



**GLOBAL  
INITIATIVE**  
AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL  
ORGANIZED CRIME


## BREAKFAST EVENT AT THE 34TH COMMISSION ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

# BUILDING RESILIENCE TO ORGANIZED CRIME IN TIMES OF CRISIS

**Date: 20 May 2025**  
**Time: 08.30–10.00**  
**CEST**

**Venue:**  
**Mozart Room,**  
**Vienna International**  
**Centre (in-person)**

 **Norway**

 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation



Kingdom of the Netherlands



 **Canada**

Organized by the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC) and co-sponsored by Norway, Switzerland, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Canada.

Since its launch on the sidelines of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) in 2019, the GI-TOC's Resilience Fund has supported more than 300 civil society initiatives in diverse communities around the world. Throughout this period, the Fund has directed resources to some of the most vulnerable and at-risk populations facing the combined threats of conflict, instability and environmental destruction, all of which enable organized criminal violence to take hold and persist. Despite the risks, community leaders and civil society organizations continue to work to protect their communities and environments from these threats. The Fund's mandate is to support these initiatives and bring them together in a global community of resilience.

This side event will feature speakers from Resilience Fund initiatives around the world, and will mark the launch of a policy brief on the role of civil society in preventing and combating organized crime, as a contribution to the CCPCJ ahead of the 15th UN Crime Congress.

The Resilience Fund is supported by contributions from the governments of Norway, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the UK, the US and Canada.

Refreshments will be provided.

### SPEAKERS

- H.E. Ambassador Susan Eckey, Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations
- Siria Gastelum Felix, Director of Resilience, GI-TOC
- Miguel Syjuco, Member of Resilience Fund Advisory Council
- Anna Romandash, Resilience Fund grantee, Ukraine
- Mitchel Mboya, Resilience Fund grantee, Kenya
- Noor Azizha, Resilience Fund grantee, Myanmar
- Lucie Andrea Gutiérrez, Resilience Fund grantee, Colombia
- Moderated by Ian Tennant, Director of Multilateral Engagement, GI-TOC

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

**Ambassador Susan Eckey** held many influential positions in Norwegian diplomacy before becoming Ambassador to Austria and Permanent Representative to the UN in Vienna. She has served as Deputy Director General in the Department for Multilateral Affairs and as Ambassador to Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda. Ambassador Eckey has also served as Minister Counsellor for Economic and Social Affairs at Norway's Permanent Mission to the UN in New York, and as Deputy Director-General and Head of the Section for Humanitarian Affairs and Assistant Director-General.

**Siria Gastelum Felix** is the Director of Resilience at the GI-TOC. She began documenting community responses to organized crime in her home state of Sinaloa, Mexico where she launched the #GIResilience Project in 2017. The #GIResilience project was selected to be showcased the UN Solutions Summit during the 2018 UN General Assembly in New York. In 2019, the #GIResilience project became the Resilience Fund. Felix is an Emmy Award-winning journalist who has worked in radio, television and print media in Mexico, the US and Canada. In 2008, she joined the UN Office in Vienna. She has also worked with the International Narcotics Control Board and UN Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT).

**Miguel Syjuco** is a Filipino author, journalist, civil society advocate, and professor at New York University Abu Dhabi. His debut novel, *Ilustrado*, was a New York Times Notable Book of the Year and won both the Man Asian Literary Prize and the Grand Prize at the Palanca Awards, his country's top literary honor. His latest novel, *I Was the President's Mistress!!*, was published in April 2022. He currently serves on the advisory council of the GI-TOC Resilience Fund.

**Anna Romandash** is a Ukrainian journalist dedicated to reporting on the Russian war and the human rights violations stemming from it. Her investigative journalism highlights the challenges faced by refugees and internally displaced people as a result of the conflict in Ukraine. She is working on a media project on the impact of the war, told through the stories of its victims, with the aim of providing simple and accessible information to those in need on how to access help and support. Her approach emphasizes the importance of storytelling in raising awareness and promoting change.

**Mitchel Mboya** is an advocate of the High Court of Kenya and a dedicated human rights defender with a passion for youth empowerment. She holds a Bachelor of Law degree from the University of Nairobi and was admitted to the Bar in 2018. Growing up, she witnessed many of her childhood friends, full of potential, turn to crime due to a lack of alternatives. Determined to change this narrative, she founded YOLARA in 2020 – a non-profit organization that provides pro bono legal representation to indigent youth, while equipping them with skills and opportunities to break the cycle of crime. Through legal aid, community engagement and economic empowerment, she works to ensure that young people do not become trapped in a revolving door with the criminal justice system.

**Noor Azizha** is an advocate working with the Rohingya community in Myanmar, focusing on armed conflict, persecution and forced displacement. She is actively involved in the Rohingya Collaborative Network, where she organizes advocacy efforts and builds alliances to address the trafficking and smuggling challenges faced by Rohingya communities. Her work emphasizes community-based solutions and the importance of collective action. By promoting advocacy and support networks, Noor aims to improve the lives of displaced Rohingya individuals and ensure their rights and dignity are upheld.

**Lucie Andrea Gutiérrez** is Deputy Director of PAZame el Balón Foundation in Colombia. Andrea leads the humanitarian access component of the foundation in the territories where Unarmed Civilian Protection (UCP) activities are implemented, in the Department of Nariño, Colombia. Her work includes the identification and analysis of humanitarian impacts caused and designing of protection strategies by the presence and actions of criminal structures in the Nariño region in Colombia.