

UN Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project

June 2021 Newsletter

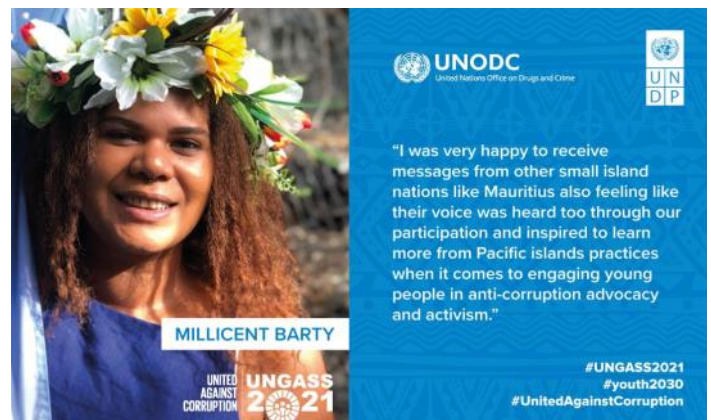
Pacific countries sign onto new regional, international integrity commitments

Pacific Island countries (PICs) have endorsed a new Political Declaration agreed at the United Nations Special Session of the General Assembly (UNGASS) on anti-corruption on 2 June. This will complement the Pacific's regional Teieniwa Vision adopted in February 2021.

The United Nations Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption (UN-PRAC) Project has been working with Pacific countries since early 2020 to develop the [Teieniwa Vision](#). Following its adoption by nine leaders and representatives at the first-ever Pacific leaders anti-corruption meeting hosted by the Kiribati Government in February 2020, all 18 Pacific Islands Forum Leaders adopted the Teieniwa Vision as the regional roadmap at the Leaders Forum in February 2021.

UN-PRAC also worked with PICs in the text development meetings in 2020 up to the 7 May 2021 adoption of the draft Political Declaration for UNGASS.

"The UNGASS political declaration is likely to very much resonate with the Pacific Teieniwa Vision and is an opportunity for the Pacific countries to reinvigorate their anti-corruption commitments firmly anchored to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and Sustainable Development Goal 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions," said Levan Bouadze, Resident Representative of the UN Development Programme (UNDP) Pacific Office in Fiji.



Building on her work with UN-PRAC, Solomon Islands young entrepreneur Millicent Barty featured as a keynote speaker representing the Pacific at the Virtual Youth Forum to Contribute to the United Nations Special Session of the General Assembly (UNGASS) on 24 May.

"After 15 years of implementation of UNCAC, to which all 14 Pacific Island Countries are State parties, the UNGASS Political Declaration will reaffirm our common commitment to end impunity for corruption offences and shape the global anti-corruption agenda on how to prevent and fight corruption and to strengthen international cooperation going forwards," said the Deputy Regional Representative for Southeast Asia and the Pacific of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Julien Garsany.

The UNGASS recognized the need for a whole-of-society approach to tackling corruption and UN-PRAC supported pre-UNGASS engagement plus side event involvement by Pacific youth, media and parliamentarians.

UN-PRAC and the Pacific Anti-Corruption Journalists Network (PACJN) presented "Uniting the Pacific on Anti-Corruption at UNGASS21: Knowledge Session for Pacific Anti-Corruption Journalists" on 27 May (pictured, left). A webinar on "The Role for Pacific Parliamentarians in UNGASS 2021" was co-presented by the Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption (GOPAC) and UN-PRAC on 20 April and a major GOPAC side-event at UNGASS for parliamentarians was held on 2 June with UN-PRAC.





Women, youth in Palau strive to foster integrity in business

Palau’s Chamber of Commerce partnered with UN-PRAC to deliver integrity trainings in key areas, targeting Palau women and young entrepreneurs.

The “Anti-Corruption Toolkit for Palau’s Women Entrepreneurs” was developed in April and May. The Toolkit benefited from lessons learned in Fiji and the Solomon Islands.

In May, 49 young Palau entrepreneurs had a chance to learn about what corruption is, what business integrity means, how to create a code of conduct and through presentations

and group activities, to put into practice what they had learned by adopting the Palau Young Entrepreneurs Commitment Statement (above left, above bottom right).

