



Pakistan UNTOC Review Mechanism

Civil Society Perspective

Annual Report 2025



About the Centre for Governance Research (CGR)

CGR is a forum for studies and debate on strategic and tactical issues related with good governance and the rule of law. It is a non-governmental civil society advocacy Centre dedicated to reforms in the justice and governance sectors.

As an independent think tank, CGR sets its own agenda, publishing and disseminating its findings regularly for national and global audience. Using an interdisciplinary approach, CGR brings together rule of law, justice and governance experts, researchers and internationally renowned professionals to animate its debate and research activities.

CGR aims to stand out as one of rare Pakistani think tanks to position itself at the very heart of debate on governance and justice issues.

CGR focuses on advocacy, research and studies in the following areas:

- Governance and Rule of Law
- Public Policy
- Policing and Justice Sectors
- Serious and Organized Crimes
- Counter Terrorism and Counter Extremism (CT and CE).

Meanwhile, the National Initiative against Organized Crime (NIOC) continues as a flagship project from the platform of the Centre for Governance Research (CGR).

Acknowledgment

On behalf of CGR, we would like to acknowledge the positive contribution of all the CSOs, Professionals, Academics and the Private Sector entities who are members of the Civil Society Alliance on Pakistan's UNTOC Review Mechanism.

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1. Background & Context

1.1 Global & Regional Organized Crime Landscape 2025

Organized crime continued to represent one of the most significant threats to global security in 2025. Key forms of organized crime include human trafficking, migrant smuggling, drug trafficking, cyber-enabled crime, environmental crime, firearm trafficking and illicit financial flows. Global crises, including armed conflicts, economic instability, displacement, and climate-related disasters strained governance systems in many regions, creating an optimal environment for exploitation by organized criminal groups (OCGs). In particular, 2025 witnessed rapid expansion of criminal networks, capitalizing on cyber-dependent crimes and expanding, often undetected globally. In addition, the exploitation of technology and artificial intelligence has also caused global shifts in criminal markets. The Global Organized Crime Index 2025 (OCI)¹ notes the shift in non-violent forms of organized crime, a key change from traditional violent methods, showcasing the inherent realignment of OCGs interest in cyber-dependent and financial crimes. In addition, key shifts towards synthetic drugs and cocaine, increased counterfeiting of goods were also noted in the OCI.

The OCI ranks Asia 1st of 5 continents with the highest criminality score of 5.52 and, 4th out of 5, with the second lowest resilience score of 4.32.² As a result, many Asian countries fall within the high criminality, low resilience quadrant in the OCI. Asia acts as a major hub for various forms of organized crime, including cyber-scams, human trafficking and drug trafficking. In-line with global trends, predominance in cyber-dependent crimes was also noted in Asia. In South and Southeast Asia OCGs housed large-scale cyber-scam and fraud centers, utilizing trafficked individuals from the region to commit fraud worldwide. In addition, production, sale and distribution of drugs remained a key area of concern for the region, with the largest youth population providing fertile ground for consumption, exploitation and expansion. The OCI also identified an array of factors contributing to low resilience across Asia, these include: weak social cohesion, untapped civil society and community potential, poor victim support, weak legal literacy and community-state trust deficit. These gaps highlight the limited integration of civil society actors in regional strategies to prevent and respond to organized crime. Strengthening community engagement, public awareness and demand-side prevention measures has increasingly been recognized as a critical component of building resilience against organized criminal networks across Asia.

¹ Global Organized Crime Index 2025: Crime at a Crossroads (Organized Crime Index, 2025) <https://ocindex.net/>

² Asia Profile, *Global Organized Crime Index 2025: Crime at a Crossroads* (Organized Crime Index, 2025) <https://ocindex.net/continent/asia>

1.2 UNTOC Framework & Review Mechanism

The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC)³ was adopted on November 15, 2000, as a global instrument to combat transnational organized crime. Opened for signature in Palermo, Italy, between December 12-15, 2000, it came into force on September 29, 2003. The Convention, together with its three supplementary protocols, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children,⁴ the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air,⁵ and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition,⁶ provides a comprehensive international framework to prevent and combat organized criminal activities across borders.

Globally, many countries rely on the framework established by UNTOC to combat organized crime. The convention promotes international cooperation in areas such as criminalization, law enforcement collaboration, extradition, and mutual legal assistance, helping governments coordinate responses to organized crime that increasingly transcends national boundaries. In Asia, as of 2025, all 48 countries have ratified UNTOC, showcasing at least paper-commitment to combat organized crime in the region.⁷

As with all other international instruments, implementation remains a key concern for UNTOC as well. To address this, in October 2018, the UNTOC Review Mechanism was established at the 9th Session of the Conference of Parties.⁸ The review mechanism aims to assess the extent to which States Parties have implemented the Convention and its protocols in their domestic legal systems. To do this, State Parties being assessed complete a detailed self-assessment questionnaire which is then examined by two peer-reviewing states with support from the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

³ The United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, <https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNTOC/Publications/TOC%20Convention/TOCebook-e.pdf>

⁴ Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNTOC/Publications/Convention/English/ENG_Protocol_to_Prevent_Suppress_and_Punish_Trafficking_in_Persons_Especially_Women_and_Children_UNTOC.pdf

⁵ Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNTOC/Publications/Convention/English/ENG_Protocol_against_the_Smuggling_of_Migrants_by_Land_Sea_and_Air_UNTOC.pdf

⁶ Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNTOC/Publications/Convention/English/ENG_Protocol_against_the_Illicit_Manufacturing_of_and_Trafficking_in_Firearms_their_Parts_and_Components_and_Ammunition.pdf

⁷ https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XVIII-12&chapter=18&clang=en

⁸ Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto, UNODC, <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/organized-crime/intro/review-mechanism-untoc/home.html>

This process encourages transparency, identifies legislative and institutional gaps, and promotes technical assistance and international cooperation to enhance the fight against organized crime.

