



CORRUPTION WORKING GROUP MEETING

MINUTES

Friday 4th September 2020

12.00 noon Nauru time

1. Welcome: Corruption WG Chair – Ronald Talasasa – Director Public Prosecution Republic of Nauru.

2. Present

- i. Ernestine Rengiil – Attorney General, Palau
- ii. Jana Epati – Senior Crown Counsel, Cook Islands
- iii. Martha Piper – Senior Policy Officer, Australia
- iv. Andrew Kelesi – Deputy DPP, Solomon Islands
- v. Sasae Walter – Coordinator, PILON
- vi. Rosy Fogatia – Assistant Coordinator, PILON
- vii. Jesse Mihkel -Assistant Attorney General, FSM

3. Minutes from previous WG Meeting 21 July 2020 – Approved

4. Matters for Discussion:

1. Online delivery of corruption-related law and justice support in the context of COVID-19

MP presented the Discussion Paper on online delivery of corruption-related law and justice support in the context of COVID-19.

The agreed topics for the webinar pilot are:

a. **Overview of sources of evidence.**

- i. This webinar would outline the sources of evidence to draw on in prosecuting corruption (e.g.: statements, digital, documentary), using examples. It should note the complex evidentiary issues involved in prosecuting corruption.

b. **Analysis and presentation of evidence.**

- i. This webinar would provide some practical steps for prosecutors to follow to effectively analyse and present their evidence for trial.

Its intended that the webinars be shared with members of PILON for viewing in October. At the end of October, a Zoom videoconference will be held with the webinar presenters to answer the questions raised over Slido and participants will be given an opportunity to ask further questions. A feedback survey will be distributed following the live Zoom videoconference.

Another topic that was shared by RT was “**Dealing with Difficult Witnesses.**”

In this training we can learn crucial skills such as formulating the right questions, dealing with difficult witnesses (such as the hostile witness or the reluctant witness etc), handling interruptions from relatives, lawyers, and more. This topic will be

woven into the two pilot webinars if possible, and may be addressed more comprehensively in future webinars.

Proposed Workplan:

	Activities	Dates
1	CWG members agree on webinar topics and approach speakers	early September 2020
2	Progress WG meeting	18 September
3	Experts prepare webinars (with technical support from Australian Attorney-General's Department)	2 October 2020
4	Webinars shared with PILON community and Slido online discussion opened	6 October 2020
5	Zoom Q&A held with experts and PILON community	27 October 2020
6	Survey on pilot circulated to PILON members for response	30 October 2020
7	CWG meet in margins of PILON Annual Meeting	5 November 2020
8	Further workplan and other relevant materials prepared to implement next steps	

2. PILON Annual Meeting Corruption Working Group Event

PILON Secretariat is tasked to write to PPA Chair, Josaia Naigulevu to invite PPA to partner with the Corruption WG on virtual delivery options in light of the cancelled Prosecuting Corruption Workshop, including inviting the Chair of PPA to sit on a Zoom Q&A panel at the end of October 2020.

PILON Secretariat is also tasked to write to UN-PRAC and invite them to present on the effects of COVID-19 on corruption, as a side event in conjunction with the virtual Annual Meeting.

3. Update on Prosecuting Corruption in the Pacific Booklet

The Secretariat updated members that additional edits have been incorporated and some comments and feedback have been reworded a bit for inclusion in Handbook. In addition, section titles are now added for uniformity and will be forwarded to members for confirmation before insertion in updated version of Handbook.

5. **Other Matters:**

Samoa requested to become a member of the Corruption Working Group. The WG agreed to Samoa becoming a member of the working group and decided that this matter be relayed by WG Chair at annual meeting.

The WG also referred to PILON charter and asked if a clause on membership to WGs be included for easy referrals in matters of same.

6. **Next Meeting:** Friday 18 September 2020

7. **Meeting Closed**

Minutes approved by the Corruption WG Members - 18th September 2020