



TALANOA



December 2021: Issue 3

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This is our last TALANOA publication for this year, 2021, and what a year it has been with the COVID-19 vaccination and strict lockdown challenges we have all endured.

In the absence of physical meetings and conferences, PILON continues to hold webinars and record live videos on various Working Group projects for members to access.

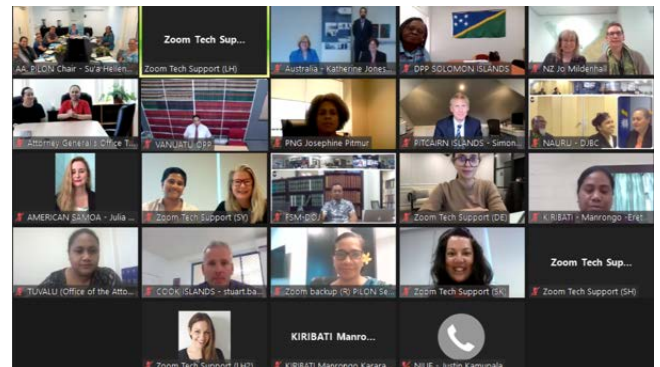
The 40th PILON Annual Meeting was held on the 5th November 2021 as a virtual event. It was a very successful meeting and we all hope that 2022 will allow us to meet face-to-face in Nauru for the next Annual Meeting.

Our many webinars hosted by the Working Groups have been uploaded onto the PILON website (www.pilonsec.org), so we encourage you to utilise these online resources and to keep in touch with the PILON Community via our Facebook page.

40TH PILON ANNUAL MEETING

The 40th Annual Meeting of PILON was held on 5th November 2021. This is the second time the Annual Meeting has been held virtually. The Acting Attorney General of Samoa, *Su'a Hellene Wallwork*, chaired the virtual meeting with technical support provided by the Attorney-General's Department in Canberra, Australia.

The meeting agenda consisted of the Working Group Chairs providing updates to members on their work throughout this year. It has been a very busy year for our Working Group members with activities including webinars, recorded videos, interviews, finalised publications and frameworks and even online courses for nominated prosecutors.



Ten members provided an oral Country Report update, highlighting significant law and justice issues in their country, which informed the meeting on major law and justice sector developments and achievements aligning with PILON's strategic priorities. For your reading pleasure, copies of these country reports have been uploaded onto the PILON website.

The PILON Secretariat was invited to present on their work in supporting the Chairs and activities of each of the Working Groups.

The **Corruption Working Group** has 9 members and is chaired by the Secretary of Justice and Border Control of Nauru. Members are Nauru, Palau, RMI, PNG, Cook Islands, Solomon Islands, FSM, American Samoa and Australia.



The **Cybercrime Working Group** now has 11 members, with our newest member – FSM. This Working Group is chaired by the Attorney General of Tonga. Members are Tonga, New Zealand, Nauru, Vanuatu, Cook Islands, Solomon Islands, Australia, Fiji, American Samoa, PNG and FSM.

The **SGBV Working Group** has 18 members and is chaired by the Attorney General of Samoa. Members are Cook Islands, New Zealand, FSM, Kiribati, Nauru, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Fiji, Vanuatu, RMI, Niue, American Samoa, PNG, Tokelau and Australia.

Membership of the PILON Executive Committee remains unchanged and is comprised of Samoa (Chair), Cook Islands (past Chair), Nauru (upcoming host), Australia, New Zealand, Tonga and the Solomon Islands.

A new Working Group, known as the **Pacific Legislative Drafters' Committee (PLDC)**, was also acknowledged and due to pressures arising from COVID, the PLDC's important work has been halted this past year.



Left to right: Rosy Isaia, Fuimaono Sefo Ainuu, Su'a Hellene Wallwork; Ake Puga-Mauga, Sasae F-Walter.

Samoa is willing to continue the role of Chair of PILON for the coming year. Members also formally endorsed Nauru as host country of the 2022 PILON Annual Meeting. We hope that next year will give us an opportunity to meet with one another face-to-face.

