



## 40<sup>th</sup> PILON ANNUAL MEETING 2021

Online

### OUTCOMES REPORT

1. Members of the Pacific Islands Law Officers' Network (PILON) met online for the 40<sup>th</sup> annual PILON meeting on 5 November 2021.
2. Ms Su'a Hellene Wallwork, Acting Attorney General (Samoa) and PILON Chair welcomed PILON members to the meeting and to the online format.

#### PILON's Strategic Priorities

### Corruption

3. Members noted the report from the Corruption Working Group and thanked the Chair Nauru and the other Working Group members (American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands and Solomon Islands) for their work over the last year.
4. In particular, Members:
  - a) Noted the Working Group in collaboration with UN-PRAC, produced a three-part webinar series on Whistleblower Protections;
  - b) Noted the Working Group released an updated edition of the *Framework for Prosecuting Corruption* booklet, which provides information on corruption offences in each Pacific country;
  - c) Noted the Working Group is currently developing a series of animated videos which will be based on the themes of the 'Who, what, why of whistleblower protections' booklet; and
  - d) Noted that in 2022 the Working Group will focus on providing training and resources for officials involved in investigating and prosecuting corruption. The Working Group is also exploring the possibility of collaborating with the Cybercrime Working Group to provide training on the use of digital evidence.
5. The Working Group membership will remain the same in 2022.

## Cybercrime

6. Members noted the report from Tonga as the Chair of the Cybercrime Working Group and thanked Tonga and the other Working Group members (American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, New Zealand, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu) for their achievements over the last year.
7. In particular, Members:
  - a) Noted the Working Group delivered two series of webinars on the topics of 'Cybercrime and Children in a Covid-19 World' and 'Addressing Image Based Abuse' (co-delivered with the SGBV working group);
  - b) Noted the Working Group ran for the first time, an online scholarship course on 'digital forensics', with 14 participants from 11 Pacific Island countries;
  - c) Noted the Working Group will deliver a webinar on 'Disinformation' in partnership with the Council of Europe on 26 November 2021, and encouraged PILON members to attend this online event; and
  - d) Noted that in 2022 the Working Group intends to create a series of webinars and online activities to combat cybercrime in the region, and will run the Zyber scholarships 'Fundamentals of Digital Forensics' beginners course in the second half of the year.
8. The Working Group membership will remain the same in 2022, with the addition of Federated States of Micronesia who will be joining in 2022.

## Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

9. Members noted the report from Samoa as the Acting Chair of the Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) Working Group and thanked Samoa and the other Working Group members (American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Tokelau and Vanuatu) for their work over the last year.
10. In particular, Members:
  - a) Noted that the updates to the *Model Provisions and Explanatory Text (Supporting vulnerable witnesses in cases involving sexual and gender based violence)* (Model Provisions) have been finalised, and the updated version is available on the PILON website;
  - b) Noted that the Working Group is close to finalising the videos of SGBV members' success stories in supporting vulnerable witnesses, with thanks to Solomon Islands, Samoa, Kiribati and New Zealand for their contributions;
  - c) Noted that the Working Group co-delivered a two-part webinar on 'Addressing Image Based Abuse' with the Cybercrime Working Group. The webinars are available on the PILON website and PILON YouTube Channel; and

- d) Noted that in 2022 the Working Group intends to deliver a series of webinars to assist with the implementation of the Model Provisions (Special Measures), and to develop regional Guidelines to support vulnerable witnesses through the prosecution of sexual offences.
11. Australia thanked Samoa for their chairing of the SGBV Working Group, and offered to assist PILON country members with this work, including with the implementation of the Model Provisions.
12. The Working Group membership will remain the same in 2022.

### **Country reports**

13. Members welcomed the country reports provided by PILON members on recent developments and issues of interest in their jurisdictions.

### **Secretariat and Governance matters**

## **PILON Secretariat**

14. Members:
- a) Thanked the Secretariat for its report on activities during 2021;
  - b) Noted the 2020-21 PILON Activities Budget Financial Report and the 2020-21 Secretariat Operational Budget Financial Report;
  - c) Noted the 2021-22 Secretariat Operational Budget;
  - d) Thanked the Secretariat for its outstanding work in supporting members over the past year and in particular the transition to online engagement; and
  - e) Thanked Australia, New Zealand and the staff of the Office of the Attorney General in Samoa for their ongoing support for PILON.

### **Planning for 2022**

15. Members:
- a) Welcomed and accepted the standing offer of Nauru to host the 41st PILON Annual Meeting in 2022;
  - b) Agreed that the existing Executive Committee will continue their role into 2022, consisting of Samoa (Chair), Nauru (incoming Chair), Cook Islands (immediate past Chair), Australia, New Zealand, Solomon Islands and Tonga; and
  - c) Agreed that the PILON Strategic Plan (2019-2021) will be extended for an additional year into 2022 given the ongoing impact of COVID-19.