



# **NATIONAL INITIATIVE**

## **AGAINST ORGANIZED CRIME**

### **PAKISTAN**





National Initiative against Organized Crime (NIOC), in collaboration with the Global Initiative Resilience Fund is the first-ever initiative in Pakistan launched by a group of committed professionals and experts with law enforcement, media and other public service backgrounds. NIOC aims to build community resilience and influence public policy to combat organized crime. Initially launched as a pilot project for six months with effect from November 1, 2019, it aims to jump start not only the discussion around transnational organized crime in Pakistan, but also to facilitate the government work.

With a complex governance structure having multiple layers of stakeholders, the criminal justice system and law enforcement apparatus require better coordination and capacity building. NIOC will try to identify the gaps and suggest improvements in the system.



**Pak Institute for  
Peace Studies (PIPS)**  
Knowledge For Peace

# Advisory Board

## **Tariq Parvez**

**President Advisory Board, NIOC:**

Former Director General Federal  
Investigation Agency

## **Fiaz Khan Toru**

**Member NIOC AB:**

Former Inspector General Police of Pakistan

## **Zahid Hussain**

**Member NIOC AB:**

Eminent journalist particularly  
specializing in countering terrorism

## **Fasi Zaka**

**Member NIOC AB:**

Communications expert. To steer the  
advocacy campaign.

## **Zubair Habib**

**Chairman CPLC Karachi,**

**Member NIOC AB:**

For community outreach.

Cover photo: The first meeting of the stakeholders of the National Initiative Against Organized Crime (NIOC)

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# Minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Board of NIOC Pakistan

The first meeting of the advisory board of the National Initiative against Organized Crime (NIOC) Pakistan was held on November 9, 2019, in Islamabad.

Mr. Tariq Pervaz, former Director-General Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and founder National Coordinator National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA), presided over the meeting.

The director of NIOC Pakistan Mr. Tariq Khosa, former DG FIA, briefed the members about the background of the initiative. Key points of his briefing were as follows:

- o The NIOC Pakistan is an independent initiative against organized crime in Pakistan established with the support of Vienna-based Global Initiative Resilience Fund which is part of the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, Geneva.
- o NIOC Pakistan aims to build community resilience and influence public policy to combat organized crime.
- o The pilot phase will be for duration of 6 months, with an aim to jumpstart not only the discussion around transnational organized crime in Pakistan but also to facilitate the government's work and build partnerships with the community in facing the challenges through advocacy and awareness campaigns.
- o With a federal governance structure having multiple layers of the stakeholders, a complex criminal justice system, and law enforcement institutions operating in silos, technical assistance on how to commence with policy formation on the issues will be a key deliverable under the proposed pilot.

The President of the NIOC Advisory Board and chairperson of the meeting, Mr. Tariq Parvez, while endorsing the objectives spelled out by the director, emphasized that





NIOC, comprising a small group of apolitical professionals, will provide an independent point of view to the policymakers.

After the initial briefings by the Director and President, the Advisory Board members approved the renaming of the project pilot as National Initiative against Organized Crime (NIOC) Pakistan. The other items on the agenda included:

Need assessment for the organized crime mapping in Pakistan

1. A strategy to counter organized crimes in Pakistan
2. Monthly Newsletter and Website of the NIOC
3. Creating a Network of the stakeholders

The advisory board members agreed that there was a dire need for crime mapping exercise in Pakistan, which should become part of a comprehensive data within the country. However, the NIOC Pakistan has a limited timeframe and resources for its pilot phase, so the focus would be on developing the strategies for countering certain specific organized crimes. The following organized crime categories were approved to develop nation-wide strategies after consultation with relevant stakeholders:

1. Terror Financing
2. Drug Trafficking
3. Human Trafficking
4. Cyber Crimes

## Decisions

The following decisions were taken by the Board Members:

