



PILON
Secretariat

PACIFIC ISLANDS LAW OFFICERS' NETWORK (PILON)

PILON LEGISLATIVE DRAFTERS' STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Friday 9 June 2023
3.00pm Samoan time

1. Present:

- | | | | |
|-------|-----------------------|---|--|
| i. | Su'a Hellene Wallwork | - | Chair and Attorney General of Samoa |
| ii. | Leitu Moananu | - | Assistant Attorney General Drafting, Samoa |
| iii. | Cassie Nicholson | - | Chief Parliamentary Counsel, New Zealand |
| iv. | Lucy Sargeson | - | Director, AGD, Australia |
| v. | Bri Heseltine | - | Legal Officer, AGD, Australia |
| vi. | Loretta Teueli | - | Director Legislative Drafting, Nauru |
| vii. | Glenys Andrews | - | Senior Legal Officer, Fiji |
| viii. | Sasae Walter | - | Coordinator, PILON Secretariat |

Apologies:

- | | | | |
|------|------------------|---|--|
| i. | Ropate Green | - | Solicitor General, Fiji |
| ii. | Leigh Talamaivao | - | Parliamentary Counsel, New Zealand |
| iii. | Angelyne Dovo | - | Parliamentary Counsel, Office of the Attorney General, Vanuatu |

2. Matters for Discussion:

Approval of Minutes from Working Group Meeting of 4 May 2023

Two (2) corrections were made to the minutes.

- i. Numbering of those present to be in order.
- ii. Designation for Nauru Representative – Loretta Teueli - Director Legislative Drafting.

The motion to approve the minutes was moved by CN of NZ and seconded by LS Australia.
The minutes were approved.

a. PLDC Steering Committee country representative nominations.

The PLDC Steering Committee agreed to the country representative nominations supplied by member countries (**Samoa, Australia, Fiji, Nauru, New Zealand and Vanuatu**) for the PLDC Steering Committee.

b. Supporting a PLDC presence at the CALC Regional Conference.
(Work Plan Action 1.2)

The PLDC Steering Committee:

(a) Agreed to support **six PLDC members** to attend the CALC Conference in Sydney, Australia, 2-4 August 2023 as follows:

- (1) Agreed to apply the PILON Budget approved for PLDC use at the 2022 PILON Annual Meeting to support up to two PLDC members to attend the CALC Conference.
- (2) Agreed that Su'a Hellene Wallwork, the Attorney General of Samoa will be one of those two participants in recognition of her role as Chair of the PLDC.
- (3) Noted the offer of financial assistance from the New South Wales Parliamentary Counsel's Office (NSW PCO) to support attendance by two legislative drafters from Pacific Island countries in the Commonwealth to attend the CALC Conference provided this is arranged and paid for this financial year i.e. by 30 June 2023.
- (4) Noted New Zealand PCO's proposal to fund two legislative drafters from Pacific Island countries from Realm countries.
- (5) In addition to the Chair's attendance, agreed to select five additional PLDC participants subject to the suitability of nominations and budget following an EOI process coordinated by the PILON Secretariat and decided on by the PLDC Steering Committee on **16 June 2023**.

Agreed to meet on 16 June 2023 to consider and decide on successful nominations.

c. Update on stock take of country specific legislative development and drafting resources
(Work Plan Action 2.1)

The PLDC Steering Committee:

- d. Noted the PILON Secretariat's update on the progress of the stock take of country specific legislative development and drafting resources with responses from **PNG, Samoa, Australia, Fiji and Nauru.**

Australia also supplied copies of other relevant documents such as;

- (a) OPC Drafting Manual Edition 3.2 July 2019
- (b) Drafting Direction Index (as at October 2020)
- (c) Amending Forms Manual (15th edition) 2019
- (d) Plain English Manual 1993

Agreed to task the PILON Secretariat with following up with PLDC member countries to continue to progress the stock take in 2023 and to retain this agenda item for regular updates at future meetings.

The Secretariat was also asked to send the stocktake email to Cassie Nicholson of NZ.

- e. Next PLDC Work Plan, implementation plan and budget

The PLDC Steering Committee:

- (a) Noted that the PLDC Work Plan 2021-2023 will end this year.
- (b) Agreed to commence planning for the development of the next work plan, implementation plan and budget.

3. Next Meeting Friday 16 June 2023 at 3.00pm Samoa time

4. Close of Meeting 4.10pm