



**GLOBAL
INITIATIVE**
AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL
ORGANIZED CRIME

CRIME AT A CROSSROADS: THE GLOBAL ILLICIT ECONOMY IN 2026

ANCILLARY MEETING AT THE 15TH CRIME CONGRESS

1 October 2026
10.00–11.00 GST

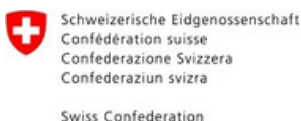
Venue: 2A (hybrid),
Abu Dhabi National
Exhibition Centre

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Canada



Norway



Organized by the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime and supported by Canada, Japan, Norway, Switzerland and the United States

This event will centre on a presentation by the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC) on the state of the global illicit economy, following on from the publication of the third edition of the Global Organized Crime Index. At the previous Crime Congress, held in Kyoto in 2021, the GI-TOC published a dedicated report on the [Global Illicit Economy](#), with the support of Switzerland and Norway. Since then, the global illicit economy has changed beyond recognition, and the GI-TOC has been tracking these developments through the Index.

In 2021, the first edition of the Index highlighted the pervasiveness of organized crime and its ability to exploit crises such as pandemics and conflict. The second edition, published in 2023, pointed to the growing prominence of state-embedded actors, and the links between organized crime, conflict and instability. In 2025, the third edition demonstrated the continuing rise and re-grouping of organized crime, and the stagnation of global resilience levels.

The Index is a demonstration of the value of independent data, analysis and engagement, which can be used to inspire and refine responses from governments, international organizations and others, at the Crime Congress and beyond.

The event will include high-level and thematic presentations outlining the development of organized crime since 2021, how it has intersected with global mega-trends, and what policy options states and international organizations have to enhance their responses in the current geopolitical context.

Speakers

- Welcome: HE Alison Grant, Permanent Representative of Canada to the International Organizations in Vienna
- Remarks of HE Atsushi Kaifu, Permanent Representative of Japan to the International Organizations in Vienna (delivered by Junichi Hashimoto, First Secretary of the Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Vienna)
- Tuesday Reitano, Managing Director, GI-TOC
- Christine Cline, Director of International Negotiations at the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement, US Department of State
- Philippe Piatti, Head of the Crime Prevention Division, Federal Office of Police, Switzerland (online)
- Jan Austad, Policy Director, Ministry of Justice and Public Security, Norway
- Moderator: Ian Tennant, Director of Multilateral Engagement, GI-TOC