1.3 Pakistan Landscape on Organized Crime

Organized crime in Pakistan presents a complex challenge that extends beyond conventional law enforcement concerns. It undermines economic stability, erodes public trust in institutions, and threatens public safety by infiltrating political, legal and governance structures. The OCI ranks Pakistan 45th out of 193 countries, and 3rd out of 8 South Asia countries, with a criminality score of 6.32.⁹ Its vulnerability to organized crime is compounded by a resilience score of 3.96, placing Pakistan at 131st out of 193 countries.¹⁰ This places Pakistan, along with 65 other countries, in the high criminality - low resilience quadrant. High criminality coupled with weak resilience creates enabling conditions for criminal markets and organized crime to thrive, expand and become entrenched in Pakistan.¹¹

Pakistan remains a key origin, transit and destination country for multiple criminal markets. Drug trafficking continues to be a major concern given Pakistan's proximity to major opiate production zones. Arms trafficking has intensified with the influx of weapons from Afghanistan and internal regulatory gaps in Pakistan which leaves 37 million out of 43 million civilian-held firearms unregistered till date.¹² In addition, trafficking in persons remains a dominant criminal market, with recent trends pointing towards trafficking for forced beggars as more than 5,000 Pakistani-origin beggars were deported from Saudi Arabia in the last two years.¹³ Pakistan has also been a target for increased trafficking in persons for forced criminality, in particular to Southeast Asia for transnational cyber scam operations. More than 500 Pakistanis were rescued from scam call centres in Myanmar, Cambodia, and Thailand.¹⁴ Migrant smuggling networks continue to exploit east and west-ward pathways from Pakistan, capitalizing on weak infrastructure, job scarcity and Pakistan's growing population.

The organized crime landscape in Pakistan also reflects global trends and emerging concerns, such as the rise of cyber-enabled crime, financial fraud and online exploitation. In July 2025, over 149 suspects were arrested during raids on scam call centres.¹⁵ These centers, housed in Faisalabad and Islamabad,

⁹ Pakistan Profile, Global Organized Crime Index 2025: Crime at a Crossroads (Organized Crime Index, 2025) <https://ocindex.net/country/pakistan>

¹⁰ Global Organized Crime Index 2025: Crime at a Crossroads (Organized Crime Index, 2025) <https://ocindex.net/report/2025/>

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² https://www.khaama.com/unregulated-firearms-trade-sparks-security-concerns-in-pakistan/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

¹³ Over 5,000 Pakistani beggars deported from Saudi Arabia so far, NA informed, DAWN News, 15 May 2025, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1911076/over-5000-pakistani-beggars-deported-from-saudi-arabia-so-far-na-informed>

¹⁴ 'Beatings and mental torture': Over 500 Pakistanis trapped in Myanmar scam centres, GEO News, March 03, 2025

<https://www.geo.tv/latest/593591-beatings-and-mental-torture-over-500-pakistanis-trapped-in-myanmar-scram-centres>

¹⁵ Pakistan police arrest 149 people in 'scam call centre' raid, BBC News, 10 July 2025, <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cqjq2jd0y52o>

used AI-generated personas and cryptocurrency networks to conduct ponzi-style fraud schemes.¹⁶ Reports also indicate a sharp increase in non-consensual intimate images (NCII) and other cybercrimes targeting women and girls, with formal case registration at only 2% of 24,313 complaints in 2024.¹⁷

Pakistan's informal economy is estimated at around \$123 billion,¹⁸ creating conditions that facilitate financial crime, money laundering and illicit financial flows. While regulatory reforms in relation to Pakistan's recent exit from the FATF grey list are commendable, these advances should not obscure the scale and persistence of illicit financial flows that continue to facilitate organized crime. These concerns are amplified by Pakistan's structural vulnerabilities, including porous borders, regional instability and a large informal economy. In addition, governance and institutional capacity challenges, including corruption, weak coordination, high complaint volume to available investigative resources, further exacerbate efforts to prevent and disrupt criminal activity.

These dynamics underscore the need for comprehensive and coordinated responses that extend beyond national law enforcement efforts. International cooperation and adherence to multilateral frameworks, particularly the UNTOC, remain critical for strengthening prevention, enforcement and cross-border collaboration.

