

## PALAU COUNTRY REPORT WRITTEN SUBMISSION:

The Country Report written submission should be limited to a maximum of 10 pages and include the following titles:

### **1. Major law and justice sector developments and achievements**

January 26, 2022. RPPL 11-17: Bill requiring psychosocial autopsy to be conducted in all suspected suicide deaths.

May 2022, RPPL 11-21: Establishment of the Intellectual Property Office within the Office of the Attorney General

July 2022, RPPL 11-22: Bill repealed law allowing for the appointment of two special judges to hear and decide questions of fact and sentence in murder cases. This need was negated by the introduction of Jury Trials. Bill also allowed for foreign citizens to serve as associate justices in the Court of Common Pleas.

### **2. Significant court decisions**

*Rengulbai v. ROP*, 2022 Palau 14: Rengulbai had been found guilty of trafficking, and possession of methamphetamine, from a single controlled buy of meth organized by narcotics officers. The Court found that since the possession and trafficking came from one sale, it violated the double jeopardy clause. It vacated conviction of the lesser possession charge while it upheld the conviction for the more serious trafficking charge.

*Yoshiwo v. ROP* 2022 Palau 15: The Supreme Court held that the lower court disallowing a defendant from speaking to a lawyer mid-testimony violated the defendant's right to counsel.

### **3. Technical legal assistance**

- IRS Criminal Investigations, financial investigations technique. June 2022.
- IRS Criminal Investigation Cyber Crypto Dark Web Training September 2022.

### **4. Contact information for key law and justice agencies**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Key responsibilities</b>	<b>Contact person and position</b>	<b>Phone number and email</b>
Attorney General's Office	Prosecution of criminal matters. Providing Legal Advice to Statutory Bodies. Registrar of Corporations.	Ms. Ernestine Rengiil, Attorney General. Office of the Attorney General.	Republic of Palau, PO Box 1365, Koror, Palau. 96940. Tel.(680)488-2481/2487 Fax. (680)488-3329
Anti-Human Trafficking Unit	Human Trafficking Monitoring and Policing	Rickley Antonio	(680)488-4845

Division of Maritime Security & Fish & Wildlife Protection	Policing of Maritime, Fisheries, and Environmental Laws	Temdik Ngirblekuu, Chief	(680) 488-3911
Bureau of Public Safety	Divisions of Corrections, Patrol, Criminal Investigation, Fire and Rescue, Transnational Crime, Juvenile Justice, and Maritime Security and Fish and Wildlife Protection	Ismael Aguon, Director.	(680) 488-2423