



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ZOOM MEETING

MINUTES

Friday 17th June 2022

2.00pm Samoan time

- A. **WELCOME-** Su'a Hellene Wallwork – Chair PILON Executive Committee and Interim Attorney General, Samoa
- B. **PRESENT:**
- i. Karen Moore – Assistant Secretary, AGD, Australia
 - ii. Linda Folaumoetui – Attorney General, Tonga
 - iii. Rachel Olutimayin – Director Public Prosecution, Solomon Islands
 - iv. Jo Mildenhall – Senior Crown Law Officer – NZ
 - v. Ronald Talasasa – Director Public Prosecution, Nauru
 - vi. Mariata Pittman – Crown Law Officer, Cook Islands
 - vii. Lucy Sargeson – Principal Legal Officer / Director, Pacific Section, AGD, Australia
 - viii. Sarah Kossatz – Program and Logistics Manager, AGD, Australia
 - ix. Sasae Walter – Coordinator, PILON
 - x. Rosarino Koi – Assistant Coordinator, PILON
- C. **MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION:**
- i. **Confirmation of Executive Committee (EC) Minutes 10 March 2022;**
Minutes confirmed, motion moved by Karen Moore, Australia and seconded by Linda Folaumoetui, Tonga.
 - ii. **Continuation of existing PILON Strategic Plan 2019-2022 for 2022-2023**
The Chair informed members that as per section 5d of Article 7 of the PILON Charter, one of the purposes of PILON annual meetings is to “agree on the PILON Strategic Plan to guide PILON priorities over the forthcoming period”.
All members agreed to support the rolling-over of the current Strategic Plan until the next Annual Meeting in 2023.
 - iii. **41st PILON virtual Annual Meeting preparation**
Duration of Annual Meeting:
Sasae Walter of the PILON Secretariat informed members that at the July 2021 EC meeting it was decided that the PILON Annual Meeting last year was to be a strict 2-hour virtual event. This was largely due to internet connectivity but also to limit online platform/Zoom fatigue. Feedback results from the 2021 PILON Annual Meeting suggested that participants would like to see the next PILON Annual Meeting extended to 2.5 hours.

By extending the meeting by a further 30 minutes, it will give Members more time to present their oral country reports and will also allow Members to ask questions and contribute to discussions based on issues raised. EC members discussed whether the meeting should be extended by an additional 30 minutes or an additional 60 minutes.

Members agreed to hold the 2022 PILON Annual Meeting on Friday 4th November.

Members agreed to extend the PILON Annual Meeting for 2022 to 2.5 hours.

PILON Annual Meeting documents:

Sasae Walter informed members that the draft 2022 PILON Annual Meeting documents were based on what had been produced last year. This is mainly due to the fact that this years' PILON Annual Meeting will also be a virtual event and Members are already familiar with the document templates.

Invitation letter:

Sasae Walter informed members that the invitation letter provided a brief summary outlining when PILON Annual Meeting tasks are due. We included a table which articulates the Annual Meeting Times for each Member Country.

There was also feedback from the 2021 PILON Annual Meeting that suggested it would be beneficial if colleagues of Members i.e. within their own agencies, were able to observe the PILON Annual Meeting, and reflective of this feedback, the Secretariat has included an additional line within the invitation letter which states,

"Note that senior law officers attending the virtual meeting are welcome to arrange for other officers from within their agencies to observe the meeting from the same room as them, but there is no need for observers to register their attendance".

The feedback stated that Members thought it would enable their colleagues to better understand the work of PILON given its support at a regional level.

Members supported observer participants from within same agencies as their Senior Delegates attending the Annual Meeting.

The letter requests that completed registration forms (Attachment A) be submitted to the Secretariat by 29 August 2022. The draft agenda will be attached as "Attachment B" and the Country Report template at "Attachment C". The Secretariat has kept these similar to last year and asked that Member Countries submit their reports to the Secretariat by 30 September 2022.

