

Pacific Islands Law Officers' Network (PILON)
Update from the PILON Secretariat 2022
5th November 2022

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 2022, 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, policies and other relevant activities) to be delivered before the end of 2022.

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 facilitated most of all the WG activities in 2021-2022, including WG meetings, WG webinars and WG virtual discussions.

i. **Report on Meetings – October 2021-October 2022**

	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

The above table does not include the meetings held virtually for the activities of the;

- i. SGBV WG Advisory Panelist Group,
- ii. SGBV Advisory Chairs meetings;
- iii. Cybercrime Zyber Trainings;
- iv. Cybercrime WG updates with Chair and Host country Fiji for the Cybercrime Workshop scheduled on 29November – 2December 2022;
- v. Working Group Chairs, AGD, Secretariat and Webinar speakers' updates on upcoming Webinars;
- vi. APG/Corruption WG online sessions.
- vii. Secretariat and AGD virtual participation in regional meetings.
- viii. Secretariat and AGD weekly updates

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 2021-22, 3 newsletters were distributed to PILON members.

ii. Overview of PILON Digital Engagement statistics – July 2021-October 2022

		Views	All time Views
1	PILON Website	13,496	28,722

		Views	Likes
2	PILON Facebook Page	1,000 followers	969

	Corruption WG Videos	Animated Video 1	Animated Video 2
3	YouTube Channel	357	209

Focus Area 3: Promote Collaboration between PILON and regional Organisations

- B. The Secretariat engaged with the approximately 28 regional and international partners, affiliates and links on areas that support the PILON objectives (see **Attachment A** for a list of regional collaboration attended to 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. Up until September 2022, all our meetings and a workshop were held virtually.

As borders open and travel restrictions are less strict, the secretariat is now preparing for the first face to face meeting that is scheduled in Nadi Fiji on 29 November to 2nd December 2022. This is the 4th Cybercrime workshop that will be use a hybrid format, because some of our members are unable to travel due to border and covid restrictions in their countries.

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. Our first face to face engagement is scheduled later this month, and the Secretariat is assisting as much as possible on all the logistics arrangements that we used to be familiar in the past.

ATTACHMENT A – Summary of PILON Secretariat Regional Coordination and Engagement

REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS		DETAILS
1	PACIFIC ISLAND FORUM SECRETARIAT,	PILON Secretariat continues to attend the FOC-Sub Committee on Regional Security (FSRS) 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 WG iii. Technical WG-Risk Governance iv. Pacific Humanitarian Pathway on Covid-19 Regional Taskforce v. Pacific Resilience Taskforce vi. Pacific Resilience Partnership Technical WG on Localisation
2	PACIFIC FUSION CENTRE	The Secretariat continues to receive briefings on key news, analysis and events on Boe Declaration security priorities from the PFC. We continue to be updated on the PFC Charter, their Strategic Plan and the secretariat regularly attend webinars organised PFC.
3	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.
4	APG	The 25th Anniversary of the APG will be celebrated at the APG Annual Meeting in Kuala Lumpur in October 2022. The Secretariat and AGD joined the APG plenary meeting in July 2022 and we presented a brief on the work of the Corruption WG in this meeting.
5	APGML	The Secretariat continues to be updated with virtual AML/CFT technical assistance and training activities. APG continue to seek responses to its questionnaire on the Proceeds of Crime generated from Illegal Fishing.
6	COE	We continue to work with Council of Europe (COE) on our Cybercrime space. Speakers have been sourced from COE to speak on the Budapest Convention in the PILON Cybercrime Working Group Meeting.
7	CYBER SAFETY PASIFIKA	The Secretariat facilitated PILON members to attend the Cyber Safety Pasifika 'Frontline Officer Training on Tech Safety for Pacific Women' livestream training in early December last year. The training was delivered by Women's Services Network (WESNET) Australia. WESNET who 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. The development and contextualisation of this training has been a collaborative process with Pacific Police representatives from Tonga, Vanuatu, Samoa along with the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre and Women's and Children's Crisis Centre, Tonga. The training adapted a virtual delivery format and was delivered as part of the Tier 2 CSP Cybercrime Investigations training.

