



Pacific Islands Law Officers' Network (PILON)
Update from the Secretariat on PILON activities 2022/23
PILON Annual Meeting 1–3 November 2023
Republic of Nauru

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The PILON Secretariat is pleased to provide PILON member countries and territories with an update on the Secretariat's work activities over the past year. Since January 2023, most of all the Secretariat's meetings and PILON Working Group (WG)/Committee discussions and activities were held virtually with the exception of the SGBV Advisory Panel meeting that was held face to face in Apia, Samoa, in March 2023.

FOCUS AREA 1: Support Implementation of PILON Strategic Plan

A. PILON WORKING GROUPS, LEGISLATIVE DRAFTERS' COMMITTEE AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee (EC) met three times this year and were informed on the progress of all the WG and PILON Legislative Drafter's Committee (PLDC) 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 2023.

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

- supporting the successful delivery of the fourth and final PILON Cybercrime Workshop in Nadi, Fiji, in late November–December 2022 for more than 60 in person attendees and with virtual participation
- minute taking and recording decisions as supported by WG/PLDC Chairs and the PILON EC
- developing agendas and distributing appropriate information to WG/Committee member
- facilitating WG and PLDC activities and seeking input on all WG/PLDC project work, including webinars delivered by the Corruption WG, participation in the Zyber courses facilitated by the Cybercrime WG, attendance at the 2023 Commonwealth Association Legislative Drafters Conference (CALC) by members of the PLDC Steering Committee and facilitating the SGBV WG Advisory Panel to enable them to finalise the Regional Guidelines, and
- providing support to the WG/PLDC Chairs to drive WG/PLDC engagement.

The Secretariat, with assistance and guidance from the Australian Attorney-General's Department (AAGD) facilitate most of all the WG/PLDC activities in 2022-2023, including WG and PLDC meetings, webinars and virtual discussions.

i. **Report on Meetings – October 2022-October 2023**

	Working Groups	Discussions	Virtual Zoom WG meeting	Webinars	Meeting Face to face	Video recordings	Online Courses
1	Executive Committee	0	3	0	0	0	0
2	SGBV WG	2	3	0	1	0	0
	SGBV Advisory Panel	10	5	0	1	0	0
3	Corruption WG	2	2	2	1	2	0
4	Cybercrime	10	3	0	1	0	0
	Zyber Fundamental Courses (2)	9	4	0	0	3	3
5	Pacific Legislative Drafters	0	3	0		0	0
6	Pacific Prosecutors Association (PPA)	2	1	0	2	0	0
	SUBTOTAL	35	24	2	6	5	3
	TOTAL	75					

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

- i. SGBV Advisory Panel meetings
- ii. WG Chairs, AAGD, Secretariat and webinar speakers' updates on upcoming webinars
- iii. AAGD and Secretariat virtual meetings with PILON partners, observers and relevant parties
- iv. Secretariat and AAGD virtual participation in regional meetings, and
- v. Secretariat and AAGD weekly updates.

FOCUS AREA 2: Facilitate information sharing and communication

The PILON **website** www.pilonsec.org continues to be the main resource bank that houses all PILON material, documents, webinar videos and publications. The website contains information, updates and expands PILON's digital footprint.

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

We send out our regular **newsletter TALANOA** that provides in-depth information on the work of the WGs and PLDC and provides success stories within our PILON community. In 2022-23, three newsletters were distributed to PILON members with a fourth underway.

ii. Overview of PILON Digital Engagement statistics – July 2022-October 2023

1	PILON Website	Views	Visitors
		17,211	5,466

2	PILON Facebook Page	Reach	Likes
		16,206	328

3	YouTube Channel	Views	Likes
	Videos uploaded = 20	1,539	20

Focus Area 3: Promote Collaboration between PILON and regional Organisations

- B. The Secretariat engaged with approximately 22 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) including representation activities on behalf of PILON.

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

The PILON Secretariat facilitated a number of Pacific Island countries and territories to participate in meetings, trainings and webinars delivered by each of the WGs and Committees.