1.4 Adoption of the UNTOC Framework

Pakistan adopted UNTOC in December 2000 and ratified it in January 2010.¹⁹ Over the next decade, fragmented efforts to lay the legal and institutional groundwork relevant to UNTOC were made. While relevant advancements were made at the national level, such as the passing of the Anti-Money Laundering Act 2010, these were largely under the pretext of counter-terrorisms and extremism, not organized crime. Pakistan's role and dynamics on combating organized crime switched gears with the initiation of the UNTOC review mechanism (2020-2022). In 2021, Pakistan entered the first review cycle, as one of the initial 62 countries to be assessed under the first Review Cluster, 'Criminalization and Jurisdiction.' Pakistan's UNTOC Review Secretariat was established within the National Police Bureau (NPB) to coordinate with various stakeholders.²⁰

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ United States Department of State, *2025 Trafficking in Persons Report: Pakistan* (29 September 2025) <<https://www.state.gov/reports/2025-trafficking-in-persons-report/pakistan/>> accessed 30 December 2025.

¹⁸ Smuggling causing Rs3.4tr/year loss, Express Tribune News, 02 May 2025, <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2543477/smuggling-causing-rs34tryear-loss>

¹⁹ Annual report on human trafficking and migrant smuggling, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). (2016), https://www.unodc.org/copak/uploads/documents/Publications/Annual_report_on_Human_Trafficking_and_Migrant_Smuggling_2016.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com

²⁰ Centre for Governance Research, *Pakistan UNTOC Review Mechanism 2023: Civil Society Report* (2023) <https://cgr.com.pk/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/UNTOC-Review-Mechanism-2023.pdf>

Voluntary Pilot Initiative-UNTOC Review Mechanism



The National Initiative against Organized Crime (NIOC), a flagship initiative of the Centre for Governance Research (CGR) Pakistan, led by Mr. Tariq Khosa²¹, collaborated with the Ministry of Interior (MOI) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), to launch the 'Pilot Initiative' for the UNTOC review process. The MOI serves as the focal ministry for the review process, with Dr. Ehsan Sadiq²² appointed as the National Focal Person (NFP) for the UNTOC Review Mechanism in January 2022.

On September 15, 2022, Pakistan became the second country globally (after Mexico) and the first in Asia to undertake the Voluntary Pilot Initiative (VPI) for the UNTOC Review.²³ The Pilot Initiative led to a number of positive outcomes including structured consultations to identify national priorities, formation of a Civil Society Alliance and legislative advancements, including but not limited to, Pakistan's ratification of the Protocol on Trafficking in Persons in 2022.

²¹ Former Director General Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and Secretary Narcotics Control

²² Former Director General of the National Police Bureau (NPB) and currently serving as Director General of the Anti-Money Laundering Authority (AMLA)

²³

1.5 Civil Society and UNTOC Review Process

Organized crime has historically been framed as a predominantly law enforcement and security issue, with responses focused heavily on criminal justice institutions and state authorities. However, evolving approaches to combat organized crime have increasingly recognized the need for a whole-of-society approach, incorporating civil society and private actors, to effectively respond to these crimes. The UNTOC Review Mechanism creates formal avenues for inclusion and participation in effective implementation and monitoring of the UNTOC.

Through this mechanism, civil society, research institutes, advocacy groups and experts have the opportunity to contribute expertise, field knowledge, and independent analysis on organized crime. Participation of these actors is primarily facilitated through the constructive dialogue sessions held alongside meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (COP-UNTOC). Civil Society contributions at COP-UNTOC and the constructive dialogues include, presentation of research findings, highlighting implementation gaps, and proposing policy recommendations at the national, regional and international level. In doing so, civil society contributes to strengthening transparency, knowledge exchange, and multi-stakeholder cooperation within the UNTOC review process.

2. About the Civil Society Alliance Pakistan

2.1 Context & Formation

The Civil Society Alliance Pakistan (CSA-P) was established in 2022, spearheaded by the CGR. Civil society in Pakistan has long contributed to anti-organized-crime efforts through legal aid, research, community mobilisation and survivor support, helping ensure that strategies are grounded in human rights, gender equality and social justice. Drawing on first-hand knowledge of affected communities, civil society bridges the gap between government policies and on-the-ground realities.

Despite these contributions, civil society engagement on organized crime in Pakistan has historically faced structural challenges. Security concerns and increased scrutiny of work related to organized crime has limited opportunity for collaboration amongst civil society, leading to fragmented efforts. As a result, most organizations have largely operated in silos, with no formal platform for joint action to combat organized crime in Pakistan. The creation of the CSA-P bridges this gap by providing a platform for individuals and institutions to collaborate and fight organized crime. In addition, it provides a pathway for interaction and engagement between civil society and government actors.

2.2 Membership

The Alliance consists of representatives from civil society, private sector, youth, academia, media and law enforcement (retired). At present, CSA-P includes more than 26 civil society organizations (CSOs) and 55 individual expert members from across Pakistan, forming a multidisciplinary network of practitioners and researchers working on issues related to organized crime and governance.

2.3 Key Highlights & Outcomes

Over the last four years, the CSA-P members have contributed to combating organized crime through different initiatives. These include Working Groups led by the CSA-P and the National Police Bureau (NPB), efforts to mainstream gender and human rights in national legislation on TIP and SOM, review of firearms legislation and regulatory framework, and the production of evidence-based research on smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons, illicit funds, etc.