CYBERCRIME WORKING GROUP

Zyber Global – Certificate Ceremony



Fourteen law officers were nominated from PILON member countries to attend and participate in a three month e-learning course conducted by Zyber Global Ltd and Insig2 named 'Fundamentals of digital forensics for lawyers and judges'. The course is equivalent to 4 CPD /CPE /CLE points. The certificate ceremony was held virtually and **Mr Tevita 'Aho** from the Attorney General's Office presented the certificates.

The course ran for 11 weeks with presentations and discussions from expert speakers. The other weeks were given to participants to complete the final assessment at the end of Module 10, which focussed on presenting evidence in court. Participants also were encouraged to engage in further smaller group discussions to assist with their assessments.

Esther George, Director of Training, Zyber Global Centre and **Krešimir Hausknecht**, Head of Digital Forensics Department, Insig2 Training Centre, presented on *Presenting digital evidence in court* which covered seizing and handling evidence, the expert witness, electronic evidence in criminal trials and disclosures to defence. The fundamentals course and intermediate level of the course will be held as part of the Cybercrime Working Group activities in 2022.



'COUNTERING DISINFORMATION'

Co-badged Webinar: PILON Cybercrime Working Group and Council of Europe

The Pacific region is an attractive target and base for malicious cyber actors, with increasing internet connectivity and developing legislative and operational capacity in Pacific Island law enforcement agencies rendering it at times, difficult to respond.

Since cybercrime is recognised as a priority and included in the PILON 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.

The online world plays an increasing role in shaping the public conversation and driving political events. In the same time, disinformation, hate speech and online extremism have been dominating the content on social media platforms, their harms compounded by ever more powerful network effects and computer systems. The negative consequences for society present a global challenge impacting every country and nearly all areas of public discourse.

While disinformation has long been a challenge to democracy, the digital age requires a renewed commitment to match the scale, speed and pervasiveness of online information threats. Meaningful access to a healthy information environment is integral to the functioning of free, rights-respecting societies; as such, countering disinformation and promoting information integrity are necessary priorities in ensuring democracy can thrive globally in the years to come.

This co-badged webinar was organised by the PILON Cybercrime Working Group and the Council of Europe. It was designed to help tackle the issues identified above and the impact that they have been having in the Pacific. In particular, the event discussed challenges encountered by criminal justice authorities in the region and shared views on how to address and respond to disinformation. Panellists presented on good practices and possible solutions to further strengthen the criminal justice response in the region and globally.

Panellists included:

Council of Europe experts, **Geronimo Sy** and **Joan Barata**, Pacific Fusion Centre analyst **Kate Byster-Bowles**, **Tupou Vainikolo** from the Kingdom of Tonga Attorney-General's Office and **Domingo Kabunare** from the Kiribati Ministry of Information, Transport and Tourism Development.

The event was well attended by over 50 participants from across the Pacific region and Europe. A copy of the webinar recording is accessible via the PILON website Members' Zone.



Council of Europe | PILON - Cybercrime Working Group www.pilon.eu

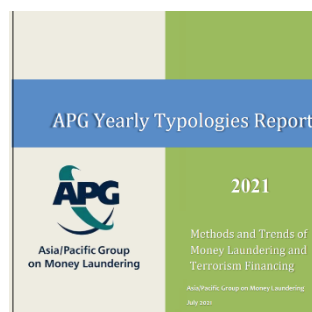
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ASIA PACIFIC GROUP (APG) TYPOLOGIES WORKSHOP

PILON Secretariat was invited to attend and participate in the 2021 APG Typologies Workshop that was held on the 11th November 2021.

The Workshop brings together experts and APG delegates to discuss money laundering and terrorist financing trends, as well as policy issues emerging from these trends. The Workshop assists governments, law makers, officials and the private sector to understand and keep pace with the various and evolving methods used to launder money and to finance terrorism.