While some travel restrictions still apply, the Secretariat arranged travel for PILON Member participants to attend the following events:

- i. **4th PILON Cybercrime Workshop**, Nadi Fiji on 29 November to 2nd December 2022
- ii. **PILON SGBV Advisory Panel** Committee Meeting in Apia, Samoa in March 2023
- iii. **Australasian PCC & CALC Regional Conference**, Sydney, August 2023 – PLDC members attended this conference
- iv. **Commonwealth Secretariat Cybercrime Conference**, Lae, PNG, February 2023 – Cybercrime WG Chair Linda Folaumoetu'i and PILON Chair Su'a H Wallwork attended this conference
- v. **50th Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police Annual Conference**, Gold Coast, Australia, 28-31 August 2023 – Cybercrime WG Chair Linda Folaumoetu'i attended this meeting supported by Lauren Murray, Senior Law Officer, AAGD and representing AAGD was Rebecca Vonhethoff, Assistant Secretary, Pacific Branch (AAGD was self-funded)
- vi. **PIFS Regional Security Meeting** – Sasae Walter of the Secretariat and Lucy Sargeson, Director, AAGD attended these meetings (Dec 2022 and April 2023) (AAGD attended remotely), and
- vii. **PPA Conference**, Nadi, Fiji, 5-6 October 2023 – Sasae Walter of the Secretariat and Meg Rudder, Senior Law Officer, AAGD, attended this meeting (AAGD arranged its own travel).

Focus Area 5: PILON Administration

The Secretariat continues to keep detailed records of all 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**).

The Secretariat continues to manage PILON's budget and ensures that all activities are managed in accordance with the available resources.

ATTACHMENT A – Summary of PILON Secretariat engagement with regional institutions

REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS		DETAILS
1	PACIFIC ISLAND FORUM SECRETARIAT (PIFS) 	The Secretariat has been heavily engaged in meetings for the FOC Sub-Committee on Regional Security (FSRS). Current matters in discussion that are relevant to PILON include: i. 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Implementation Plan: Peace and Security Thematic Area, and ii. Regional Transnational Organised Crime Disruption Strategy
2	PACIFIC FUSION CENTRE (PFC) 	The PFC continues to update PILON with strategic assessments and primers. The following can be accessed on the PFC website: i. Regional Security Architecture – graphic assessment ii. Pacific Leaders' Gender Equality Declaration and its Independent Review iii. Drivers of Disinformation iv. What is the Honiara Declaration – <i>PILON Secretariat was invited to join PFC's discussions on what the Budapest Convention can do for Pacific cybersecurity</i> v. 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and its implementation vi. Corruption Threats to Pacific Security Priorities vii. Calibrating Forum Dialogue Partner regional security-related engagement in the Pacific viii. Traditional Security Flashpoints and implications for Pacific security ix. Grey Zone activity – threats to sovereignty and social stability and instances of grey zone activity have occurred in the Pacific
3	AUSTRALIA PACIFIC SECURITY COLLEGE (APSC) 	The Secretariat was invited to participate in APSC's facilitated multi-country, 3-day law enforcement table top exercise at the Pacific Transnational Crime Coordination Centre (PTCCC) Office, in Apia, Samoa from 7-9 June 2023. The aim of the exercise was to enhance information sharing and collaboration between agencies and officers at both the national and regional level. This exercise was organised in partnership with the PTCCC, the Oceanic Customs Organisation (OCO), Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police (PICP) and Pacific Immigration Development Community (PIDC). It is the second regional table top exercise of its type held since 2021.
4	ASIA/PACIFIC GROUP ON MONEY LAUNDERING (APG) 	We continued to be updated by APG on its current activities. Their recent work includes: i. New Zealand-funded Pacific AML/CFT Capacity Development (PACD) program which continues to deliver technical assistance to APG members in the Pacific region, and ii. ICRG update + update on the Universal Procedures for the next round of Mutual Evaluations November 2023

