

I

N

I

O

P

*Together we can
make it work*



Developing an international network for organisations involved in the independent oversight of policing

Leaflet developed by:

Independent Police Complaints Commission,
90 High Holborn, London. WC1V 6BH. UK.

On behalf of the INIOP Network Inception Working Group.

“Together we can make it work”, Version 2, November 2006.

Visit us at www.ipcc.gov.uk/iniop.htm or email us at iniop.enquiries@ipcc.gsi.gov.uk for more information.

Foreword

Developing an international network



London, November 2006

Developing an international network for organisations involved in the independent oversight of policing

The independent oversight of policing is a highly specialised activity, with many different models and approaches used across the world. In the late 90s, when the NGO I worked for was asked to produce proposals for a new oversight organisation for England and Wales, our first thought was to look at the approaches taken in other countries to see what I could learn. Later, when I joined the IPCC, the support and advice my colleagues and I received from others doing similar work in other jurisdictions was of enormous help to us. As a result, the IPCC has always been committed to the idea of international co-operation between bodies working in this field.

In October 2005 representatives of a number of independent oversight organisations from Canada, the USA, Great Britain and Northern Ireland met in Montreal to discuss the creation of an international network. There had been International Association for the Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement but this had been wound up some years before. This group set out a number of basic principles and objectives for international co-operation and agreed to meet again to take these forward.

A meeting was then held in London in May 2006, with representatives attending from Belgium, Austria, Canada, the US, South America, and the United Kingdom where the initial thinking was developed. At this meeting discussions centred on what this new network would look like, what its aims would be, and how it could be set up.

A further meeting took place last October during the Conference of the Canadian Association for the Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement in Vancouver at which representatives from 21 countries expressed their support for the proposal.

This pack provides a rough guide to our thinking so far.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Wadham'.

John Wadham
Deputy Chair of the IPCC - on behalf of the Network Inception Working Group.

Photo Gallery

Vancouver, October 2006



From Left to Right: John Wadham (England and Wales), Martin Kreutner (Austria), Dirk Ryneveld (Canada), Peter Tinsley (Canada), Eduardo Diaz (United States), Pierce Murphy (United States).



From Left to Right: Gil Bourdoux (Belgium), Carmel Foley (Republic of Ireland), Tommy Tshabalala (South Africa), Barbara Attard (United States), Allan Galbraith (New Zealand), Dirk Ryneveld (Canada), Martin Kreutner (Austria), Tom Maguire (Republic of Ireland), John Wadham (England and Wales), Judge Kevin Haugh (Republic of Ireland), Pierce Murphy (United States).



Left to Right: Kevin Haugh (Republic of Ireland), Allan Galbraith (New Zealand), Leslie Xinwa (South Africa), Gil Bourdoux (Belgium).



Tommy Tshabalala (South Africa), John Robert Walters (Namibia).

Contents

Purpose, Aims & Membership

Thinking about how a network would look

6

Creating a steering group

Next steps in the development process

8

Global Mapping Project

Developing a map of oversight mechanisms around the world

9

Finding more information / Contacting Us

10

Rationale, Aims & Membership

Why an international network is necessary and what it will look like

Rationale

While there are many different approaches taken to law enforcement in different countries around the world, the principle of independent oversight of policing is broadly applicable. When such oversight is effective it plays a vital role in protecting individual human rights, ensuring public trust and confidence in the police, and promoting the efficient operation of law enforcement. This principle has been applied in many countries, in others it is accepted but has not been implemented in practice, and, unfortunately, in much of the world it has not even been considered.

The independent oversight of the policing is a highly specialised activity. Where bodies have been set up to carry it out there are few if any similar organisations within their own jurisdiction with which they can discuss the challenges they face. In order to remain independent these bodies must maintain an arms length relationship with government, the agencies they oversee, and other interested groups and individuals affected by their work. Because their work can be controversial they may also face political pressures which threaten to compromise their independence.

An international network has a key role to play in promoting international cooperation and the sharing of learning and best practice between those involved in oversight of policing. Such a network can also provide a platform for promoting the benefits of oversight which is both effective and independent.