1. It was agreed that the Strategy Papers on each category of the themes would be prepared. Mr. Tariq Parvez agreed to provide strategic guidance on terror financing research; Mr. Tariq Khosa on drug and human trafficking; and Mr. Fasih Zaka on cybercrimes. PIPS will identify researchers and experts to work on the strategy papers. It was decided that the stakeholders roundtable on November 22, 2019, will be held in Islamabad to follow-up on the the themes mentioned above and identify contributors as well as civil society organizations to partner with.
2. The NIOC secretariat at PIPS was assigned the task to issue a monthly newsletter, covering the activities of the initiative. The members agreed upon setting up the website and social media of the NIOC Pakistan for the broader outreach of the initiative. Mr. Fasih Zaka, a member of the AB, agreed to assist in this process. PIPS will also be assigned to design and print the brochure/cards/ letterheads and logo of NIOC Pakistan.





## Attendance

The following attended the board meeting:

1. Mr. Tariq Parvez (President AB)
2. Mr. Tariq Khosa (Director NIOC)
3. Mr. Zahid Hussain (Member AB)
4. Mr Zubair Habib (Member AB)
5. M. Amir Rana (Secretary NIOC)
6. Mr. Muhammad Ali Nakokara (Deputy Director NIOC)
7. Mr. Fasih Zaki (Member AB)
8. Hassan Sardar (Manager Administration and Finance)

Mr. Fiaz Khan Toru, Member AB, was not able to attend the meeting because of a death in the family.

Note: Minutes drafted by Amir Rana, Secretary NIOC and approved by Tariq Khosa, Director NIOC for circulation amongst the participants.



# The first meeting of the stakeholders of the National Initiative Against Organized Crime (NIOC)

The first meeting of the stakeholders of the National Initiative against Organized Crime (NIOC) Pakistan was held on November 22, 2019 in Islamabad Club.

The meeting was moderated by the Director NIOC and former DG FIA, Mr. Tariq Khosa. He briefed the members about the background, goals and objectives of the Initiative. He recapped the discussion points of 1st meeting of the NIOC Advisory Board held on November 09, 2019. He briefly discussed the following four broad categories of crimes to be addressed under this project:

1. Terror Financing
2. Drug Trafficking
3. Human Trafficking
4. Cyber Crimes

Mr. Khosa emphasized that, under this initiative, in the coming months, a team of champions of change will be built who will take this cause forward. He told the members that NIOC will engage investigative journalists, civil society members, intellectuals, and engage competent researchers to streamline the work of this platform.

Mr. Moeed Yousaf explained the role of SPCC. He informed the board that SPCC is required to do long term strategic policy planning for Pakistan's national security. The four categories of organized crime focused by this forum come under the policy purview of SPCC. He emphasized that we need to redefine how we look at security in Pakistan by prioritizing human security, financial security etc. with the traditional security. He informed that SPCC will constitute a Council of Experts wherein each priority area will be having a working group that will provide evidence-based policy inputs to the SPCC. He asserted that it is important that policies are complemented by action plans to ensure sustained change.

**Mr. Akhtar Ali Shah**, former IGP KP, opined that our departments are lacking in expertise. Therefore, basic focus should be laid on the capacity building of our departments and LEAs. He also argued that our counter terrorism strategy was more on investigating the acts of terror rather than investigating its financing. He suggested that it is important that we identify the channels of terror financing.

**Mr. Sabino S Jalal**, JS Narcotics Control Division opined that although Pakistan is a transit country, it still has synthetic drugs production at domestic level. These syntenic drugs are destroying our young generation very swiftly. He mentioned that dark web and crypto currencies have complicated the job for LEAs. He also suggested that regime change in treatment of drug addicts is needed.

**Mr. Jeremy Milsom**, Country Representative UNODC, apprised the meeting that UNODC is working extensively in all these four categories of organized crime. According to him, main challenge in addressing these issues is identifying the gaps in the system. He agreed with the argument of low capacity of LEAs and relevant departments in countering the organized crimes in Pakistan and informed that UNODC has been providing technical support and trainings to enhance the capacity of the departments. He also informed the participants that UNODC is assisting the government in complying with FATF recommendations to get out of the grey list. Mr. Saqib Khan from UNODC highlighted the lack of coordination among different agencies as policy gap in countering organized crimes in Pakistan.