5	APGML 	The Secretariat is regularly included in the distribution of follow-up country reports (FURs) and updates to Technical Assistance Overviews and were also invited to attend the APG Annual Meeting, in which the Secretariat virtually attended on behalf of PILON Members (PILON is an Observer member of APG), on the 14 July 2023. The Secretariat also virtually attended the APG Mutual Evaluation Committee (MEC) on Thursday 29 June 2023. The Secretariat was included in the APG Co-Chair Priorities – Data Analytics Survey.
6	COUNCIL OF EUROPE (COE) 	The COE joined the Cybercrime WG in hosting the Fourth and final PILON Cybercrime workshop in Nadi, Fiji, from 29 November–2 December 2022. The COE speaker was Ana Elefterescu, Senior Project Officer, Cybercrime Programme Office. COE also organized for Ms Askola, Deputy Head of the European Union (EU) Delegation in Fiji to speak at the joint EU-Council of Europe cybercrime project Global Action on Cybercrime/ GLACY. PILON is invited to nominate one representative to attend the Octopus Conference on 13-15 December 2023, in Bucharest, Romania. Funding has been provided by the GLACY+ project to fund the participation of one delegate.
7	CYBER SAFETY PASIFIKA (CSP) 	PILON partners with regional and international partners, including the PICP's CSP Program to deliver activities with the Cybercrime WG including regional workshops, training and development of practical resources.
8	PACIFIC TRANSNATIONAL CRIME NETWORK (PTCN) 	PILON Secretariat was invited to attend the 20th Anniversary Celebration event of the PTCN Team Leader's Conference in Apia, Samoa from 24-26 October 2022. PTCN contacts (AFP International Forensics Engagement team) have been our go-to people when arranging for participants to attend the Cybercrime WGs Zyber Forensic Courses.
9	COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT 	Su'a Hellene Wallwork, PILON Outgoing Chair and Attorney General of Samoa, and Linda Folaumoetu'i, Cybercrime WG Chair and Attorney General of Tonga, spoke at the '<i>Addressing Cybercrime in the Pacific</i>' Conference, hosted by the Commonwealth Secretariat in Lae, Papua New Guinea, from 7-9 February 2023. Participants included judges and senior magistrates (judicial officers) from Pacific Commonwealth member countries who met to facilitate discussions on the types, trends, scale and impact of cybercrime in the Pacific region and globally. Dr Tawanda Hondora, Head, Rule of Law Division was one of the speakers at the 2022 PILON Cybercrime Workshop.
10	ANZATSA 	The SGBV WG and the South Pacific Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abuse (ANZATSA) collaborated on areas such as professional development training programmes and identified linkages with PILON to explore PILONs interest in having a Pacific representative(s) on their Board. https://anzatsa.org/

11	US DEPARTMENT OF STATE, OFFICE OF EUROPE & ASIA (INL/EA) 	The Pacific Officer at the US Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) hosted a virtual meeting with PILON Secretariat to discuss areas of mutual interest. Discussions included capacity building for the criminal justice sector in the Pacific Islands, including law enforcement, justice sector and the judiciary, regulatory authorities, and other entities that have a criminal justice nexus. These discussions are ongoing.
12	PACIFIC TRANSNATIONAL CRIME COORDINATION CENTRE (PTCCC)	Detective Sergeant Adam Moore, and Maria Wetzels, are PTCCC Advisors, based in Apia, Samoa. The Secretariat was invited to attend training and was provided with useful resources by PTCCC including: i. Gang Awareness Training, and ii. Electronic Forensics - Expert Witness Course and Manual. PILON invited and funded a speaker, Sergeant Titimaea Nemaia, Samoa, from the PTCCC to speak at the Cybercrime workshop in Fiji.
13	PACIFIC ISLAND CHIEFS OF POLICE (PICP) 	The PILON Cybercrime WG Chair presented at the 50th PICP Annual Conference held in Queensland, Australia in August 2023. PILON continues to discuss future opportunities with PICP on projects of mutual interest.
14	PACIFIC CYBER SECURITY OPERATIONAL NETWORK (PaCSON) 	PILON members were informed of a PaCSON virtual training on 'Processing Honeypot Data' that was scheduled earlier this year in February. PaCSON's AGM was held in October 2022.
15	OCEANIC CUSTOMS ORGANISATION (OCO) 	The Secretariat received an invitation for PILON to attend and speak at the 25th OCO Annual Conference in Pohnpei, FSM, from 18 - 20 July 2023. OCO continues to be one of our main attendees of our WG webinars held throughout the year.
16	PACERPLUS 	The Secretariat was included in the distribution list for documents from PACERPLUS such as: i. Implementation Unit Strategic Plan 2025, and ii. Quarterly Newsletters