- **Strengthened Government-Civil Society Collaboration:** Through its partnership with the NPB, the CSA-P supported the establishment of three Working Groups aimed at improving collaboration between government institutions and civil society on legislation and policies related to organized crime. These Working Groups created a formal mechanism for civil society engagement in policy development and review.
- **Advocacy on Trafficking in Persons:** Through member insights and strategy, the CSA-P led advocacy and lobbying that resulted in the Cabinet's approval of the Trafficking in Persons

Protocol. The targeted approach to advocacy relied on prioritizing government representatives that would be most responsive. These in-roads and nuances are often left unexplored in traditional advocacy, leading to longer wait times and staggered progress.

- **Regional & International Engagement & Visibility:** Beyond national initiatives, CSA-P has also engaged with global processes on organized crime. Members of the CSA-P have participated in international forums, including the Constructive Dialogues, the Conference of Parties, Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPJ) among others. CSA-P contributions to these forums helped bring perspectives from Pakistan's civil society into global policy debates on organized crime.



Self-Assessment Questionnaire-UNTOC Review

Under the overall supervision of Dr. Ehsan Sadiq, National Focal Person on the UNTOC Review Mechanism, Pakistan has successfully finalized and submitted its self-assessment questionnaire under Cluster-1 of the review process on Criminalisation and Jurisdiction.

The response was formally uploaded to the UNODC REVMOD portal in September 2025, marking the commencement of the evaluation and peer review process by the designated reviewing States, Tonga and the Central African Republic. Pakistan now awaits further progress in the review cycle.

The Civil Society Alliance has actively engaged in the process, shared its perspectives, and acknowledged the constructive role of the National Focal Person

3. Key Initiatives and Impact

The Civil Society Alliance of Pakistan adopts a three-pronged approach to strengthen the role and significance of civil society engagement in combating organized crime. The approach centers **partnership, awareness-building, advocacy and policy engagement**. Recognizing the need for a whole-of-society approach, the CSA-P acts as a bridge between all stakeholders and the Government of Pakistan. It provides opportunities for non-traditional interventions and holistic prevention and response strategies that build stronger national networks to combat OCGs.

3.1 Networks and Partnership Building

3.1.1 NET4U Asia – Creation and Foundational Setup

Background: UNODC launched the Stakeholder Engagement initiative for the UNTOC and its Review Mechanism (SE4U) to facilitate greater inclusion of non-governmental actors in the UNTOC processes. NET4U Asia, the Asia Civil Society Regional Network for UNTOC Implementation, was formed as part of this process during a regional SE4U workshop in 2025.

Date & Location: 15-17 January 2025, Official Launch of NET4U Asia, Putrajaya, Malaysia

Objective: To establish an inclusive, participatory, and people-centered Asia where non-governmental stakeholders are empowered to prevent and respond to TOC. The NET4U Asia centers solidarity and shared knowledge, by working toward a region where communities are resilient, justice is accessible, and civil society is a central actor in shaping anti-crime strategies.

CSA Contribution: Member organizations from CSA-P are part of the founding members of the NET4U Asia, with Mr. Tariq Khosa, CGR as part of the Advisory Board and the Centre for Human Rights (CFHR) as the coordinator. The CSA-P has spearheaded drafting of foundational documents, including the NET4U Asia Charter and Operational Framework. In addition, the CSA-P has initiated youth-engagement as a key sub-division of the NET4U Asia, leading activities that center youth in Pakistan and supporting collaborative efforts in the region.

Key Outcomes:

- Establishment of NET4U Asia, with 11 participating member states (Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam), as a regional civil society platform supporting engagement in the implementation of UNTOC.
- Strengthened regional connectivity among civil society actors working on TOC across Asia.
- Creation of a youth engagement stream within NET4U Asia, promoting youth participation in dialogue and initiatives addressing organized crime.

- Increased visibility of Pakistan's civil society expertise in regional efforts to combat TOC.



3.1.2 GITOC Central & South Asia Observatory – Strategic Framework and Advisory Group

Background: The Central & South Asia Observatory (CSA observatory) was formed to monitor and analyze developments in the regional organized crime landscape. The CSA observatory combines local field research with critical analysis to build a deeper understanding of how illicit economies interact with the communities and authorities in a region with many organised crime related issues.

Objective: To fortify South Asia's capacity to prevent, disrupt, and respond to organized crime by producing rigorous, evidence-based analysis and fostering regional collaboration among governments, communities, and organizations for safer, more resilient and responsive societies.

CSA Contribution: CGR, CFHR and Beaconhouse National University (BNU) are part of the advisory group for GITOC's CSA observatory. In the last year, three meetings of the advisory group with Paddy Ginn, Senior Expert-GITOC, took place to discuss opportunities for mobilization of the CSA observatory and expansion in key national and regional priority areas. CSA-P members led development of a strategic framework for the CSA observatory, outlining key interventions, objectives and outcomes against the six pillars of the CSA observatory. The strategic framework is presently pending approval from the GITOC board and is expected to be operationalized in 2026.