**SSP Umer Riaz** from Police Services asserted the need for being proactive in assessing and anticipating the extent of risk that organized crimes poses to Pakistan. He argued that we must narrow down the issues in terror financing, underlining data as a key instrument in this process.

**SSP Farhan Zahid** termed the lack of will as a major impediment in policy implementation. He said that his area of expertise is Counter Terrorism and offered to assist the forum in that capacity.

**Mr. Mujeebur Rehman**, Additional DG FIA, informed that he can share his expertise and strategic advice on all these four aspects of organized crimes.

**Dr Syed Ejaz Hussain** from National Police Bureau (NPB) apprised the board that NPB, as a coordinating agency, is responsible for the training of LEAs. He offered to facilitate the forum in the training sector. He also generously offered the board that NPB's headquarter can be used for holding NIOC meetings in the future. He was of the opinion that understanding the patterns of crime is important and NPB can undertake a preliminary mapping of the four categories of organized crime.

**Mr. Fasih Zaka** informed the board that he will be looking at the cyber-crime aspect of the project. He briefed them about understanding Pakistan's tele-density, dynamics of crypto currency and data analysis of cyber-crime.

**Mr. Zahid Hussain** opined that there are linkages among all these four aspects of organized crimes. He asserted the need for focusing on cross border crimes. He advised to go for sources and patronage in human trafficking in order to chalk out effective policy solutions.

**Mr. Zubair Habib** asserted the need for building trust with other countries, especially in Human Trafficking aspect. He told that board that he's looking forward to working on the action plans of this initiative.

**Mr. Fiaz Khan Toru** posited that border management should be prioritized in the discussions of this forum. He argued that our past experiences of border management should serve as an example of how porous and poorly managed borders can give rise to organized crimes in Pakistan. He also suggested that the forum should address the issue of cross border terrorism as well.

**Mr. Amir Rana**, Director PIPS, thanked all the guests and board members for their participation in the meeting. He also offered the guests to contribute to the NIOC strategy paper.

## Decisions

- In the next five months, the forum will come up with a National Strategy Paper to counter the four specified aspects of organized crime in Pakistan
- Umer Riaz and Mr. Farhan Zahid will be engaged for research work with the permission of their heads of the department.
- Monthly Newsletter will be issued and the website of the forum will be developed by PIPS
- Upcoming meeting of the board will be held at NPB head quarter as per offer of Dr. Ijaz Hussain
- The forum will hire competent researchers and engage investigative journalists to work on the National Strategy Paper for countering specific organized crimes.

## Attendance

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|---|--|
| 1. Tariq Khosa (Director NIOC)                            | 11. Zubair Habib (CPLC)                              |
| 2. Zahid Hussain (Member AB)                              | 12. Dr Farhan Zahid, SSP                             |
| 3. Fasih Zaka (Member AB)                                 | 13. Jeremy Milsom<br>(UNODC, Country Representative) |
| 4. Dr Moeed Yousaf (Chairman SPPC)                        | 14. Saqib Khan<br>(UNODC, Programme Officer)         |
| 5. Syed Ejaz Hussain (DG NPB)                             | 15. Umar Riaz (NPA, Director)                        |
| 6. Fiaz Toru (Member AB)                                  | 16. Mujeeb Ur Rahman Khan<br>(FIA, Additional DG HQ) |
| 7. Amir Rana<br>(Secretary NIOC, Director PIPS)           | 17. Ahsan Hamid Durrani<br>(PIPS, Manager Projects)  |
| 8. Dr Farhan Zahid, SSP                                   | 18. Hassan Sardar<br>(PIPS, Manager Admin & Finance) |
| 9. Sabino S Jalal<br>(Joint Secretary, Narcotics Control) |  |
| 10. Syed Akhtar Ali Shah<br>(Former IGP KP)               |  |