A major outcome of the UN-PRAC training was for the young entrepreneurs to endorse an integrity commitment statement launched on 3 June. Participants also requested the Palau Chamber of Commerce to form a young entrepreneurs group to focus on corruption going forward.



Anti-corruption agencies build bonds in the region through UN-PRAC

During the first six months of 2021, UN-PRAC has worked closely with the newly established Solomon Islands Independent Commission Against Corruption (SIICAC) to assist its Commissioner Sir Frank Kabui (above left), board and staff to build their capacity .

A major component of this training has been knowledge sharing with established anti-corruption agencies such as the Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption (FICAC) and its Deputy Commissioner Rashmi Aslam (above right) and the Deputy Commissioner of the Anti-Corruption Commission in Timor-Leste, Alexandre F.G. Freitas (above centre).

The initial February webinar session was presented by international anti-corruption experts from UNDP, UNODC, the

UNDP Solomon Islands Transparency and Accountability for the People of Solomon Islands Project and the Anti-Corruption Commission from Timor-Leste.

In April and May, in close cooperation with UNDP Solomon Islands, UN-PRAC supported five subsequent high-level knowledge exchange events in which SIICAC benefited from the valuable lessons learned and long practical experience of FICAC since its establishment.

UN-PRAC also continues to work on building the capacity of the interim Papua New Guinea Independent Commission Against Corruption, as well as the Office of the Public Prosecutor and Office of the Ombudsman of Vanuatu, which now have the functions to prevent, investigate and prosecute corruption matters.

UN-PRAC delivers 47 Webinars & Workshops online & in-person to 2325 participants

The impact of COVID-19 in the Pacific has seen major changes to training, knowledge-sharing and capacity-building. UN-PRAC's commitment to ongoing delivery in anti-corruption strengthening has seen a growth in pan-regional webinars and an emphasis on local on-the-ground partnerships in the 14 PICs. These partnerships are found in all gamuts and demographics of Pacific life, including youth, women, the media, integrity agencies, parliamentarians, government officials and the private sector. On these two next pages, here are just a few of the trainings delivered in the first six months of 2021, beginning with six of our webinars for the media in partnership with the Pacific Islands News Association (PINA) in support of the PACJN. The 2325 participants at the 47 UN-PRAC events included 1281 women and 1044 men.



WHISTLEBLOWER KNOWLEDGE SESSION FOR PACIFIC ANTI-CORRUPTION JOURNALISTS

Presented by the United Nations Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption (UN-PRAC) project and the Pacific Islands News Association (PINA)

WEDNESDAY, 31 MARCH 2021
SUVA, FIJI / WEBINAR



UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

INA Pacific Islands News Association

PACJN Pacific Anti-Corruption Journalists' Network

UNDP United Nations Development Programme

United Nations Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption (UN-PRAC) Project and the Pacific Anti-Corruption Journalists' Network (PACJN) present:

WEBINAR ON ANTI MONEY LAUNDERING FOR PACIFIC ANTI-CORRUPTION JOURNALISTS

TUESDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2021, 2PM FIJI TIME

The UN-PRAC Project is a joint UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and UN Development Programme (UNDP) initiative, funded by the Australian Government and the New Zealand Aid Programme, aimed to support Pacific Island countries (PICs) to strengthen their national integrity systems



UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

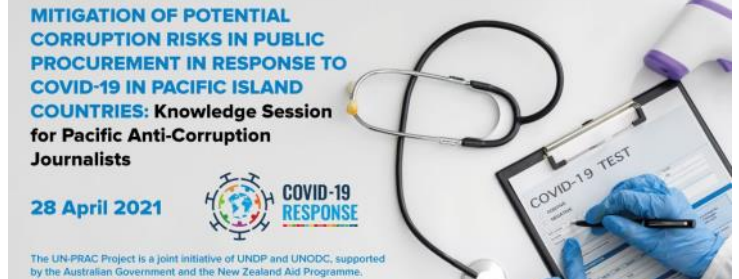
GOPAC Global Open Procurement Anti-Corruption Centre

INA Pacific Islands News Association

PACJN Pacific Anti-Corruption Journalists' Network

HEALTH PROCUREMENT RISKS KNOWLEDGE SESSION FOR PACIFIC ANTI-CORRUPTION JOURNALISTS

TUESDAY, 13 APRIL 2021
1.30 PM (FJ)



MITIGATION OF POTENTIAL CORRUPTION RISKS IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 IN PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES: Knowledge Session for Pacific Anti-Corruption Journalists

28 April 2021

COVID-19 RESPONSE

The UN-PRAC Project is a joint initiative of UNDP and UNODC, supported by the Australian Government and the New Zealand Aid Programme.

