



# PILON Week Webinar – The effects of COVID-19 on cybercrime in the Pacific

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**10 November 2020, online  
Provided under GLACY + project**

## Outline

### Background and justification

The Pacific region is an attractive target and base for malicious cyber actors, with increasing internet connectivity and limited legislative and operational capacity for Pacific island law enforcement agencies to respond.

Since cybercrime is recognised as a priority and included in the Strategic Plan 2019 - 2021, the Council of Europe has been partnering with PILON in raising awareness on the cyber threats and finding mutual approaches to augment the adoption of national cybercrime legal frameworks aligned to international standards in the Pacific region.

At present, countries worldwide still learn how to cope with the effects of the pandemic and uncertainties around its evolution. The COVID-19 pandemic has rendered individuals and society extremely vulnerable in all respects. During this crisis, we all have been relying more than ever on computer systems, mobile devices and the Internet to work, communicate, shop, share and receive information and otherwise mitigate the impact of social distancing.

Unfortunately, malicious actors have been exploiting these vulnerabilities to their own advantage and a proliferation of attempts to commit crimes through Internet has been recorded in the last period. In this context, criminal justice authorities have been playing a central role in contrasting the upsurge of cybercrimes both on the global and on the local level, despite the increased challenges that such a scenario has been putting forward.

This regional workshop organised by the PILON Cybercrime Working Group will be dedicated to tackle the issues above and the impact that they have been having in the Pacific. In particular, the event is aimed to discuss challenges encountered by criminal justice authorities in the region in addressing the cybercrime issues during the COVID-19 pandemic and present good practices and possible solutions to further strengthen the criminal justice response in the region and globally.

Due to the pandemic outbreak and the global restrictions to travels and physical meetings, the event will take place online and will consist of a thematic webinar, open for participation of criminal justice authorities from the Pacific region and interested counterparts from the rest of the world.

The workshop is supported by the GLACY+ project of the Council of Europe and the European Union and by the Australian Government, through the Attorney General's Department.

## **Objectives**

Carried out under Objective on cybercrime legislation and policies of the Glacy + project, the activity aims to address the current cybercrime challenges in the COVID-19 context in the region and encourage the sharing of experiences and best practices on matters related to cybercrime and electronic evidence.

Council of Europe will use the opportunity to present the global perspective on the cybercrime legislation, the new legal instruments to be introduced by the Second Additional Protocol to the Budapest Convention and the progress made with respect to its negotiation.

To this end, the workshop is intended to address the proposed topics from layered angles, law enforcement and judiciary, with experts and testimonials from the region.

## **Expected outcome**

By the end of this workshop, the participants will gain a better understanding of:

- Challenges of the law enforcement agencies and judiciary in the region in fighting cybercrime in current pandemic context;
- Efforts done and milestones achieved by PILON countries in adopting a cybercrime legislation in line with international standards and in strengthening the criminal justice capacities to respond to the increasing threats posed by cyber actors;

## **Current progress achieved in negotiation of the Second Additional Protocol to the Budapest Convention. Participants**

The workshop is open for participation to all interested counterparts.

Due to its targeted nature, the workshop is deemed particularly relevant for cybercrime policy makers, criminal justice and law enforcement professionals coming from the 17 Pacific island countries that, together with Australia and New Zealand, are members of PILON: America Samoa, the Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Pitcairn Islands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu).

More than 100 participants are expected to join.

## **Administrative arrangements and location**

The workshops will be held remotely via a video-conferencing platform. The format of the workshop is a response to the current COVID-19 pandemic, which prohibits international travel and the physical participation to events in large groups without endangering public health. The participants are invited to register at:

<https://primetime.bluejeans.com/a2m/register/xgdaqzcf>.

## Draft Agenda

10 November 2020

Samoa time	
14h00	<b>Opening session – Welcoming remarks and webinar goals</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• PILON</li><li>• Council of Europe</li></ul>
14h10	<b>Investigations of money laundering by cybercrime and virtual assets – redefined by COVID-19</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• YOU Jung Kee, INTERPOL</li></ul>
14h25	<b>COVID-19 and cybercrime in the Pacific: the criminal justice perspective</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Patricia Femia, Australia’s Federal Prosecution Service</li></ul>
14h40	<b>Importance of an effective cybercrime legislation in the region</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Virgil Spiridon, Cybercrime Programme Office, Council of Europe</li></ul>
14h55	<b>Questions &amp; answers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Moderated by Council of Europe</li></ul>
15h25	<b>Key takeaways and concluding remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• PILON</li></ul>
15h30	End of the webinar

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