PILON Secretariat presented at this Workshop and provided



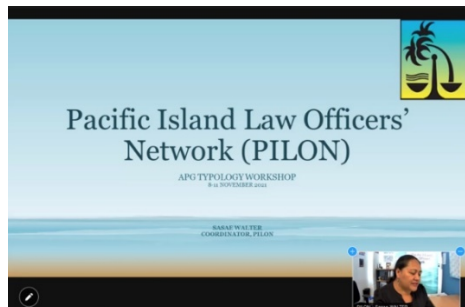
an update on the recent activities of the Corruption Working Group, such as the Framework for Prosecuting Corruption in the Pacific: Experiences, Challenges and Lessons Learnt booklet, with reference to the relevant legislation and provisions

criminalizing bribery, embezzlement, trading in influence, abuse of functions and money laundering from countries across the region. The booklet shows that many PILON

member countries have enacted a number of key corruption offences such as bribery in the public sector, embezzlement and money laundering.

APG conducts yearly typologies workshops, which generally have topical 'themes' to provide a focus for the discussion and have five main purposes - to:

1. Bring together expert law enforcement and regulators experts in order to share knowledge and experience;
2. Identify the current ways by which proceeds of crime are laundered and terrorism is funded in the Asia/Pacific region;
3. Determine any emerging money laundering and terrorist financing trends or patterns within and between jurisdictions in the Asia/Pacific region;
4. Consider and make recommendations about money laundering and terrorist financing counter-measures; and
5. Consider ways to improve international co-operation in the detection, investigation and seizure of terrorist finances and proceeds of crime, and where appropriate, the repatriation of the proceeds of crime, especially when the proceeds are transmitted to other jurisdictions.



cybercrime experts from public and private sectors as well as international and non-governmental organizations from all over the world to share their experiences. The aim of the workshop was to share information on the threat of Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (OCSEA) as well as good practices in terms of policies, legislation, institutional capacities and domestic and international cooperation on OCSEA.

OCSEA has been a major violation of the rights of children for many years. The COVID-19 pandemic, and increasing screen time, has exacerbated the prevalence and risks of OCSEA, including in the Pacific region.

The meeting with high level interventions was organized on 16th November 2021 in cooperation with the Hungarian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers on the occasion of the [20th anniversary of the Budapest Convention](#) and the forthcoming [2nd additional Protocol on enhanced cooperation and disclosure of electronic evidence](#).

On 18th November 2021, session 10 of the regional workshop for the Pacific was held and the prosecutors from the Kingdom of Tonga represented their respective offices and PILON in this very important meeting. The workshop was focussed on OCSEA.



The moderator of this session was *James Lutui*, Director of Public Prosecution of Tonga. He shared his experiences and spoke on policy responses in the Pacific area to protect children from OCSEA. *Tupou Kafa*, Crown Counsel, Attorney General's Office in Tonga, also spoke on SGBV WG work related to OCSEA with special focus on Tonga.

OCTOPUS 2021: COOPERATION AGAINST CYBERCRIME



This year's Octopus Conference took place on 16-18th November 2021 and provided an opportunity for



REGIONAL UPDATES

PIFS

The PIF Forum Official Committee (FOC) Sub-Committee on Regional Security (FSRS) convened virtually on 19th November 2021. The meeting was attended by 14 countries, 3 Council of Regional Organisation of the Pacific (CROP) agencies and 4 regional Law Enforcement and Legal Secretariats (LEs), including PILON.

It was highlighted that while the actions taken by Members to close their borders had played a critical role in limiting the public health impact of the pandemic to some countries, the unintended socio-economic impact is being felt across all countries. The Chair commended the Pacific Humanitarian Pathway for COVID-19 (PHP-C) for assisting in strengthening Member preparedness and response to the pandemic.

Members further stressed that while COVID-19 and climate change remain the region's top priorities, the FSRS must be flexible and continue to cast an eye out on the other priorities under the Boe Declaration to ensure regional peace and prosperity.

