



**GLOBAL
INITIATIVE**
AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL
ORGANIZED CRIME

EVENTS OVERVIEW

GI-TOC EVENTS AT THE 67TH SESSION OF THE UN COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS (CND)

From 14 to 22 March 2024, representatives of UN member states, international organizations and civil society will gather in Vienna – and in virtual events – for the annual UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), hosted by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and chaired this year by the Ghanaian Permanent Representative to the UN in Vienna. The CND will negotiate resolutions and decisions aimed at enhancing implementation of the UN drug control conventions, and is planning, during a High Level Segment, to adopt a declaration representing a mid-term review of the 2019 Ministerial Declaration on ‘strengthening our actions at the national, regional and international levels to accelerate the implementation of our joint commitments to address and counter the world drug problem’.

The Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC) will be present and active at the CND throughout and will participate in the following events during the week, to highlight our latest research on the dynamics and impacts of drug trafficking, and our activities supporting innovative, evidence-based and locally led responses to these challenges, including in our role as Secretariat of the Eastern and Southern Africa Commission on Drugs (ESACD).

**15 March 2024
11.00–13.00 CET**

**Venue:
Mozart Room, Vienna
International Centre**

INTRODUCING THE EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA COMMISSION ON DRUGS

This event, during the High Level Segment of the CND, will introduce the Eastern and Southern Africa Commission on Drugs (ESACD), which was launched in February 2023, under the leadership of H.E. Kgalema Motlanthe, former president of South Africa, and has already held two high level meetings on the most pressing issues in the region, including public health risks, improving access to medicines, the impact of drug policies on young people and the role of civil society organizations in developing evidence-based policy, drug policy reform, improved law enforcement strategies for disrupting illicit markets and the expansion of maritime trafficking routes. The side event will share the outcomes of the two meetings and way forward, and hear perspectives from a range of speakers from the region, with a view to inputting into discussions at the 67th CND and its mid-term review of drug policy commitments.

The event will feature high level addresses from H.E. Kgalema Motlanthe, former president of South Africa, and Chair of the ESACD, and H.E. Joaquim Chissano, former president of Mozambique and ESACD Commissioner, as well as other high-level speakers, including H.E. Ruth Dreifuss, former president of Switzerland and H.E. Ms Lindiwe Zulu, Minister of Social Development of South Africa.

Organizers: GI-TOC, as Secretariat of the ESACD

Supporters: EU, AU, South Africa, Sudan, Zambia, Mauritius, USA, UK

19 March 2024
09.10–10.00 CET

Venue:
Vienna International
Centre, in-person, M3

ENFORCEMENT STRATEGIES ALONG THE JOURNEY OF SYNTHETIC DRUGS

The rapid global expansion of synthetic drug manufacture, trafficking and use requires governments to develop effective law enforcement strategies. The journey of synthetic drugs encompasses the trade in precursors, production, trafficking and consumption. This journey serves as the basis for explaining the Dutch approach to combating subversive drug-related crime, employing a whole-of-society strategy. During this side event, the Dutch law enforcement strategy will be contextualized within a broader international cooperation perspective. Jason Eligh, GI-TOC's thematic lead on drugs, will provide an overview of global trends on synthetic drugs trafficking.

Organizers: Netherlands

Supporters: GI-TOC, the European Union, Belgium, United Kingdom, the USA, Canada, Mexico, Peru, Switzerland and New Zealand

20 March 2024
09.10–10.00 CET

Venue:
Vienna International
Centre, hybrid,
MOE07

CRISIS OF THE ILLEGAL COCA MARKET: NEW DYNAMICS OF DRUG TRAFFICKING IN THE AMERICAS

Since 2021, local illegal coca leaf markets, especially in Colombia, have contracted noticeably, worsening food security in coca-growing communities and heralding new dynamics in the cultivation, production and trafficking of cocaine in the Americas. GI-TOC will contribute with an overview of its analysis of the dynamics and effects of drug trafficking in the region.

Organizer: Friedrich Ebert Foundation

Supporters: GI-TOC, Colombia, Centro de Estudios de Derecho, Justicia y Sociedad, the Elementa DDHH, the Fundación Ideas para la Paz and the Open Society Foundations

22 March 2024
08.00–08.50 CET

Venue:
Vienna International
Centre, hybrid,
MOE100

EVOLVING DRUG TRENDS IN CENTRAL AND WEST AFRICA

This event will share research by the ENACT project, a consortium partnership between the Institute for Security Studies, INTERPOL and the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, on the evolving drug markets in Central and West Africa. Research conducted by INTERPOL shows an increase in the global demand for the psychotropic drug Tabernanthe iboga, originating from Central Africa, while research on cocaine trafficking in West Africa shows changes in the trade in response to instability within the region. The side event will share new research on the evolving dynamics of the cocaine trade in West Africa and the introduction of natural psychotropic drugs, such as iboga, in Central Africa, with a view to informing discussions on drug policy commitments at the 67th CND.

Organizers: Institute for Security Studies (ISS)

Supporters: GI-TOC and INTERPOL

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**22 March 2024
13.00–13.50 CET**

**Venue:
Vienna International
Centre, hybrid,
M0E79**

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REPORT LAUNCH – ‘THE GLOBAL SYNTHETIC DRUG SITUATION: WHAT WE KNOW, WHAT WE THINK WE KNOW, AND WHAT WE DON’T KNOW’

This side event will mark the launch of a flagship new GI-TOC report on the diversification and expansion of the global synthetic drugs market. The report, drawing on the GI-TOC’s decade of research on the topic, including the latest iteration of the Global Organized Crime Index, sheds new light on the latest trends and dynamics in synthetic drug production, trafficking and use. This event will include a detailed presentation from the report’s author, Jason Eligh, and stimulate a discussion on current understandings of the global synthetic drug situation, to discuss emerging synthetic drug challenges and consider their implications.

**Organizers: GI-TOC
Supporters: USA**