8	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.
9	GPEN	We continue to be informed of the webinars hosted jointly by GPEN/IAP all throughout the year.
10	COUNCIL FOR THE COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATION OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL (CALC).	In July 2022, the Commonwealth Association of Legislative Counsel's (CALC) held a virtual conference. The objective of the conference is to promote cooperation in matters of professional interest among people in the Commonwealth engaged in legislative drafting, in editing or translating draft legislation, or in training people in legislative drafting. Recently a member of the CALC Richard Hughes contacted the Secretariat and AGD on possible ways to connect with PLDC members to share knowledge and expertise in legislative drafting.
11	IAP	The IAP 27th Annual Conference was held on Friday 16th September 2022. The most recent meetings of IAP was held in Tbilisi, Georgia, from 25th to 29th September 2022. The only member of the Pacific that joined was Andrew Kelesi of the ODPP Solomon Islands. The Secretariat reached out to Ms Nazhat Shameem Khan, a Fijian national who is currently a Deputy Prosecutor at the International Criminal Court based in the Hague. She was a former Fiji DPP. We continue to receive newsletters from IAP. Common topics of webinars offered by IAP include Strengthening International Cooperation in Asset Recovery in the Fight Against Cyber-Enabled Crimes which were organised by the Attorney General's Office of the Republic of Indonesia along with UNODC. Other topics of interest discussed in their webinars include money laundering offences and, illicit origin of goods in confiscation procedures etc
12	ICRC	Meg of AGD and the Secretariat continue to engage with Ms. Clementine Rendle, the Legal Advisor for ICRC in the Pacific on domestic implementation of International Humanitarian Laws in prohibiting sexual violence
13	IFRC	The IFRC initiated trainings in March 2022 for PIFS members on capacity building for Forum Members on current international legal issues. The topics were international law, COP26 and Climate Ocean Issues, the Law of Statehood and International Human Rights law with a focus on sea level rise related issues.

14	INC	SPREP in August 2022 hosted the Pacific Regional Preparatory Workshop for the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) on the 16-18 August 2022 in Suva, Fiji. The aim of the workshop is to provide Member Governments with the assistance they may need in negotiating a global agreement to address plastic pollution covering the whole life cycle of plastics. The Secretariat was invited to attend the opening of this workshop virtually.
15	JOINT ANALYSIS OF CONFLICT AND STABILITY (JACS)	This is a UK consultation programme in Samoa and their aim is to develop a shared understanding of the causes and drivers of conflict and instability across the region, and to gain agreement on the key priorities for appropriate interventions to promote stability, security and long-term peace. Their main focus are on: State threats; Conflict threats; Transnational threats; Maritime security; Women, Peace and Security.
16	OCO	The Secretariat continues to join OCO in the Regional Security Hui that are held every 3 months now.
17	PACSON	In February 2022, the Pacific Cyber Security Operational Network (PaCSO) held a webinar on 'Processing Honeypot Data' remote training and PILON members were invited to join this training. Other webinars followed such as the National Cybercrime Strategy and more.
18	PACERPLUS	The Secretariat continues to receive newsletters from Pacerplus and they included the Secretariat in a webinar that discusses their PACER Plus Implementation Unit Strategic Plan 2025
19	PACIFIC SECURITY COLLEGE	The PSC hosted a conference in Nadi on partnership with the Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police, the Oceania Customs Organisation, and the Pacific Immigration Development Community as a truly unique experience to engage with pressing regional challenges in law enforcement. The theme of the PRLEC2022 is "Partnering to Disrupt Transnational Crime in the Pacific", to be underpinned by the core principle of strengthening a network to beat a network." Sasae of the Secretariat and Lucy of AGD attended this conference. The Chair of the PILON EC presented in this conference. The Australia Pacific Security College (APSC) Alumni is now based in Samoa to support informal discussions between alumni members and also to obtain views on how the APSC can best support alumni needs as members of the security sector. Some of these discussions will lead to the development of activities for the alumni and PICTs in the next APSC work plan.
20	PTCCC	We shared in one of our newsletters some very important information from PTCCC & PTCN where it was reported that the Pacific as a thoroughfare continued to be used as a transshipment point to traffic large volumes of illicit drugs to source countries of Australia and New Zealand.

21	PICP	Regular Regional Security Hui - held every 3 months. 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.
22	PTCN	The Secretariat attended the Pacific Transnational Crime Network (PTCN) Team Leaders Conference that was held on the 24-25 Oct 2022 in Taumeasina Samoa. The theme of the conference “Reconnections and Reflections” highlights the importance of re-establishing network relationships but also looking back at the humble beginnings of the network to plan the way forward. The network’s motto of “working together as one for a safer Pacific” will no doubt also be a guiding principle with members discussing a variety of topics including ways to combat the issue of transnational organised crime which continues to threaten the region. It is a very special occasion as not only is it the first in person conference for the network since 2019, it is also the network’s 20th anniversary, having been established in 2002.
23	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. The contract for Head of Secretariat Ioane Alama ended in September 2022, and we wish him all the best with his future endeavours.
24	PPDP-R: CYBER SAFETY PASIFIKA PROGRAM	The Cyber Pasefika Team supported our work and are frequent attendees of our WG webinars.
25	PUBLIC SERVICE FALE (NZ)	The Secretariat and Meg and Sarla met regularly with Madeline Pears of the PSF and they shared with us their work in the anti-corruption space. The secretariat continue to receive the Transparency International New Zealand (TINZ) newsletters tat highlighted their work on transparency, good governance and decision-making in local government.
26	SPC/UNDP	This year, we worked with Selai Nasiga, a lawyer based at the SPC Public Health Division focusing on NCD related health legislation. They requested some contacts with the Legislative Drafters Committee to organise a webinar through PILON legislative Drafters Committee to its members or PILON legal members on the Pacific Legislative Framework for NCD. The purpose for PICT to consider provisions in their public health legislations relating to NCD, is to combat the burden of NCD increase in PICT.