Key Outcomes:

- Strengthened engagement of Pakistan-based research institutions and civil society organizations in the Central & South Asia Observatory through participation in the advisory group.
- Identification of priority research and policy areas to guide future analysis and evidence-based interventions on organized crime in Pakistan and the wider region.
- Creation of a strategic roadmap for the Observatory, expected to guide coordinated research, policy engagement and regional cooperation in 2026.

3.1.3 Resilience Fund — Promoting Community Resilience in Pakistan through Localized Interventions

Background: The Resilience Fund (RF) provides opportunities to CSOs in different countries to build interventions to create and improve resilience in communities affected by organized crime and violence. In 2025, the RF mobilized at least four interventions with civil society actors in Pakistan. The RF is one of the only opportunities for demand-side driven and community-centric engagements and responses to organized crime in Pakistan.

Objective: The aim of the resilience fund is to empower civil society actors and build operational capacity to create sustainable networks of resilience communities against organized crime and violence.

CSA Contribution: CFHR, Dastak Society, Musawi and Youth Employability Network (YEN) are leading different initiatives through GITOC's Resilience Fund to build community resilience across Pakistan. CSA-P members are supporting programs on addressing issues of irregular migration, child sex workers, community resilience against trafficking in persons and improving civil society capacity with respect to prevention and protection.

Key Outcomes:

- Strengthened Civil Society engagement and support with affected communities across Pakistan
- Empowered local actors, community-based leaders and youth to engage in awareness-raising and knowledge sharing on organized crime, particularly trafficking of persons and migrant smuggling



3.2 Awareness and Knowledge Sharing

3.2.1 Diagnostic Study on Non-Consensual Intimate Imagery (NCII)

Background: CGR and CFHR, in collaboration with the National Cyber Crimes Investigation Agency (NCCIA) initiated a diagnostic study on Pakistan's institutional and legal response to cybercrime, with a special focus on online harms disproportionately affecting women and girls. As Pakistan's lead

investigative body for cyber offences, NCCIA role in the study was central to ensure effective uptake and implementation of results. The study aimed to support Pakistan's efforts to strengthen national responses and align with international frameworks, including the forthcoming UNCC (Hanoi Convention).

Date & Location: September 2025 - ongoing, Pakistan

Objective: To document Pakistan's institutional and legal response to cybercrime, with particular emphasis on the role of NCCIA as the lead investigative body, to examine and understand how cybercrime cases are reported, investigated, and prosecuted — particularly in sensitive areas such as NCII offences, child protection, and online harassment.

CSA Contribution: CSA-P member organizations conceptualized and led the diagnostic study.

3.2.2 Commemorating the Second International Day for the Prevention of and Fight against All Forms of Transnational Organized Crime

Background: The UN General Assembly through resolution 78/267 designated 15 November as the International Day for the Prevention of and Fight against All Forms of Transnational Organized Crime. The resolution was part of the lead-up to the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the UNTOC in 2025.

Following the success of the 1st International TOC Day in Pakistan, jointly organized by CFHR, CGR, and GITOC, convening diverse stakeholders to discuss organized crime challenges in Pakistan, efforts were made to institutionalize TOC Day. Building on this momentum, the second commemoration aimed to further deepen dialogue, increase participation, and strengthen collaboration between civil society, researchers, and policymakers. For press release click [here](#).

Date & Location: 12 November 2025, Universal College Lahore, Pakistan

Objective: To commemorate the International Day for the Prevention of and Fight against All Forms of Transnational Organized Crime by convening civil society, researchers, and sector experts to discuss emerging organized crime trends, strengthen collaboration, and identify priorities for prevention and response in Pakistan and the wider region.

CSA Contribution: To commemorate the 2nd International Day for the Prevention of and Fight against All Forms of TOC, a hybrid discussion brought together national and international civil society and sector experts voices to shape upcoming priorities and next steps. High-level dialogues with state representatives are enriched through engagement with national, global and international experts and civil society representatives, creating broader opportunities to combat TOC using traditional and non-traditional approaches and ensuring a holistic focus on all affected groups. Joint platforms for dialogue between civil society and law enforcement must be in-built, reflecting inclusion of voices less heard

and space for meaningful engagement on TOC challenges for women and other vulnerable groups, and to identify shared pathways for prevention and protection of these groups. By mainstreaming cross-cutting issues like illicit economic disruption, national stakeholders can drive holistic and effective TOC prevention efforts aimed at dismantling criminal networks at their source.



Key Outcomes:

- Convened national and international experts, civil society actors, and researchers to mark the 2nd International TOC Day and discuss emerging trends in Pakistan.
- Strengthened dialogue and collaboration between civil society and law enforcement stakeholders on responses to organized crime.
- Highlighted community-level impacts of organized crime, including implications for women, youth and vulnerable groups.

3.2.3 First Multi-Stakeholders Workshop on National Strategy Against Organized Crime in Pakistan

Background: A number of consultative workshops, conferences and dialogues were hosted as part of a national effort to seek input and recommendations on the Strategic Analysis of Organized Crime in Pakistan, and the subsequent organized crime strategy for Pakistan, supported by UNODC Country Office Pakistan.

