



PILON
Secretariat

PILON COUNTRY REPORT TEMPLATE

Please return this completed report to the PILON Secretariat (coordinator@pilonsec.org) by no later than **cob Friday 16th October 2020**, to facilitate timely circulation to PILON members prior to the meeting. Please advise if you do not wish your Country Report to be made available on the PILON website.

COUNTRY REPORT PRESENTATION:

PILON 2020 will be much shorter than previous years due to the constraints of meeting through a virtual platform. As the country report presentations are typically allocated 3 hours of meeting time, it will be a challenge to hear directly from each PILON member country. The Secretariat welcomes oral updates to the meeting this year on an opt-in basis. Please advise the PILON Secretariat by 11 September 2020 if you wish to present a short update, so that we can allocate time on the agenda.

The time for presentation will be strictly limited to **five (5) minutes** and we ask that the focus be on **one key law and justice achievement** that is relevant to **one** of the PILON Strategic priorities; Sexual and Gender Based Violence, Cybercrime, Corruption or you may choose to discuss the COVID-19 Pandemic experience from a law and justice perspective, including its impacts on any one of the PILON strategic priorities.

COVID – 19

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 crisis, national governments have taken measures to address and mitigate the adverse systemic impact of the pandemic on all aspects of our lives. In particular, PILON members are now engaged in efforts to provide clarity to governments on the application of legal frameworks and measures to support a significant number of policy challenges on this pandemic, at both the national and international levels.

A key law and justice achievement could include a report on any recent legal reform, a review or introduction of important legislation or accession to a new international treaty, or efforts taken during the pandemic operations with your respective governments.

It is not necessary to prepare a written presentation for this update.

COUNTRY REPORT WRITTEN SUBMISSION:

The Country Report written submission should be limited to 10-15 pages and include the following titles:

1. Major law and justice sector achievements

A report with recommendations from an independent assessment of the needs of our Justice system is currently being considered by Tokelau's governance institutions, national and local.

2. Significant court decisions

None to report

3. PILON strategic priorities

Draft Cyber Rules 2019 gone through first reading by Legislature. Developed "*for the protection of children and the people of Tokelau from committing offences and indecent behaviors*". Currently at public consultation stage, however with isolation and travel restrictions in place due to COVID19, process has stalled somewhat.

Aspiration is that rules are in place before easier access to the internet with the completion of the Southern Cross NEXT submarine cable.

4. Significant issues (including COVID-19) impacting the law and justice sector, and options to address these issues

Lack of skilled practitioners and hence easy access to legal advice for the general populace remains a significant challenge for us. Although we have a handful of registered practitioners, only two (2) are easily accessible ie: employed by the government and are therefore accessible by all. Remaining registered practitioners are based overseas. Though aspiring to provide easier access for everyone in our communities, at the moment this gap is largely filled by remote assistance from Samoa registered practitioners.

5. Significant initiatives/projects involving the member country and its law and justice sector

None at this stage. Being considered under the independent assessment referred to in (1) above.

6. Technical legal assistance

Tokelau does have many needs for technical legal assistance however these will become clearer once our governance institutions have fully considered the recommendations from the independent assessment.

7. Contact information for key law and justice agencies

[Including but not limited to: Attorney General’s Office, Ministry of Justice, Directors of Public Prosecutions, Crown Law Office, Courts, Law Reform Commission, People’s Lawyer, Office of Parliamentary Counsel, etc.]

Agency	Key responsibilities	Contact person and position	Phone number and email
Office of the Council for the Ongoing Government of Tokelau	Umbrella for Judiciary	Mr Aukusitino Vitale, General Manager National	tino.vitale@tokelau.org.nz +690 740 484