks for reasons other than profit. These could be political or personal.
- h. **Decryption:** Decryption is the process of transforming data that has been rendered unreadable through encryption back to its unencrypted form. In decryption, the system extracts and converts the garbled data and transforms it to texts and images that are easily understandable not only by the reader but also by the system.
- i. **Decryption** may be accomplished manually or automatically. It may also be performed with a set of keys or passwords.



- j. NCA: The National Crime Agency, also known as the NCA, is a crime-fighting law enforcement agency responsible for leading the UK's fight to cut serious and organized crime.
- k. Legal framework: The rules, rights and obligations of companies, governments, and citizens are set forth in a system of legal documents called a legal framework.
- l. File encryption: File encryption is a way of encoding files, including the sensitive data they contain, in order to send them securely. The encoding prevents unauthorized access and tampering by malicious actors. It keeps a file from being read by anyone except the person or people for whom it was intended.

## 5. List of Delegations

- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- United States of America
- Russian Federation
- People's Republic of China
- French Republic
- Federal Republic of Germany
- Republic of Italy
- Canada
- Commonwealth Australia
- The Republic of Singapore
- Republic of the Philippines
- State of Japan
- The Republic of Korea
- The Republic of Iraq
- Syrian Arab Republic



- Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- United Mexican States
- Kingdom of Spain



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