UN adviser highlights media role

LUKE NACEI | 31 May 2021, 6:45 am



Regional Anti-Corruption Adviser for the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Annika Wythes (top corner on the right) with regional journalists during a 2021 UNODC webinar session. Pictures: FACEBOOK.

Challenging corruption needs a whole-of-society commitment and Pacific media have a key role to identify priorities, highlight gaps and support evidence-based solutions, says Regional Anti-Corruption Adviser for the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Annika Wythes.



Pacific anti-corruption journalists call for regional commitment to media freedom

By Vicky Neenan
Monday 03/05/2021



The Pacific Anti-Corruption Journalists Network (PACJN) has called for a regional Pacific commitment to boost media freedom and help increase reporting on activities at risk of corruption.

PACJN coordinator, Sandrine Forest, welcomed the focus on media freedom on 3rd May and called for a greater focus on how to implement that freedom.



KNOWLEDGE SHARING WEBINAR FOR PACIFIC MEDIA: PUBLIC REPORTING AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Wednesday 21 April 2021

The UN-PRAC Project is a joint initiative of UNDP and UNODC, supported by the Australian Government and the New Zealand Aid Programme.



UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

UNDP United Nations Development Programme

Training on mitigation of potential corruption risks in Public Procurement in Pacific Island countries

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

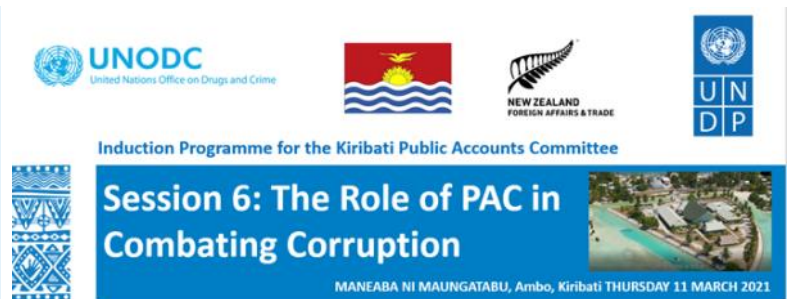
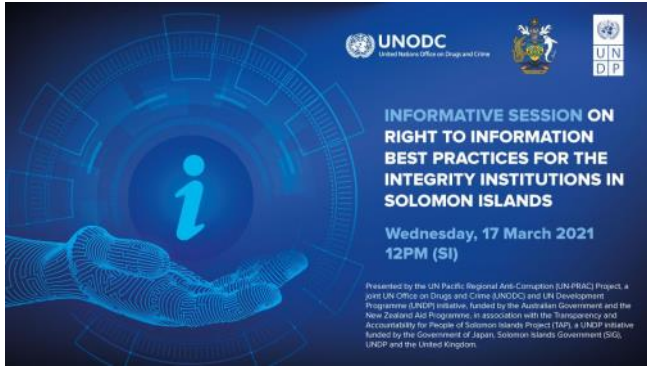
Thursday, 20th of May 2021
2PM (FSM)

The UN-PRAC Project is a joint initiative of UNDP and UNODC, supported by the Australian Government and the New Zealand Aid Programme.

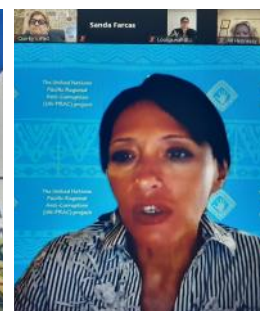
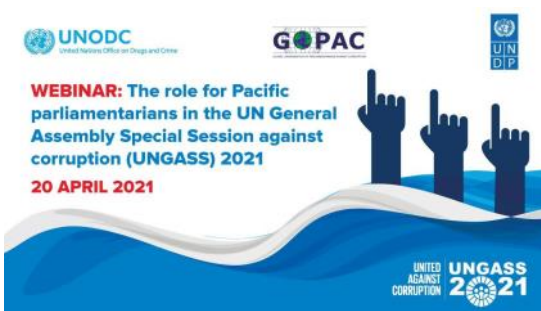
 Jesse Mihkel Assistant Attorney General	 Kuban Mambetkulov International Procurement Consultant
 Annika Wythes Regional Anti-Corruption Adviser, UNODC	 Sonja Stefanovska-Trajanoska Anti-Corruption Adviser, UNDP