Members had no further changes to the draft invitation letter.

Registration form (Attachment A):

This form is similar to last years' event. The Secretariat has included an additional question which asks,

"How do you intend on participating – either via Zoom or Telephone", which will assist with logistics planning.

Members had no further changes to the draft registration form.

PILON Annual Meeting 2022 Agenda (Attachment B):

For consistency and ease of viewing for Members, a table is included which outlined the Annual Meeting Times for each Member Country.

At Session Three (3) of the draft agenda, the Secretariat will enter the names of countries wishing to present an oral update of their Country Report and will circulate this to Members.

Secretariat to provide updates on 2022 PILON Annual Meeting RSVP's and Countries wishing to present an oral update at the September EC meeting.

Members had no further changes to the draft PILON Annual Meeting agenda.

PILON Country Report template (Attachment C):

This template is very similar to last years' event for consistency and familiarity for Members. Members are asked to provide a report summarising one key law and justice achievement that is relevant to one of the PILON strategic priorities, and Members whom wish to provide an oral update based on their reports will be given 5 minutes to do so.

Given the extra 30-minute meeting time-frame, Members agreed to extend the timing for oral country report presentations by 15 minutes with the further 15 minutes added to the PILON Working Group updates.

Members had no further changes to the draft PILON Country Report Template.

Chair/Host of PILON 2022

Members agreed Nauru will remain as incoming Chair and Host of PILON for 2023.

Members agreed Samoa will retain the role of Chair and Host of PILON for 2022.

A. OTHER MATTERS:

iv. Update from PILON Working Groups

SGBV

The Chair, Su'a Hellene Wallwork, updated members on the current work of the SGBV WG.

The Special Measures Series:

She informed members that a series of webinars have been delivered with expert speakers from across the Pacific. Two webinars have been delivered which were designed to support the use of the Model Provisions for supporting vulnerable witnesses in sexual and gender-based violence cases, including by building capacity to amend laws and policies to incorporate special measures.

The first Webinar was held in April and presentations were heard from Samoan Assistant Attorney General, Iliganoa Atoa, and State Counsel Manager of the Sexual Crimes Division within the Fijian ODPP, Juleen M Fatiaki. The second Webinar was held in May and heard from RMI Chief Prosecutor Cutty Wase and Cook Islands Deputy Solicitor General, Annabel Maxwell-Scott.

These webinars prompted a lot of discussion about prosecutors' roles in the legal system and what more can be done or learnt to better support vulnerable witnesses. The WG is excited to continue the Special Measures Webinar series and intend to deliver two more webinars this year. It is keen to ensure the webinars ultimately promote the work on the Regional Guidelines which will be running in parallel.

Advisory Panel:

An Advisory Panel has been established to develop Regional Guidelines for prosecutors and victim support officers to support vulnerable witnesses through the entire

prosecution process. A Panel of eight-member countries has been convened and begun adapting equivalent guidelines developed by the Solomon Islands ODP. It is aimed that this document be finalized in advance of the 2022 PILON Annual Meeting.

Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police (PICP):

The Chair also informed members that she has accepted an invitation from the PICP to represent PILON on the recently established Board of Management for PICP's Gender and Family Harm Strategy. The first board meeting will be scheduled later this year.

Corruption WG

Ronald Talasasa, Interim Chair, updated members that on the 1 April, a webinar on 'Following the Digital Paper Trail' with the Cybercrime Working Group was held. The webinar featured presentations from himself and Corporal Savenaca Siwatibau from the Fiji Police who provided insight on working with digital evidence from their own jurisdiction, and a presentation on money laundering facilitated by Mr Ryan Macfarlane from the United States FBI.

This webinar attracted a lot of interest. There were 164 registrations and 85 devices who accessed the webinar (many with multiple attendees per device so attendance well in excess of 85), with audience members from PNG, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Fiji, New Zealand, Cook Islands, Tokelau, FSM and RMI.

