



## PACIFIC ISLANDS LAW OFFICERS NETWORK (PILON)

### CYBERCRIME WORKING GROUP MEETING

### MINUTES

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023  
11.00am Samoan time

1. **Welcome, Chair:** – Linda Folaumoetui, Attorney General of Tonga, Chairman PILON Cybercrime Working Group
  
2. **Present**

ii	Janelle Etelagi	Legal Officer, American Samoa
iii	Lauren Murray	Senior Legal officer – Australia
iv	Nick Wilson	Senior Legal Officer – Australia
v	Sasae Walter	Coordinator – PILON
vi	Rosy Fogatia	Assistant Coordinator – PILON
vii	Michael Crowe	In Attendance - PIFS

**Apologies:**

- i. Jo Mildenhall – NZ
- ii. Jamie Crawford – Cook islands
- iii. Glenys Andrews – Fiji
- iv. Josephine Pitmur - PNG

3. **Matters for Discussion:**

a. Summary of the 4<sup>th</sup> Cybercrime WG workshop, Nadi, Fiji, 28 Nov – 2 Dec 2022

i. *Discussion of survey results and update on drafting of Workshop booklet.*

Chair, LF congratulated the WG for a wonderful workshop. She thanked the WG and everyone included, the Secretariat and everybody that contributed to the successful implementation of this very big workshop.

The workshop is a first for PILON where it was delivered on a hybrid mode. The Cybercrime Workshop held in November 2022, was held across 4 days at the Tanoa International Hotel in Nadi, Fiji. It was attended in-person by 65 police, prosecutors and cybercrime experts from 12 Pacific Island countries, including senior officials.

Chair also shared that approximately 40 participants also attended online over the four days of the Workshop. Chair added that she was pleased that they delivered a workshop with a strong practical focus. This meant that after taking a stocktake of emerging trends post-COVID, they spent time exploring the operational tools and legal policy responses to these trends.

ii. *Survey Results*

SW provided members with a brief report on the Cybercrime workshop survey results. 32 questionnaires were analysed, and some common responses include an even distribution of interests of members on the topics delivered for the four days of the training. Members also relayed that they learnt the most from the various Presentations of each day and the Panel Discussions. Members also noted that the workshop was effectively run on a hybrid mode of delivery.

Other notable comments were that attendees wrote that *this was their first ever hybrid workshop and have learnt so much from the collective discussion both in person and virtually.*

Another comments says that; *"Hybrid workshop was convenient and accommodating for participants of the workshop who are not able to present in person. The contents and participation are amazingly informative and clear despite technical hiccups."*

Other comments include *"It is very informative, had expanded my understanding and knowledge on the seriousness of cybercrimes, how to conduct investigations and the type of evidences required for prosecuting a case."*

And last comment: *Content of information presented are relevant and important to my work."*

b. Update from Chair – Commonwealth Secretariat Conference “Cybercrime and Electronic Evidence in the Pacific,” Port Moresby Papua New Guinea 7-9 February 2023

LF shared that Dr Hondora Tawanda, Head, Rule of Law, Governance and Peace Directorate at the Commonwealth Secretariat sent an invitation to the Chair of PILON Su’a Hellene Wallwork and herself, the Chair of the PILON Cybercrime WG to present

a paper on day 1 and day 2 of the Workshop. Chair presented a paper on Day 1 on the outcomes of the Cybercrime workshop in Fiji.

She was also able to hold dialogues with the judges and all attendees of the workshop, the types, trends, scale and impact on cybercrime in the Pacific region, using some observations they've covered in the activities of the WG.

Other issues that were raised were the topics of electronic evidence and cybercrime challenges and opportunities.

AG LF thanked the Commonwealth Secretariat for the opportunity to attend this Conference. All costs were covered by the Commonwealth Secretariat.

c. UNODC Regional Cryptocurrencies and Darknet Investigation Training Course, 20 – 24 March 2023, Nadi, Fiji.

PILON was able to submit 2 names of prosecutors namely Rachel Olutimayin, DPP Solomon Islands, and Aunoa Uele, Prosecutor Samoa, to attend a training course in Fiji. The training course focused on the rise of new technologies in the facilitation of trafficking of opioids and synthetic drugs over the Internet. The main objective of this training is to build capacity for criminal justice authorities to effectively investigate and prosecute cases of online trafficking of opioids and synthetic drugs via Darknet or Clearnet marketplaces. The UNODC confirmed the training was suitable for prosecutors to attend.

The training course is intended for law enforcement officers, Financial Intelligence Units involved in analysis/investigation of cybercrime, cryptocurrencies as well as prosecutors who are actively involved in prosecution of cyber-related cases.

All costs were covered by UNODC.

d. Update on WG Workplan 2023

LM shared that the WG are in discussion with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat to co-design an event to be held later this year. The event will highlight the role of effective cybercrime legislation in addressing cybercrime and cyber enabled crime. We want the event to help WG members progress consideration of accession to the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention).

Mr Michael Crowe, Regional Security Adviser, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat presented a paper to the WG on a possible jointly coordinated event with PILON and Council of Europe.

The purpose of engagement was to stimulate discussion among the Pacific cybersecurity and cybercrime communities about possible support for Forum members to acceded to the Budapest Convention, in which the Working Group members were recently consulted on a discussion paper Mr Crowe provided that sets out high level event details.

The rationale of this coordinated event is that much has been done at the operational level to support Members to engage with the Budapest Convention. For example, the PILON Cybercrime Working Group, which consists of legal and technical specialists from across the region, has partnered with the Council of Europe to deliver three regional

workshops for legal, ICT and enforcement officials (including in 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2022) focussed on countering cybercrime.

Chair added that the WG look forward to working with PIFS to confirming further details for this event, including the date and format.

**4. Other Matters:**

Next Meeting – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023

**5. Meeting Closed 11.40am**