

# FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE PACIFIC PROSECUTORS ASSOCIATION

Honiara, Solomon Islands

11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> July 2012

## FINAL COMMUNIQUÉ

1. From the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> July, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions of Solomon Islands hosted the Fourth Annual Conference of the Pacific Prosecutors Association (PPA) in Honiara, Solomon Islands, in collaboration with the Solomon Islands Government, the Commonwealth Secretariat and RAMSI.
2. The Fourth Annual Conference was attended by PPA Members from the offices of Attorneys-General and offices of Directors of Public Prosecutions of: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Western Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.
3. The Conference was also attended by representatives from RAMSI, the Australian Association of Crown Prosecutors, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Crown Law Office of New Zealand, the International Association of Prosecutors, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions of Hong Kong, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, the Secretariat of the Pacific Islands Law Officers' Network, the United Nations Development Program (Pacific Centre), the United Nations Office of Drug and Crime and the World Bank.
4. The Conference was opened by the Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands, the Honorable Gordon Darcy LILO. The theme of the Conference was *"Building Prosecutor Capacity: Dismantling the Web of Corruption."*
5. The Conference considered:
  - a. The multifarious and negative impacts of corruption on Pacific Islands' jurisdictions;

- b. The various institutional models for prosecuting corruption, including the establishment of independent commissions against corruption and the expansion of jurisdiction of existing institutions to also address corruption issues;
  - c. The *United Nations Convention Against Corruption*, which sets international standards for the prevention of corruption;
  - d. The laws, processes and assistance available for Pacific Island jurisdictions in tracing and recovering assets obtained through corruption;
  - e. The fundamentally important role of prosecutors in upholding judicial and prosecutorial independence and the way that different models of prosecutorial services can impact on the prosecutorial independence;
  - f. The legal and procedural issues associated with criminal prosecution in Pacific Island jurisdictions; and
  - g. The forms of regional and international support available for prosecutors in Pacific Island jurisdictions.
6. Further to its consideration of the above issues, the Conference:

#### **Integrity of the Prosecution Services**

- a. Encouraged PPA Members to consider establishing in their respective jurisdictions a code of ethics and professional standards for prosecutors, which could include transparent and objective disciplinary mechanisms, asset declaration statements, and provisions for conditions of service, and appropriate remuneration;

#### **Combating Corruption**

- b. Confirmed the commitment of PPA Members to combat corruption at all levels;

- c. Encouraged PPA Members to recommend to the appropriate national authorities to further strengthen their respective legislative frameworks for combating corruption in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Corruption; and
- d. Encouraged PPA Members whose jurisdictions are Parties to the Convention to effectively cooperate in the review mechanism pursuant to the obligations of the Convention;

### **Strengthening Human Resources**

- e. Encouraged PPA Members to pursue the strengthening of human resources of prosecutorial organizations through training, specialization, use of transparent guidelines and policies; and
- f. Encouraged PPA Members to consider implementing public service reforms to retain staff, including revision of mechanisms used for promotions and the setting of remuneration, and to provide appropriate equipment and adequate infrastructure essential for the conduct of prosecutions.

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13 July 2012