Aims

It is proposed that a new network would have two fundamental aims:

- To champion the principle of effective, independent oversight of policing
- To create opportunities for existing oversight organisations to share knowledge and learning

Membership

Membership of the network would be carefully managed to ensure that it retained its focus on oversight of policing and interest in developing policing and law enforcement accountability mechanisms. To this effect eligibility for core membership would be defined in relation to:

1. Oversight of organisations with policing powers, such as power to search, arrest and detention. Oversight of other areas, such as prisons or probation, in addition to oversight of those with police powers is not a barrier to membership.
2. Independence from those subject to oversight. Organisations who employ former or seconded police officers are not excluded from membership, so long as the ultimate or strategic decision making is not carried out by those currently working for the police.
3. Capacity for case handling. This includes responsibility for investigating or otherwise managing the response to individual incidents of complaint or concern. Therefore those who only have a role in assessing the performance or efficiency of a force at a more general level are excluded from core membership.

Work is planned to develop a draft proposal for membership structure, together with a sliding scale for membership fees to encourage participation in the network, and to ensure that those with valuable knowledge to contribute are able to do so.

This structure will incorporate additional categories so that academics, NGOs, police professionals, those working in the field, organisations not directly involved in oversight of policing, and those previously holding posts in police oversight can become members.

Creating a steering group

Next steps in the development process

It is proposed that a steering group will be set up to lead the development of the international network, and to help it create an initial development strategy.

Broadly, the work of the steering group will include:

- Drawing up and consulting on detailed arrangements for the network – including funding, resources, communications strategy and work plan.
- Raising awareness of the proposed network and establishing links with all potential core members.
- Raising awareness of the proposed network and establishing links with intergovernmental organisations, human rights organisations, and academics and research bodies with an interest in this area.
- Coordinating the support of members to assist countries seeking to develop oversight bodies during the setup period.
- To begin work on the compilation of a global intelligence map of oversight arrangements (see page 9).
- Considering the possibility of minimum standards for police oversight.
- Resources and funding allowing, the organisation of events to discuss issues of common interest such as staff welfare, deaths in custody and anti-terrorism operations.

Membership of the steering group;

- Eligibility for membership of the steering group will be defined in relation to the membership criteria outlined on page 7 of this booklet.
- Getting a good geographical mix of organisations in the steering group is essential to its success. It was proposed that members should be drawn from existing regional networks in North America, Africa and Europe, but that additional outreach work would be carried out to make contact with organisations working across the world to identify other potential members of the steering group, and to raise awareness about the planned network development.