Date & Location: 30 September – 1 October 2025, Islamabad, Pakistan

Objective: Initiative amplifying youth voices and raising awareness on organized crime issues.

CSA Contribution: The workshop brought together government officials, law enforcement agencies, international organizations, civil society representatives, and policy experts to initiate dialogue and gather insights for developing Pakistan's first national strategy to combat organised crime. Participants agreed that addressing organised crime requires strong institutions, effective laws, cross-sector collaboration, and sustained political commitment. Moving forward, continued consultation and cooperation will be essential to finalize and implement the strategy.



Key Outcome: Increased civil society presence, relevance and inclusion in national policy-making processes and documentation.

3.2.4 Conference on National Strategy Against Organised Crime in Pakistan — Prioritising Gender, Youth, and Civil Society Voices

Background: A number of consultative workshops, conferences and dialogues were hosted as part of a national effort to seek input and recommendations on the Strategic Analysis of Organized Crime in Pakistan, and the subsequent organized crime strategy for Pakistan, supported by UNODC Country Office Pakistan.

Date & Location: 12 November 2025, Universal College Lahore, Lahore, Pakistan

Objective: To provide a platform for voices that often remain unheard in organized crime strategy development and interventions and to explore the intersections between organized crime and gender, youth, poverty and other social vulnerabilities in Pakistan.



CSA Contribution: The CFHR, CGR with support and funding from the UNODC COPAK, hosted a one-day Conference on organized crime. The Conference prioritized inclusion and meaningful participation of youth and gender, acting as its theme and backdrop for dialogue. The event brought together a total of 67 participants, including high-level representatives from government, law enforcement, civil society,

academia, international experts, along with youth representatives who were given an equal share of the table for the first time in an organized conference context in Pakistan.

The event was organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Pakistan, in collaboration with the CGR and the CFHR. Participants noted the significance of adopting a whole-of-society approach and creating space for youth and gender voices in high-level policy dialogues and in preparation of policies and plans.

Key Outcome: Mainstreaming of gender, youth and civil society voices in Strategic Analysis for the upcoming National Organized Crime Strategy of Pakistan.



3.2.5 Conference on National Strategy Against Organized Crime in Pakistan Engagement with Civil Society, Academia, and Business Community in Sindh

Background: A number of consultative workshops, conferences and dialogues were hosted as part of a national effort to seek input and recommendations on the Strategic Analysis of Organized Crime in Pakistan, and the subsequent organized crime strategy for Pakistan, supported by UNODC Country Office Pakistan.

Date & Location: 15 November 2025, Sindh Police Museum, Karachi, Pakistan

Objective: To promote collaboration among government institutions, civil society, and the private sector through the conference platform where stakeholders could openly share their experiences and perspectives in order to contribute to a national strategy that is both practical and inclusive.



CSA Contribution: Mr. Saud Mirza, former Inspector General of Police Sindh and former Director General of the Federal Investigation Agency led the Conference, bringing together a diverse group of stakeholders including representatives from law enforcement, the judiciary, academia, civil society, media, and the business community. Participants pointed out the cross-cutting nature of Pakistan's informal economy and high-functioning criminal networks. They emphasized the need for stronger

coordination between provinces and more effective law enforcement responses to ensure a secure business environment.

Key Outcomes: Improved collaboration and dialogue between civil society, government and business sector stakeholders, noting the significance of private actors in effective combatting of organized crime.

3.2.6 National Strategy Against Organised Crime in Pakistan-Dialogue with Special Court Judges, Bar and Legal Experts

Background: A number of consultative workshops, conferences and dialogues were hosted as part of a national effort to seek input and recommendations on the Strategic Analysis of Organized Crime in Pakistan, and the subsequent organized crime strategy for Pakistan, supported by UNODC Country Office Pakistan.

Date & Location: 10 December 2025, Federal Judicial Academy, Islamabad, Pakistan

Objective: To ensure law enforcement challenges, judicial capacity concerns and prosecution related gaps are effectively incorporated into the National Strategy on Organized Crime.

CSA Contribution: This workshop targeted input and insights from judges, bar and legal experts to ensure the strategy reflects challenges and concerns raised by all involved parties. Participants reflected on systemic and structural weaknesses that hamper effective prosecution of OCGs in Pakistan, including political will, gaps in legislative framework, inadequate investigative capacities, etc.

Key Outcomes: Improved coordination and cooperation with law enforcement and judiciary as key stakeholders in implementation of the national strategy on organized crime.





3.2.7 Pakistani Youth Against TOC — Pledge Video — Youth-led Engagement Initiative

Background: On the 2nd International Day for the Prevention of and Fight against All Forms of Transnational Organized Crime (TOC), Pakistan's youth stepped forward with purpose through a collective video pledge initiative. The pledge video highlighted the role of youth as advocates for awareness, prevention, and action against organized crime, while encouraging broader youth engagement in conversations around TOC and its societal impacts. Access full video [here](#).

Date & Location: 15 November 2025, Pakistan (online release).

Objective: An initiative amplifying youth voices and raising awareness on organized crime issues by encouraging young people to publicly commit to awareness, engagement, and collective action against TOC in Pakistan.