Ronald Talasasa also mentioned that the WG continues to circulate their anti-corruption animated videos to a very wide audience across the Pacific region and Australia. An article about the videos has also been submitted for inclusion in the upcoming Commonwealth Fraud Prevention Centre's newsletter. The newsletter has a readership of several thousand officials from around the world.

Farewell Ronald Talasasa

PILON Executive Committee Members farewelled Ronald and thanked him for his unwavering dedication and support not only to the Corruption WG but to the entire PILON Network. His enthusiasm and contributions will be very much missed.

Cybercrime WG

Linda Folaumoetui, Chair of the Cybercrime WG, also noted the success of the Corruption WG and the Cybercrime WG co-hosted webinar on 'Following the Digital Paper Trail'.

The WG have commenced the Zyber Intermediate scholarship course. This follows on from the Zyber 'Fundamentals of Digital Forensics for Lawyers and Judges' pilot scholarship course which was offered in 2021. The class is working through the content and is now half way through the course. The class attended their first of three Zoom seminars on 3 June. The session featured guest speakers from the New Zealand Department of Internal Affairs who answered questions from the facilitator and the class about gathering digital evidence. The sessions are being recorded and will be uploaded to the Member's Zone as an enduring resource.

For the second half of 2022, a second webinar on 'Sharing Experiences of Drafting Cybercrime Laws' is scheduled for 5 August. The WG will partner with the Council of Europe to co-badge this webinar, and we plan to feature a panel of speakers from PILON member countries who are at various stages in the process of drafting and enacting cybercrime legislation.

The WG is also planning to hold a Cybercrime Workshop in late November. This workshop is a flagship event which brings prosecutors, police and other law and justice officials from PILON countries together to discuss shared approaches to the common threats affecting our region. In recognition of the ongoing challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Workshop will be organized to enable both in-person and virtual attendance.

Finally, the WG will offer scholarships for another session of the Zyber Fundamentals course. A workbook is being prepared to support the next class, and participants will work through a series of case studies delivered via Zoom.

v. Update from PILON Secretariat

a. Report on PILON Activities 2021-2022

Sasae Walter informed members that the Secretariat assisted in facilitating approximately 83 activities from Dec 2021-June 2022, ranging from WG meetings, WG webinars and virtual discussions for all the WGs and Regional Organisations of interest to PILON.

Report on Meetings – Dec 2021 - June 2022

	Working Groups	Discussions	Virtual Zoom WG meeting	Webinars	Video recordings	Online Courses	
1	Executive Committee	2	1	0	NA	NA	3
2	SGBV WG	15	1	2	2	0	20
3	Corruption WG	1	2	3	3	0	9
4	Cybercrime	1	2	2	2	3	10
	SUB TOTAL	18	6	7	7	3	42
5	Other Engagements	28	13	NA	NA	NA	41
	TOTAL						83

This table does not include the Secretariat's weekly AAGD/PILON discussions.

Members noted the PILON Secretariat report.

PILON Financial Reports

Rosy Fogatia of the PILON Secretariat informed members on the significant underspend this year as a result of our inability to travel. For the 2021/22 Secretariat Operational Financial Report, the expenses incurred were close to what was budgeted.

For the forecasted 2022/23 operations budget, the Secretariat have reduced the amount dedicated to the website as financial records show that the ongoing maintenance costs for the PILON website are much less than first anticipated. The insurance costings have increased to cover both professional indemnity and travel insurance costs for the secretariat staff as per their renewed contracts of employment.

The 2022/23 PILON Activities budget demonstrates that PILON has re-introduced costs relating to travel in anticipation of borders re-opening over the coming year.

Members noted the PILON financial reports.

- vi. Proposed date for next Executive Committee Meeting –
Members agreed on Friday 9 September 2022.

- vii. Contract of employment:
Members agreed to the renewal of the Contract of Employment for Sasae Walter as PILON Secretariat Coordinator.

D. **MEETING ENDED.** 2.49pm Samoan time.

Endorsed on 9th September 2022