

Pacific Islands Law Officers' Network (PILON)
Update from the PILON Secretariat 2021
5th November 2021

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The PILON Secretariat is pleased to provide PILON Member countries with an update on Secretariat work activities over the past year. Since January 2021, all the Secretariat meetings and working group (WG) discussions and activities were held virtually.

FOCUS AREA 1: Support Implementation of PILON Strategic Plan

A. PILON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee (EC) met three times this year and were informed on the progress of all the existing WG activities. The EC were briefed on completed and proposed activities (webinars, video recordings, online trainings and other activities) to be delivered before the end of 2021.

Over this past year, the PILON Secretariat have provided a range of administrative support activities for PILON Working Group meetings. These include:

- Minute taking and recording decisions as supported by WG Chairs and the PILON EC.
- Developing agendas and distributing appropriate information to WG members.
- Facilitating WG activities and seeking input on WG project work, including case studies for the prosecution manual, input to the SGBV Model Provisions and legislative review and comments on the Prosecution of Corruption.
- Providing support to the PILON WG Chairs to drive WG engagement.

The Secretariat has helped to facilitate approximately 34 activities in 2020-2021, including WG meetings, webinars and virtual discussions for all the WGs.

i. Report on Meetings – October 2020-October 2021

	Working Groups	Discussions	Virtual Zoom WG meeting	Webinars	Video recordings	Online Courses
1	Executive Committee	0	3	0	N/A	N/A
2	SGBV WG	2	3	1	3	0
3	Corruption WG	2	3	3	0	0
4	Cybercrime	5	3	5	0	1
	TOTAL	9	12	9	3	1

FOCUS AREA 2: Facilitate information sharing and communication

The PILON **website** www.pilonsec.org has been the main avenue to save all our PILON documents. The website contains information, updates and expands PILON's digital footprint, which is becoming more vital than ever in a COVID-19 environment.

The PILON **Facebook page** remains a vital source for providing updates on PILON notices, WG activities and regular requests from member countries on vacancies and educational opportunities.

We send out our regular **newsletter TALANOA** that provides in-depth information on the work of the WGs and provides success stories within our PILON family. In 2020-21, 4 newsletters were distributed to PILON members.

ii. Overview of PILON Digital Engagement statistics – October 2020-October 2021

		Views	Visitors	Posts Published
1	PILON Website	13,482	3,509	36

		Views	Likes / Reactions	Posts Published	Links clicked	Number of times Posts Shared
2	Facebook Page	7,818	141	26	568	39

		Views	Likes	Video Uploads
3	YouTube Channel	766	15	18

Focus Area 3: Promote Collaboration between PILON and regional Organisations

- B. The Secretariat engaged with the approximately 20 regional and international partners on areas that support the PILON objectives (see **Attachment A** for a list of regional collaboration and international webinars attended on behalf of the PILON, by the PILON Secretariat).

Focus Area 4: Support technical assistance, capacity building, training and mentoring opportunities

The PILON Secretariat supported a number of Pacific Island countries and territories on our virtual meetings, trainings and webinars delivered by each of the WGs. We will continue to implement a virtual training schedule until travel restrictions ease.

Focus Area 5: PILON Administration

The Secretariat continues to keep detailed records of all virtual meetings and PILON activities. Survey results following training activities have been collated by the Secretariat and reports completed.

The Secretariat undertakes financial acquittals after each PILON activity and completes comprehensive financial records each financial year (see: **PILON Financial Reports** – distributed to members via email ahead of PILON AM).

The Secretariat continues to manage PILON's budget and ensures that all activities are managed in accordance with the available resources. Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, there is a significant underspend recorded in the PILON FY2020/21 activity budget. In 2020-2021, \$1,035.00 was spent for Samoa to facilitate the 2020 PILON Annual Meeting offsite.

ATTACHMENT A – Summary of PILON Secretariat Regional Coordination and Engagement

Regional Institution	Comments
Meeting with PIFS,	PILON Secretariat continues to attend the FOC-Sub Committee on Regional Security Meetings. The main agenda item was PIFS to be updated by partners and members on the implementation of the BOE declaration. PILON is a member of the following working groups managed by PIFS: i. FOC-Sub Committee on Regional Security ii. Regional Transnational Organised Crime Disruption Framework working group iii. Technical WG-Risk Governance iv. Pacific Humanitarian Pathway on Covid-19 Regional Taskforce v. Pacific Resilience Taskforce vi. Pacific Resilience Partnership Technical Working Group on Localisation
Pacific Fusion Centre	The Secretariat continues to receive information from the PFC. These updates are posted on our Facebook page. We continue to be updated on the PFC Charter and attend meetings organised by PIFS for the PFC.
ANU	PILON received an invitation from ANU to attend and present at a virtual symposium on family protection orders in the Pacific on 9 December 2021.
APG	We receive regular invitations from Asia Pacific Grp, to attend their series of webinars focusing on the implementation of R.15, including an overview of Virtual Assets and the FATF requirements, VA/VASP risk assessments, legal frameworks and preventative measures, risk-based supervision and enforcement. The APG have contacted PILON to consult on APG's proposed typologies work on IUU fishing. The project will rely on case studies collected from APG members concerning investigations and prosecutions related to the financial flows from IUU. The project aims to clarify how the illegal proceeds from IUU are integrated into the legitimate economy and to highlight the channels and actors used to launder the proceeds.
APGML	The Secretariat continues to be updated with virtual AML/CFT technical assistance and training activities. In January 2021, the Secretariat participated by presenting our work at a APG Typologies Workshop. We continue to be invited as a speaker in the next APG Typologies Workshop scheduled for later this month, 9-11 November 2021.
COE	We continue to work with Council of Europe (COE) on teaming up on two activities. This includes work on potential joint activity with PILON OCTOPUS Conference and judicial training for Pacific Islands. The second stream focusses on a series of introductory courses on cybercrime and electronic evidence for judges in the Pacific Islands.