Right to Information, parliaments, procurement, COVID-19, youth and private sector stakeholders were just some of UN-PRAC's engagement fields. Partnerships with in-country UN offices and national organizations enabled us to bring local participants into a live workshop, augmented by online webinar involvement by other Pacific colleagues and communities.

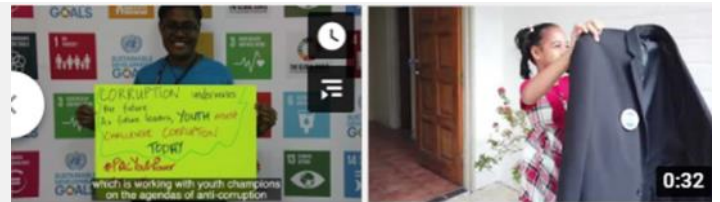


At right: Her Excellency Ms. Richelle Turner, Australian Ambassador to Palau, presented certificates to the Palau Young entrepreneurs after their 8 May UN-PRAC and Palau Chamber of Commerce workshop. At left: Trainings on anti-corruption for the Australian Pacific Training Coalition Suva based staff with UN-PRAC in January.



UN-PRAC videos are now online on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCifhtMpOtMAyp2qTqHYyz1A>



Youth as Game Changers

"I don't accept bribes"



Corruption risk in Climate Change



A Pacific story on corruption and human rights



A collective effort to build a corruption free pacific



Corruption Risks in Pacific Health



Push to protect whistleblowers

Building on growing interest in introducing good practice whistleblowing protection, UN-PRAC partnered with the Pacific Islands Law Officers Network (PILON) to produce three new webinars for Pacific law officers, based on an UN-PRAC handbook on whistleblowing being launched later in 2021.

The first webinar in the series, "Developing comprehensive whistleblower protections", was released on the PILON Members Zone website on 31 March. The second webinar was released on 30 April. The first two covered foundational aspects of whistleblower protection, such as:

- Who is a whistleblower;
- Who and what kind of information should be protected by whistleblower laws; and
- What should you consider when developing a whistleblower protection policy.

The third webinar was released on 30 May and dealt with "Good Practice Implementation: How we can actually establish a whistleblower protection framework". The PILON Corruption Working Group has determined the webinars will remain on the Members Zone website for ongoing policy development assistance.



UN-PRAC publications available

Information Notes:

- Holistic Integrity Frameworks to Address Corruption
- Economic and Social Impacts of Corruption in the Pacific
- Public Service Excellence to Prevent Corruption
- Status of the Right to Information in the Pacific Island Countries
- Civil Society Engagement to Address Corruption
- Action taken by Pacific Legislatures to Address Corruption

Papers:

- Holistic Integrity Frameworks to Address Corruption
- Status of the Right to Information in the Pacific Island Countries
- The Role of Non-State Actors and Citizens in Corruption Prevention in the Pacific

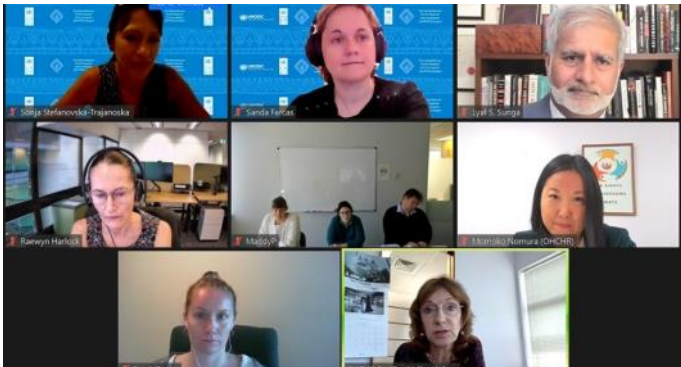
Factsheets on UNCAC:

- UNCAC (An Overview)
- UNCAC Chapter II: Preventative Measures
- UNCAC Chapter III: Criminalization and Law Enforcement
- UNCAC Chapter IV: International Cooperation
- UNCAC Chapter V: Asset Recovery

Other publications:

- Briefing Note: Public Service Excellence to Prevent Corruption
- Advisory Note: COVID-19 and Corruption in the Pacific
- UN-PRAC's Submission to the Australian Parliament's Inquiry into strengthening Australia's relationships with countries in the Pacific Region
- UN-PRAC's Submission to the Australian Parliament's Inquiry into Australia activating greater trade and investment with Pacific Island countries
- UN-PRAC's Submission to the Australian Parliament's Inquiry into the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for Australia's foreign affairs, defence and trade
- Anti-Corruption Toolkit for Women-Owned Micro, Small and Medium Businesses in Fiji

Please contact any member of the UN-PRAC team listed on page 7 to get a copy of these documents.



Human Rights integral to integrity agenda

Recognizing the dual impact of COVID-19 and corruption in the Pacific, UN-PRAC undertook consultations and research to produce a policy brief, “The COVID-19 Pandemic: Exacerbating the Threat of Corruption to Human Rights and Sustainable Development in PICs”.

The brief will be launched later in 2021.

During the consultative process, UN-PRAC benefited from important insights from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the NZ Ombudsman and Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC).

Fiji ‘I don’t accept bribes’ campaign rolls out

Fiji’s nationwide campaign aimed at building a civil service immune to bribery around “I don’t accept bribes” began to be rolled out to government agencies from March, for a total engagement of 931 officers (in seven institutions) as of June.



This campaign, supported by UN-PRAC, entails all civil servants undergoing a thorough anti-bribery training conducted by FICAC’s Corruption Prevention team.

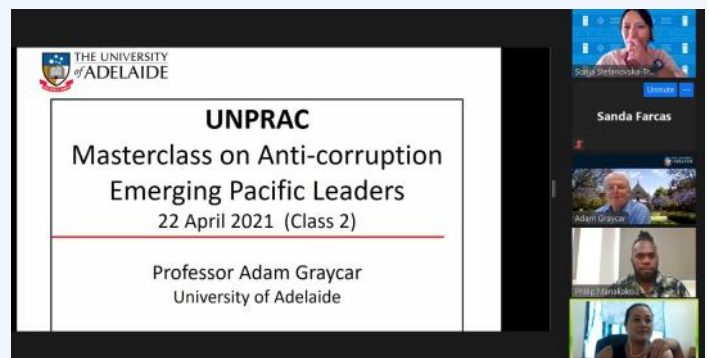
Following the training, each participant receives their ‘I don’t accept bribes’ badge that they are expected to wear with pride, as it also serves as a promise to not engage or entertain the corrupt practice of bribery. The badge is also intended to show the commitment to public service excellence. All government institutions and statutory bodies will be visited by FICAC throughout the year to receive their training and badge.

University course launched, plus Masterclass on anti-corruption for emerging Pacific Leaders

The University of the South Pacific (USP), assisted by UN-PRAC and the Education for Justice (E4J) Initiative, developed a 200-level anti-corruption course as part of USP’s Leadership, Governance and Human Rights (LGHR) programme to provide anti-corruption knowledge at the tertiary level in a holistic manner throughout the Pacific.

This USP course aims to help prevent corruption by informing future Pacific leaders of the societal determinants of corruption and the benefits of collective anti-corruption action. The course enables the key work of UNCAC and SDG16 to be localized for those engaged in leadership training. The course will be delivered in a blended mode (in person and online) to the 12 Member USP countries. UN-PRAC, in association with E4J programme officers at UNODC, undertook reviews and rewriting of all 13 unit courses.

The online Pacific-wide inauguration of the course was held on 16 June, with Dr. Giulio Masasso Paunga, Acting Vice Chancellor of USP officially launching the course. Key stakeholders spoke of the value of anti-corruption education for their sectors, including: Mr. Kameli Batiweti, Chief Executive Officer for the Fiji Commerce and Employers Federation; Mrs. Anne Pakoa, Chief Executive Officer of the Vanuatu Human Rights Coalition; and Mr. Philip Manakako, youth advocate and Assistant Secretary to SIACAC



Since 2012, UN-PRAC has also observed and worked with emerging Pacific leaders who go on to play a major role in integrity strengthening in government, the private sector and throughout their local communities.