CSA Contribution: CSA-P partner, CFHR, mobilized youth participants and facilitated the development and dissemination of the Youth Pledge video, providing a platform for young voices to express their commitment to addressing organized crime challenges and promoting awareness among their peers and communities.

Key Outcome:

- Youth participants publicly pledged their commitment to raising awareness, promoting engagement, and supporting collective action against TOC in Pakistan.
- Strengthened youth visibility and participation in national conversations on organized crime.
- Contributed to commemorating the 2nd International Day against TOC through youth-led advocacy and digital outreach.



3.3 Advocacy and Policy Engagement

3.3.1 Development of a National Organized Crime Strategy & Strategic Analysis of OC in Pakistan

Background: The Government of Pakistan expressed interest in developing the first national organized crime strategy to ensure future interventions were targeted, sustainable and effective in combating organized crime. UNDOC's support in developing this strategy originates from its mandate, as stated in Resolution 10/4, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to UNTOC. To facilitate development of the strategy, a strategic analysis of OC landscape in Pakistan was undertaken to identify and understand key criminal markets, stakeholders, criminal networks and affected persons.

Date & Location: April - December 2025, Pakistan

Objective: To strengthen rule of law and the criminal justice system in preventing and responding to organized crime.

CSA Contribution: The CSA-P contributed to the development of the National Strategy & Strategic Framework on Organized Crime, making an important milestone in the country's efforts to address the growing challenge of organised crime. The national strategy has the potential to enhance security, strengthen governance, and protect Pakistan's social and economic development from the threats posed by organised crime. CSA-P contributions supported research, analysis, drafting and policy engagement with GoP during the development stages of the strategic framework and national strategy.

Key Outcomes: Creation of the first-ever national strategy on organized crime with input, feedback and reflections of a range of stakeholders including but not limited to civil society, academia, law enforcement, communities, youth and private sector.

3.3.2 Side Event and Civil Society Representation at the Hanoi Signing Ceremony

Background: The Signing Ceremony and High-Level Conference on the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime (UNCC) marked a significant milestone in global efforts to improve criminalization, prevention and response to evolving cyber threats. The event brought together 119 Member States, with 72 signing the Convention during the Conference. The event was attended by high-level delegations, civil society and private sector representatives and international and regional organizations, to formalize commitments to the UNCC and reaffirm the importance of coordinated and collective responses to transnational cybercrime.

Date & Location: 25-26 October 2025, Hanoi, Vietnam

Objective: To ensure representation of Pakistan's Civil Society and to showcase cybercrime related concerns from Pakistan.

CSA Contribution: Pakistan's civil society maintained national visibility at the Hanoi conference, reflecting an ongoing commitment to multilateral engagement on cyber security and governance, and demonstrating ongoing cooperation between government and civil society actors in Pakistan. H.E. Mr. Kohdayar Marri, Ambassador of Pakistan to Viet Nam, also attended, showcasing high-level representation and diplomatic engagement with the event. CSA--P engagement facilitated engagement with regional and international counterparts, including UNODC and World Bank officials, exploring avenues for technical cooperation, policy exchange, and future capacity-building.

CGR and CFHR hosted a side event on NCII sharing and safeguarding women and vulnerable groups. The panel discussion brought together national and international experts, including Ms. Nariman ElGendy (UNODC), Mr. Ian Tenant (GITOC), Mr. David Wright (South West Grid for Learning) and Mr. Umar Mahmood Khan (CFHR) to build synergies and identify solutions to capacity and technological gaps in the Global South. The side event underscored the significance of building up national infrastructure and systems in the face of rapidly-evolving technology and cyber crime. CSA-P was also represented in a panel discussion hosted by UNODC on national success stories on leveraging public-private partnerships to combat organized crime in Pakistan, and the potential for such collaborations at the national, regional and global level to combat cyber crime.

Key Outcomes: Improved opportunity for advocacy with Government of Pakistan to position itself as a key partner to the Cybercrime Convention and position it as a proactive and crucial actor in the evolving global digital governance landscape.



3.3.3 Civil Society Declaration – Pakistan

Background: Following the adoption of the UNTOC Review Mechanism, conscious efforts have been made to shift from a purely security and governance lens, to a more human rights and whole-of-society approach to combat organized crime. Pakistan is among the first countries to adopt this approach, demonstrating a willingness to embed civil society knowledge and community insights into policy

processes, institutional reforms, and national responses to organized crime. The Civil Society Declaration - Pakistan, marks the first collective statement on organized crime by CSOs in Pakistan.

Date & Location: September 2025, Pakistan

Objective: To convey key concerns and recommendations of civil society in Pakistan when it comes to the fight against organized crime and implementation of the UNTOC.

CSA Contribution: Building from experience in supporting drafting of a global civil society declaration in 2024, members from the CSA-P led conceptualization and development of the CSD in Pakistan as well. CSA-P members utilized different forums, including the multi-stakeholder workshops held in connection with the development of the National Strategy on Organized Crime in Pakistan, to capture key insights and input from members within CSA-P and beyond.

Key Outcomes: Increase opportunity for coordinated, cohesive and joint civil society engagement on organized crime in Pakistan.