Commonwealth Secretariat	The Secretariat were informed of a series of webinars on <i>Rule of Law Virtual Conversations</i> . These webinar invites were placed on our FB page.
GPEN	We continue to be informed of the webinars hosted jointly by GPEN/IAP all throughout the year.
Council for the Commonwealth Association of Legislative Counsel (CALC).	The Secretariat was requested to prepare a presentation on the legislative issues arising from the pandemic in the region, involving contributors from the region and discussing their experience from the point of view of a legislative drafting office.
IAP	We continue to receive newsletters from IAP. Virtually attended the 26th IAP General Meeting - Opening Session 21 October, and 6th IAP North American & Caribbean Virtual Regional Conference October 5th. <u>Documents</u> Guidelines for prosecutors on cases of crimes against journalists - World Press Freedom Conference.
ICRC	Recently we held a zoom session with Disaster Law & Advocacy Manager – Pacific, and we were introduced to Ms. Clementine Rendle, the new Legal Advisor for ICRC in the Pacific. We discussed PILON focus areas for the upcoming year and areas for mutual collaboration.
IFRC	We received invitations to attend IFRC webinars held on COVID-19 and Legislations. The Secretariat have been invited to attend the Risk Governance for Resilient Development Technical Working Group virtual meetings.
IUCN	Virtually attended the Inaugural IUCN Oceania Environmental Law Conference 16 July, and conference on “Our people, Our journey: nurturing Pacific resilience from home 5-8 July 2021.
OCO	Oceania Customs Organisation invited PILON to attend the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Dialogue scheduled for 16-19 November 2021. It is an awareness meeting that enables all members to participate and regionally discuss their respective IP laws.
PACSON	PACSON recently developed some resources as part of their 2021 Cyber Smart Pacific campaign and we shared these resources with our member’s, in particular the Cybercrime Working Group.
PICP	Regular Regional Security Hui - held every month. We attended the webinars and participated in the PICP Gender and Family Harm workshop - 27 November 2020. We provided input to their request for information as they draft the PICP Gender and Family Harm strategic direction.
PIDC	The Secretariat and PIDC continues to be engaged in discussion related to FOC Sub-Committee on Regional Security hosted by PIFS. Both are key non-CROP regional bodies. We were involved in some informal discussions and dialogue on regional law enforcement issues, PP405: Ethical Issues in Leadership and Command on 21 July to discuss leadership in Pacific regional law enforcement agencies.

PPDP-R: Cyber Safety Pasifika Program	The Cyber Pasefika Team supported our work and are frequent attendees of our WG webinars.
Public Service Fale (NZ)	PILON continue to receive newsletters from PSC Fale. Their main role is to support Public Sector Reform in the Pacific Region through your Public Service Commissions.
SPC/UNDP	The Secretariat was invited to register to SOLEVAKA which is a Pacific SDG partnership to implement the SAMOA Pathway. Information and discussion considered the E-Consultation on the Pacific Climate Action. UNDP will host Solevaka in its first year of operation along with interested partners and key stakeholders.
UNODC	We received from UNODC Advisory Notes on COVID-19 and Corruption in the Pacific and this information was shared with the Corruption WG and all PILON members. The Chair of the Cybercrime WG attended the 1st and 2nd EGM - Updating the UNODC Model Law on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters on behalf of PILON.
UNPRAC	We continue to liaise with UNPRAC on the sharing of their reports and factsheets for our members to access. Annika Wythes presented on UN-PRAC's observations of the effects of COVID-19 on corruption, particularly in the Pacific region.
Zyber Global	We receive regular bimonthly newsletters from Zyber Global. PILON partnered with Zyber Insig2 Training Centre on a pilot which provided four month training for PILON prosecutors on Fundamentals of Digital Forensics for lawyers and judges. The graduation for participants who successfully completed the course was conducted in early July.

ORG.	WEBINARS	DATE
GPEN	Introduction of APC-HUB" from KSPO" by Seungjin Choi, Senior investigator of the Supreme Prosecutors Office Republic of Korea (KSPO).	22 September
GPEN	Will Covid-19 change our cyber lives forever?"	3 June
IAP	Alternatives to Prosecution: Different Approaches for Differing Community Needs".	12 October
IAP	Thematic webinar to be organised on 11th of October 2021 will focus on the new procedures of international cooperation on cybercrime in emergency situation - jointly organised by the IAP and the Council of Europe	11 October
IAP	"Alternatives to Prosecution: Different Approaches for Differing Community Needs".	5 October
IAP	Reimagining the Justice System Post-COVID.	5 October

	- Alternatives to Prosecution: Different Approaches for Differing Community Needs - Systemic Discrimination in the Criminal Justice System - Considerations for International Government Prosecuting Offices	12 October 26 October
IAP	International COVID Vaccine Fraud: A Briefing on Current Trends".	4 August
IAP	International cooperation in tackling environmental criminality	15 June
IAP	Direct cooperation with service providers in foreign jurisdictions, as foreseen in the 2nd Additional Protocol to the Budapest Convention.	13 May
IAP	Online training to promote international standards on freedom of expression for judicial actors.	10 May
IAP	Consumer Protection, data and privacy, a challenge?"	19 January