

THE FUTURE OF PEACE OPERATIONS: TACKLING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME?

ANCILLARY MEETING AT THE 15TH CRIME CONGRESS

30 September 2026
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Venue: 2B (Hybrid),
Abu Dhabi National
Exhibition Centre

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Organized by the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime and supported by Canada

Event summary

UN political offices and peacekeeping missions may not come first to mind as tools to address transnational organized crime. However, crime, its impact on conflict, and the UN's role in addressing these issues are central to the future of peace operations. During the UN's peace operations review process in 2025, it became clear that transnational organized crime represents an emerging, cross-cutting issue that is forcing the UN to consider how to adapt.

A 2026 GI-TOC report makes clear that peace operations could become more effective by better addressing organized criminal dynamics. Illicit economies fuel insecurity and conflict. They make it more difficult to untangle and address the motivations of conflicting parties and undermine incentives to agree on a peace deal. Peace operations must be able to understand how the dynamics of criminal enterprises and illicit economies impact the pursuit of peace and security. Moreover, they have a role to play in helping address, or at least stem, organized crime, as part of broader, networked efforts.

Haiti is a case in point; the international response to which will be addressed in the event. The event will allow diverse stakeholders to present their work and analysis, advance towards a better understanding of current crises and what it means for the international community, and the importance of partnering with local civil society organizations to advance towards justice and crisis resolution responses.

Speakers

- Opening remarks: H.E Alison Grant, Permanent Representative of Canada to the International Organizations in Vienna
- Sophie Rutenbar, Senior Expert, Haiti Observatory, GI-TOC
- Paddy Ginn, Senior Expert, GI-TOC
- Kareen Ulysse, Founder and Executive Director of the Centre Hospitalier de Fontaine Foundation (CHFF)
- Jack Christofides, Special Representative of the Gang Suppression Force in Haiti
- Moderator - Tuesday Reitano, Managing Director, GI-TOC