3.3.4 Contribution to the UNTOC Constructive Dialogues (2025)

Background: Since 2022, CSOs from Pakistan have been participating in the Constructive Dialogues under UNTOC. This includes participation as panelists and subject-matter experts, observers and CSA-P representatives.

Objective: To ensure forward-facing representation of civil society at the Constructive Dialogues.

CSA Contribution: This year, Pakistan was represented by CGR and CFHR, on behalf of the CSA-P at the five constructive dialogues: firearms (30 April), international cooperation and technical assistance (02 June), trafficking in persons (08 October) and smuggling of migrants (13 October). CSA-P members presented the Pakistan Perspective on a number of panels including but not limited to:

- Introduction to the National & Regional Multi Stakeholder Engagement Initiatives on UNTOC Implementation (VPs, National Alliances, Regional Networks), Multistakeholder Preparation Day held ahead of the Constructive Dialogue on Firearms 2025,
- 25 years after the adoption of the UNTOC: An assessment of the impact and added value of the Convention in the prevention of and fight against transnational organized crime, including through collaboration with civil society, Constructive Dialogue on Technical Assistance & International Cooperation, and
- Frontlines of Hope: Showcasing Successful PVE Initiatives and National Policy Advances in Pakistan, Side event at 34th Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPJ)

Key Outcomes: Increased global understanding and recognition of civil society efforts and engagement in Pakistan.

3.3.5 Youth Experiences in Addressing Cybercrimes & Drug Trafficking

Background: Youth are increasingly affected by emerging forms of organized crime, particularly cybercrime and drug trafficking. However, their perspectives and lived experiences remain largely absent from policy discussions. This session created space for young voices to share challenges and recommendations for prevention and response.

Date & Location: 12 November 2025, Universal College Lahore, Pakistan

Objective: Efforts aimed at promoting youth participation in policy dialogue and organized crime prevention.

CSA Contribution: The first youth panel at a high-level conference in Pakistan, bringing together 5 youth representatives from public and private sector educational institutions across Lahore.

Key challenges: predatory online spaces; no digital literature as a precursor to online scams and harassment; false implication of youth in drug cases, etc. *Priority recommendations:* youth presence in policy-making; greater civic space for engagement & deeper connections with regional/international youth counterparts.

Key Outcomes:

- Elevated youth perspectives within national discussions on cybercrime and drug trafficking.
- Identified key youth-related risks and challenges within Pakistan's organized crime landscape and generated priority recommendations for stronger youth inclusion in policy dialogue and prevention initiatives.





3.3.6 Youth-led advocacy campaign on TOC

Background: Youth engagement is critical to raising awareness and building community resilience against TOC. The campaign aimed to empower students to learn about TOC issues and advocate for prevention through creative and accessible platforms.

Date & Location: 4-15 November 2025, Pakistan

Objective: To mobilize youth as advocates for awareness and prevention of TOC through creative engagement and digital outreach.

CSA Contribution: Students teamed up with CFHR to learn & advocate on TOC prevention and protection. Through youth-led social media content and an informal meet & coffee session, with 25+ students coming together to express their sentiments on TOC through paint & artwork. Participants discussed alternative means of advocacy through theatrical performances for awareness-raising, constructing safe spaces and increasing relatability of such information-sharing through local festivals and games.

Students from all across Pakistan joined hands to pledge to do more, in their own capacity, on the 2nd International TOC Day. The pledge video identified youth priority areas: corruption, irregular migration, drug & arms trafficking, and cyber crimes. Pledges included: enhancing youth involvement in counter-TOC narratives and formulating a collective youth vision to steer policy dialogue / programming.

Key Outcomes:

- Generated 20,000+ organic online views through campaign content on Instagram.
- Engaged students from across Pakistan in advocacy and dialogue on TOC prevention.

- Strengthened youth-led awareness and creative approaches to community engagement on organized crime.



4. Strategic Priorities for 2026

Pakistan's experience with the UNTOC Review Mechanism Pilot Initiative has demonstrated the immense value of multi-stakeholder engagement in combating organized crime. By institutionalizing civil society participation, enhancing inter-agency collaboration, and developing comprehensive national strategies, Pakistan has set a model for other States Parties. Through proactive engagement, the country has strengthened institutional responses and international cooperation, reinforcing transparency, inclusivity, and effectiveness in addressing transnational organized crime. Moving forward, sustained efforts and institutional reforms will be essential in advancing Pakistan's leadership in global crime prevention and justice initiatives. For next year key strategic priorities for the CSA-P include:

- Promoting political uptake and formal endorsement of a National Organized Crime Strategy
- Advancing the operationalization of the Central & South Asia Observatory Strategic Framework at the national level
- Leading strategic communications campaigns, including social media outreach, to broaden public engagement and positively shape narratives on organized crime in Pakistan
- Strengthening meaningful civil society participation from Pakistan at the United Nations Crime Congress 2026
- Strengthening engagement with and operationalizing collaborative initiatives under NET4U Asia
- Sustaining active engagement in the Constructive Dialogues 2026 under the UNTOC Review Mechanism
- Contributing substantively to global discussions at the CCPCJ in June 2026
- Expanding youth engagement to address trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants, drug trafficking and technology-facilitated harms

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