27	UNODC	Arianna Lepore, Coordinator of the Global Initiative on Electronic Evidence Terrorism Prevention Branch, shared the UNODC Model Law on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (2007). Lepore acknowledged the active engagement of members during the informal expert group meetings. The Chair of the Cybercrime WG, Attorney General of Tonga, Linda Folaumoetui and her staff attended these expert group meetings. The outcome of this engagement was strengthening the use of digital evidence in criminal justice and countering cybercrime, including the abuse and exploitation of minors in illegal activities with the use of the Internet.
28	UNPRAC	We continue to INVITE Annika and team of UNPRAC to our regular webinars, and they shared their Information Notes from UNPRAC (United Nations Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project) recent UN Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project.

PILON WORKING GROUPS WEBINARS 2022		
SGBV WG 22th April 2022	<u>The Special Measures Series:</u> Webinar 1: Lessons Learned	This first webinar showcased the work of 2 senior prosecutors, who each shared the lessons they have learned in using special measures. The prosecutors were Ms Juleen J. M Fatiaki , <i>Principal State Prosecutor is the Manager of the Sexual Crimes Division within the Fijian ODPP</i> and Ms Iliganoa Atoa , <i>Acting Assistant Attorney General for Criminal Prosecution Supreme Court, District Court and Specialized Courts in Samoa</i> .
SGBV WG 20 th May 2022	Webinar 2: Practical Realities	The second webinar showcased the experiences of two smaller jurisdictions, who will share the practical realities encountered when using special measures. The speakers were Cutty Wase <i>Chief Prosecutor of the Republic of the Marshall Islands</i> and Annabel Maxwell-Scott <i>Deputy Solicitor-General of the Cook Islands</i> .
SGBV WG 29 th July 2022	Webinar 3: Perspectives from the Bench	We were very honoured to be hearing from members of the judiciary from Tuvalu and Samoa, who provided a unique perspective from the bench. They shared their practical advice on how special measures, such as those contained in the Model Provisions and Explanatory Text (Supporting Vulnerable Witnesses in cases involving sexual and gender-based violence) can be effectively used in practice. The members of the bench were; i. Justice Leilani Tuala-Warren of Samoa ii. Senior Magistrate Corinna Ituaso of Tuvalu
Corruption WG 21 st October 2022	Mutual Assistance	The webinar provided an overview on mutual assistance, including obtaining intelligence from Police-to-Police assistance and INTERPOL and how to obtain evidence, and the types of evidence that can be obtained from the mutual assistance process. The speakers were; i. Mr Rob Blount, <i>Australia Federal Police</i> ii. Ms Kilby Baker (<i>Australian AGD</i>) iii. Ryan Macfarlane (<i>US Federal Bureau Investigation (FBI)</i>) iv. Aron Ingalls (<i>US FBI</i>) v. Mr Alex Mitchell (<i>US Dept of Justice</i>) vi. Ms Louise McGregor (<i>International Anti-Corruption Coordination Centre</i>)

		vii. Mrs Rachel Olutimayin , <i>Solomon Islands Director Public Prosecution</i>
Corruption WG April 1 st 2022	Following the Digital Paper Trail	The webinar featured speakers were Corporal Savenaca Siwatibau from the <i>Fiji Police Force (Digital Forensics and IT Investigation Unit)</i> , Ronald Talasasa of <i>Nauru's Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions</i> , and Ryan MacFarlane of the <i>United States Federal Bureau of Investigation</i> . Speakers shared their observations and experiences in tackling corruption related cybercrimes, particularly around the gathering, analysis and use of digital evidence.
Corruption WG April 13 2022	Whistleblowing animated video 1 and video 2	
Cybercrime WG 5 August 2022	Cybercrime Legislation in the Pacific: Sharing Perspectives on Recent Progress	The webinar discussed progress in harmonising and updating legal frameworks on cybercrime and electronic evidence, in line with international standards (i.e., Budapest Convention) as a crucial milestone in equipping relevant authorities in the region to address cybercrime issues. The speakers were from Kiribati and Tonga on the approach their country has taken, and also the COE who presented on the impacts and benefits of acceding to the Budapest Convention, the accession process and further types of assistance the Council of Europe can extend to interested countries. The speakers were; Domingo Kabunare, <i>Senior Information Analyst Kiribati</i> Tupou K Vainikolo <i>Crown Prosecutor, Attorney General's Office, Tonga and</i> Catalina Stroe, <i>Cybercrime Programme Office, Council of Europe and Programme Manager GLACY+</i>
Cybercrime WG April – July 2022	The Zyber “Digital Forensics for Lawyers and Judges – Intermediate level	This course covers more advanced aspects of computer, mobile, network, and cloud forensics – different types of evidence and their forensic value, how to acquire digital evidence, what are the forensic solutions, challenges, and most importantly, time and effort needed.