17	INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PROSECUTORS (IAP) 	The Secretariat continues to receive the IAP Newsletters and received invites to attend the below listed webinars and workshops. i. An Introduction to Wildlife Crime' webinar, organised by the Global Training Academy of the IAP and Wildlife Justice Commission, held 14 Sept 2023 ii. Encryption and "going dark" – call for speakers iii. 28th Annual Conference in London held 24-27 September 2023 iv. Webinar on "The Importance of the Nuremberg Principles for Prosecutors" held 17 July 2023 v. 7th Latin American Regional Conference in Brazil, held 28 – 30 June 2023. Topics included combatting corruption and money laundering, investigating and prosecuting organised crime, use of new technologies and cybercrime and international cooperation vi. UNICRI and the IAP launched a guidebook to assist prosecutors in the investigation and prosecution of chemical and biological crimes vii. IBA ICC Moot Competition - a seven day educational and social program, which brought together 88 student teams challenging their skills as future international lawyers before panels of legal experts in the field of international criminal law viii. IAP 1st Pan European Regional Conference held on 1 April 2023, the theme was Effective Investigation in the Age of Digitalization ix. 2023 E-learning Program on International Criminal Law, International Cooperation in Criminal Matters and Human Rights and Criminal Justice x. ECHR Knowledge Sharing Platform - enables practitioners to search and access regularly updated caselaw linked to specific Articles or by reference to one of several themes - data protection, environment, immigration, mass protests, prisoner's rights, rights of LGBTI persons, social rights and terrorism xi. 22nd Specialization Course in International Criminal Law for Young Panellists, held 17 June 2023 xii. 2-week Massive Open Online Training Course (MOOC) on Investigating and Prosecuting Crimes against Journalists held 27 February 2023 xiii. Study on SII-Research project - AML/CFT Legal innovations – members were requested to assist in collecting data for a cutting-edge global research project jointly conducted by the Siracusa International Institute and the EU AML/CFT Global Facility. The research is investigating the legal approaches, which eases the burden of proof of, on the one hand, money laundering offences and, on the other hand, the illicit origin of goods in confiscation procedures.
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18	PACIFIC IMMIGRATION DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (PIDC) 	Akuila Ratu, PIDC HOS, reached out to PILON for assistance with PIDC's legislation review programme, which included supporting their members in drafting immigration bills and regulations and to explore if there is any opportunity that PILON can support them in some upcoming activities. We informed Akuila PILON does not have the capacity to provide legislative drafting services. and in that regard, PILON is unable to assist PIDC in providing relevant drafting support for its members.
19	PUBLIC SERVICE FALE (NZ) 	PILON publications on anti-corruption, and the Policy to Legislation toolkit, have been linked on the FaleOnline new learning management website.
20	PACIFIC COMMUNITY (SPC) 	PILON continues to liaise with SPC on opportunities for further collaboration on areas of mutual interest.
21	UN OFFICE OF DRUGS AND CRIME (UNODC) 	PILON has discussed opportunities to collaborate with UNODC on issues including corruption and cybercrime. In October 2023, UNODC invited the PILON Secretariat Coordinator to attend the Pacific Prosecutors Association's (PPA) conference they co-funded with IPA.
22	PACIFIC PROSECUTORS ASSOCIATION (PPA)	As an observer member, the PILON Secretariat attended the 9th PPA Conference, Nadi, Fiji, 5-6 October 2023

ACHIEVEMENTS

To end this report, the Secretariat is very pleased to announce the appointment of senior members of PILON to the bench in their own jurisdictions. All these members were very active members of the 3 WGs of PILON and it's our honour to include them in this report for the Annual Meeting of 2023.

	NAMES		APPOINTMENTS
1	Corrina Laafai	SGBV WG member	Senior Magistrate of Tuvalu
2	Justice Ronald Bei Talasasa	Chair Corruption WG	Puisne Judge of the High Court of Solomon Islands
3	Claire Loeak	SGBV WG member	Associate Judge of Republic of the Marshall Islands
4	Philip Toaliu	Cybercrime WG member	Magistrate, Magistrates Court Port Vila, Vanuatu

PILON WORKING GROUPS WEBINARS, SHORT COURSES & MEETINGS 2023		
WG/COMMITTEE	EVENT	SPEAKERS
Corruption WG June 2023	Webinar: Gift giving vs Corruption - Where is the line?	Mr Johnson Toribiong - President of the Republic of Palau (2009-2013). Ms Mele Lemaki Tagivakatini - legal officer - Office of the Solicitor General, Dept of Justice (Nauru) Mr. Rashmi Aslam - Commissioner of Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption
Cybercrime WG	Digital Forensics Courses – ongoing	Fundamentals of Digital Forensics' (delivered by Zyber/Insig2) In Dec 2022 certificates were presented to the graduates who completed the course.
SGBV WG March 2023	Advisory Panel meeting in Apia, Samoa.	Drafting a Regional guidelines which provide best practice procedures for supporting vulnerable witnesses throughout the prosecution of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) offences.
PLDC August 2023	CALC Regional Conference – <i>New frontiers: challenges and opportunities for drafting officers</i>	PILON funded the Chair and five legislative drafters from the PILON Legislative Drafters' Committee to attend this conference in Sydney, Australia.