



PILON CORRUPTION WORKING GROUP MEETING MINUTES

Friday 4th March 2022
1.00PM Nauru time

1. **Welcome:** Welcome everyone to the first virtual CWG meeting for this year, 2022. The last meeting was held on the 7th October 2021. Thank you all for attending today.

Opening remarks (some suggestions below):

Chair informed members that the COVID-19 pandemic has presented immense challenges for all of us globally, including in our region. We believe most countries in the Pacific have now received their 2 vaccines. We note that the delta variant and the omicron variant is present in some Pacific countries and we continue to monitor these situations with caution.

With this pandemic, it has provided us with opportunities to rethink our work. Our PILON webinars both live and recorded have proven successful with more people in the region, and our partners logging on and taking an interest in our work.

2. Present/Apologies:

1	Ronald Talasasa Republic of Nauru	Director Public Prosecution
2	Ernestine Rengiil Palau	Attorney General
3	Rachel Olutimayin Solomon Islands	Director of Public Prosecutions
4	Josephine Pitmur PNG	Deputy Secretary for Justice Administration
5	Lisa Williams Cook Islands	Crown Counsel
6	Lucy Sargeson Australia	Director
7	Andrew Kelesi Solomon Islands	Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions
8	Jesse Mihkel Federated State of Micronesia	Assistant Attorney General,
9	Meg Rudder Australia	Senior Legal Officer
10	Sarla Hallock Australia	Legal Officer
11	Rosy Fogatia Assistant Coordinator	PILON Secretariat
12	Sasae Walter Coordinator	PILON Secretariat

3. Matters for Discussion:

1. Approval of Minutes of 7 May 2021
Motion to approve minutes and seconded.

Amendments

Correction Page 2 Para 4.

“Another case the Anti-corruption Commission was established in 2018. It’s still at its infancy stage, but have already received complaints and the prosecutors continues to prosecute these cases.”

The red font is inaccurate. It should read, **ODPP continues to prosecute corruption cases under the Penal Code for offences prior to 2018. No cases prosecuted yet by SIICAC since its establishment.**”

Motion to approved minutes from MR Australia and seconded by RT of Nauru.

2. WG Workplan 2022:
Training for prosecutors and police investigators with a focus on;
 - i. mutual assistance to obtain evidence

MR informed members that the WG will deliver two sets of activities, the first activity will be delivered in conjunction with the PILON Cybercrime WG. The Working Groups will co-host a webinar on Friday 1st April and members are encouraged to join this training on prosecuting corruption using digital evidence.

We are still working on confirming potential speakers and are interested in securing prosecutors with experience on prosecuting corruption related matters using digital evidence.

The second activity will be mutual assistance training to obtain evidence. Members will be updated later in the year (around October) on this training. This training is open to prosecutors, investigators, police prosecutors and anyone who has a role in using digital evidence.

The level of the training will be basic, with an assumption that everyone joining will have either no or little knowledge on the subject.

On the content on the mutual assistance training, it will be pitched at the generic level, and will encourage country groups to work together.

3. Corruption WG whistleblowing animated videos –
MR of Australia AGD informed members of the whistleblowing animated videos. The videos are only 2 minutes long. Members agreed to go through the videos for a week and will inform members on Wednesday 9th March 2022, to send their agreement that these videos be published on the PILON website www.pilonsec.org.

The videos will also be circulated widely to our networks, to raise awareness particularly for officers who are not legally trained. The video clips provide a basic introduction to the importance of whistleblowing regime and why it’s important to have whistleblowing in a good governance model.

Action: Secretariat to send an email to members to send their agreement on agreeing to publish the video clips by Wednesday 9th March 2022

4. UN PRAC Publication –

SW informed members that the United Nations Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project collaborated with the PILON Corruption Working Group last year to produce a 3-part webinar series on whistleblower protections. The presenter of the webinars, Dr Ashley Savage, assisted UN-PRAC to produce a comprehensive report which captures the content of the webinars in an easy to read and practical way. The publication is titled Whistleblower Protections and Corruption Reporting in Pacific Island Countries.

The report contains useful information for anyone who is considering developing, updating or implementing whistleblower protection policies and legislation. If anyone would like to see the webinar series, it is available on the PILON Member's zone under the Corruption Working Group. Our website is www.pilonsec.org

5. Update of Framework for Prosecuting Corruption Booklet –

MR updated members that the updated version has been uploaded onto the PILON website and the AGD is looking at shipping out hard copies to members of the WG. The idea is to send a few copies to members of the WG with the intension tat they be distributed to member of their office. Members were asked if they need more than 5-8 copies, to let hem know immediately.

Action: Secretariat to send an email to members requesting if they need more than 8 copies of the Prosecution Corruption booklet, and to contact AAGD immediately.

6. Report on APG Typology Workshop –

SW informed members that the 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.

APG conducts yearly typologies workshops, which generally have topical 'themes' to provide a focus for the discussion such as bringing together expert law enforcement

and regulators experts in order to share knowledge and experience; secondly to identify the current ways by which proceeds of crime are laundered and terrorism is funded in the Asia/Pacific region

7. Report on Regional Security Hui

SW briefed members that PILON is a member of the PIF Forum Official Committee (FOC) Sub-Committee on Regional Security (FSRS). Other members are PIDC, PICP, OCO, WHO and FFA. We all are included in the implementation of the Boe Declaration and its Action Plan. The 3 WGs of PILON, (Cybercrime, Corruption and SGBV) and its many activities fit the purpose and intent of the Boe Declaration.

She mentioned that for every 2 months, there's a regional security hui/meeting and each agency is given 10 minutes to inform and update the meeting on the current activities of their own organisation. The last meeting, we were informed on the work of PTCCC, (Pacific Transnational Crime Coordination Centre) and PTCN (Pacific Transnational Crime Network).

They informed that the Pacific continues to be used as a transshipment point to traffic large volumes of illicit drugs to sources countries of Australia and NZ. For e.g.

- Increase of seizure of large volume of cocaine and methamphetamine
- Organized criminal groups and their influence remains an intelligence gap
- Financial crime on get rich quick schemes is increasing every year
 - Money laundering
 - Embezzlement and bribery at a larger scale have also increased.

BOE Declaration such as commitment to good governance, belief in the liberty of the individual under the law, upholding democratic processes and institutions and recognizing the vulnerability of member countries to threats to their security.

4. **Other Matters**

Chair welcomed and introduce members to Lucy Sargeson, the Director of the Pacific section, Australian Attorney-General's Department. He also thanked her for all the support given to the WG.

5. **Next Meeting:** Friday 27th May 2022, 1.00pm Nauru time.

6. **Meeting Closed:** 1.50pm Nauru time.

Minutes endorsed on 27 May 2022