One matter highlighted was the importance of including Members in the Regional Vaccination Certificate for Cross-Border Travel Technical Working Group (TWG) discussion.



It was also noted that the implementation of a number of the 2021 priorities will move into 2022; and Members were encouraged to work with the Secretariat and the relevant Working Groups to ensure these priorities are completed in accordance with the revised workplans.

Members also agreed on the concept note to guide the implementation of the Teieniwa Vision and noted that further consultation is needed with Members before a final implementation plan is presented to FOC for endorsement.

The Sub-Committee acknowledged the LEs, including PILON, CROP agencies and the Pacific Fusion Centre (PFC), and commended the regional technical agencies for the work they are doing in progressing the technical work on the implementation of the Boe Declaration.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC)



We were introduced to *Clementine Rendle*, Regional Legal Adviser, of the ICRC. She takes over from Georgia Hinds. One subject of our discussion was the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' domestic implementation of international humanitarian law (IHL) prohibiting sexual violence in situations of armed conflict. This is a checklist to support countries in the domestic implementation of IHL. We will continue to engage with ICRC on this particular topic and share any work on similar interests. Meg Rudder and Sasae Walter attended this discussion with Clementine Rendle.

OCEANIA CUSTOMS ORGANISATION SECRETARIAT



The Secretariat attended the OCO Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Dialogue from 16–19th November 2021. There were several sessions of interest including Pacific Islanders at risk of counterfeit items.

An important role of Customs administrations is to prevent counterfeit or pirated goods from entering communities or crossing the borders. The challenge however is striking the balance between regulating and facilitating trade and ensuring that the flow of genuine merchandise is not impeded. Participants agreed that counterfeiting is a global challenge that is getting harder to tackle. It was shared that criminals continuously changed their modus operandi such as transit and shipping routes, and in this essence, it's critical for the region to work together in having similar IPR laws.

During this COVID-19 pandemic, members agreed that there was an increase in counterfeit masks, hand sanitisers and even vaccines and COVID-related medicines. OCO Head of Secretariat, *Richard Brennan*, said having a proper and strong IPR legislation in place will enhance and strengthen economic growth as well as coordination between border and law enforcement agencies and enhance coordinated border management.

CLEAN PACIFIC – ROUNDTABLE



The Secretariat joined the 3rd Clean Pacific Roundtable discussions relating to waste management in the Pacific region. These discussions include methods to enhance the capability of Pacific countries and territories to deliver safe and sustainable waste management practices to prevent pollution-related issues that impact the health of the Pacific communities.

The objectives of the meeting are to collate further stakeholder input and develop a Resolution/Statement of future prioritized activities to ensure the CP2025 Implementation Plan can be delivered and to promote improved understanding of gaps and opportunities within the region and support the mobilization of technical and financial resources to fill gaps in waste and pollution management.

PACIFIC ISLANDS CHIEF OF POLICE (PICP)



The Secretariat were informed that PICP is producing a video to support the Gender and Family Harm programme with the Police Chiefs/Commissioners with an underlining message of “Stop the Violence”. As soon as this video is made available, we will advise our members. This video may be similar to the videos produced by PILON’s Sexual and Gender Based Violence Working Group.

CYBER SAFETY PASIFIKA



PILON members were invited to attend a training delivered by Cyber Safety Pasifika in conjunction with Women’s Services Network (WESNET) Australia. WESNET provided up to date technology safety training for police officers focusing on how police can assist victims of domestic violence perpetrated through the use of technology.

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME



The Attorney General of Tonga, *Linda Folaumoetu’i*, and the Director of Public Prosecutions,

James Lutui, attended the second Informal Expert Group Virtual Meeting from 11-12th November 2021. The main focus of the meeting was to update the UNODC Model Law on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (2007) with provisions on the gathering of electronic evidence and the use of special investigative techniques.

*Wishing you a Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year
from
PILON Secretariat*

