NEW ZEALAND

GLOBAL INITIATIVE AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME

ORGANIZED CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION: PURSUING PERPETRATORS AND ENHANCING RESPONSES

SIDE EVENT AT THE 13TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UN CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME

21 October 2026
9:00–9:50 AM

Venue: M2, Vienna International Centre (hybrid)

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Event summary

Child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA) and online CSEA (OCSEA) lurk in some of the darkest corners of the criminal universe. These labels encompass a variety of online and offline crimes targeting minors of all ages, regions and demographics who become victims of strangers, family members and peers, working alone or as part of international networks.

In recent years, law enforcement – supported by tech companies – have adapted their response to (O)CSEA and child sexual abuse material (CSAM) to address some of the trends outlined above. Increasingly sophisticated measures are being introduced to take down material, intervene in cases involving children immediately at risk, and to support and prevent the further victimization of millions of children worldwide.

However, efforts to counter the growing infiltration of organized crime in the space are less advanced. Without adaptation and more comprehensive approaches to identify track, prosecute and deter organized crime actors, the magnitude of (O)CSEA and CSAM, and linked harms, are likely to increase.

This event will explore how different stakeholders can further adapt their responses to apply an organized crime lens to the field of (O)CSEA, how they can enhance, in a data-privacy protected way – perpetrator and criminal network identification in liaison with trusted partners, and how a broader suite of counter-organized crime tools can be adapted to the (O)CSEA and CSAM issues sets. The event will explore the potential of public–private relationships, testing their limits and boundaries within the framework of the UNTOC and international law, and how global political will, supported by the multilateral framework, can be used to strengthen cooperation.

Speakers

- Opening remarks: Ambassador Andrew Williams, Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations in Vienna
- Simon Peterson, Chief Customs Officer, Child Exploitation Operations Team, New Zealand Customs Service
- Virginia Comolli, Head of Pacific Programme, GI-TOC
- Professor Michael Salter, Director of the Childlight East Asia and Pacific Hub, University of New South Wales, Australia
- Annetta De Vet, Executive Director & Co-Founder, Humanitarian Services for Children of Vietnam
- Alla Mukhtarova, Financial Crime Threat, Risk & Coverage Assessments Lead at ANZ
- Moderator: Livia Wagner, Thematic Lead on Human Trafficking, GI-TOC