In April, UN-PRAC also teamed up with Professor Adam Graycar, Professor of Public Policy at the University of Adelaide (Australia) and the 2020 co-winner of the International Anti-Corruption Excellence Award (Academic Research and Education) to present the “Masterclass on Anti-Corruption for Emerging Pacific Leaders” from nine PICs. The cohort is expected to further co-operate to advance the anti-corruption agenda in the Pacific.



UN Convention against Corruption in the Pacific

Pacific States parties to UNCAC	Date of ratification/accession
Cook Islands	17 October 2011
Federated States of Micronesia	21 March 2012
Fiji	14 May 2008
Kingdom of Tonga	6 February 2020
Kiribati	27 September 2013
Nauru	12 July 2012
Niue	3 November 2017
Palau	24 March 2009
Papua New Guinea	16 July 2007
Republic of the Marshall Islands	17 November 2011
Samoa	18 April 2018
Solomon Islands	6 January 2012
Tokelau (New Zealand)	
Tuvalu	4 September 2015
Vanuatu	12 July 2011

Youth sport integrity a priority in Fiji

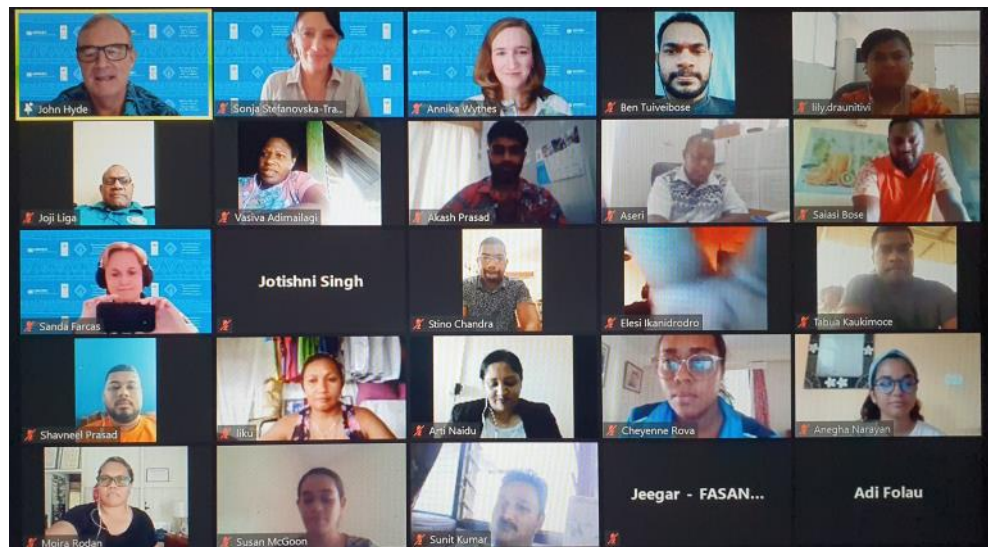
Based on UN-PRAC’s “whole-of-society” focus, an Integrity and Sport for Pacific Youth Toolkit is being developed to help engage young Pacific Islanders who are passionate about their sport to become passionate about integrity.

As part of the Toolkit’s development, workshops have been held with the Fiji Ministry of Youth and Sports’ Assistant Youth Officers, Sports Development Officers from the Fiji National Sports Commission, Voices of the Athletes Champions from the Fiji Association of Sports and National Olympic Committee and administrators.

Over 40 participants joined the first online webinar to look at international and regional good practices of youth engagement in integrity, along with Fiji’s current engagement in major sport integrity development.

“The Ministry of Youth and Sports is working with a number of partners to progress integrity issues at all levels of sport and we aim by 2022-2023 to have the Fiji Sports Integrity Commission established,” said Mr. Aseri Tabuawaiwai, Senior Sports Officer and Head of the Sports Unit for the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

The Toolkit will be launched later in 2021. UN-PRAC welcomes engagement with other Pacific youth national sporting organizations.



For more information, please contact:

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The United Nations Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption (UN-PRAC) Project is a joint initiative of UNDP and UNODC, supported by the Australian and the New Zealand Governments.