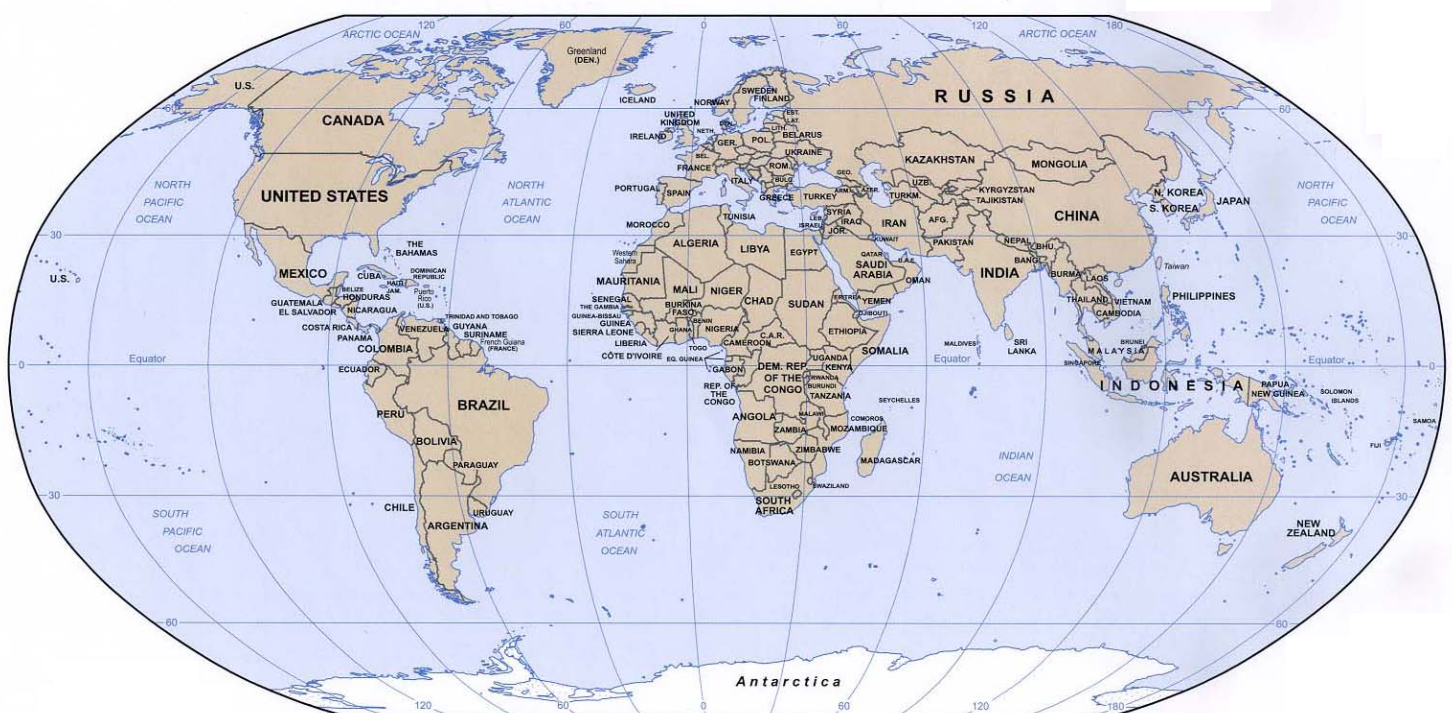
Global Mapping Project

Developing a map of oversight mechanisms around the world

The IPCC are currently assisting the Network Inception Working Group in an exciting project to map the oversight mechanisms in existence around the world.

A questionnaire has been developed to collect information on a number of areas including:

- Nature of the organisation's work/remit
- Organisation structure
- Capacity to handle cases
- Involvement in police discipline
- Powers



If you'd like to participate in this exciting project by providing us with information on the work of your organisation then you can download a copy of the questionnaire from our temporary webpages online at www.ipcc.gov.uk/iniopglobalmapping.htm

The completed map will be displayed online in due course.

For more information on this project, or to tell us about oversight mechanisms in existence in your country please email us at iniop.enquiries@ipcc.gsi.gov.uk

Finding more information / Contacting Us

The following webpages may be of use to you, if you want to find out more about discussions that have happened so far around the development of an international network:

www.ipcc.gov.uk/iniop.htm

For general information on previous meetings and discussions about the setup of an international network, and for a copy of this and other introductory leaflets online.

www.ipcc.gov.uk/iniopglobalmapping.htm

For more information on the project to create a map of oversight mechanisms in existence around the world, and to download a copy of the global oversight map questionnaire.

www.ipcc.gov.uk/iniopnews.htm

For all the latest news update on network development.

www.ipcc.gov.uk/cacoleconference2006.htm

For more information on the day of international speakers hosted at the 2006 CACOLE conference in Vancouver.

For all enquiries please email us at iniop.enquiries@ipcc.gsi.gov.uk

Photo Gallery

London, May 2006



Back Row (From left to right): Cormac Bakewell, Nivio Caixeta, Al Hutchinson, Martin Kreutner, Nuala O'loan, Femke Hofstee van der Meulen, Philip Eure, Gil Bourdoux.

Front Row (From left to right): Eduardo Diaz, Dirk Ryneveld, John Wadham, Walter Peeters.

I N I O P

International Network for the Independent Oversight of Policing
Together we can make it work

I N I O P

“Together we can make it work”
Version 3, November 2006

www.ipcc.gov.uk/iniop