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UN Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project

Introduction to UN-PRAC 's engagement with Parliamentarians, civil society, media

GOPAC-UN-PRAC Partnership in the Pacific

5 November 2015

Summary

- UN-PRAC and the scope of work
- Engagement with different actors: why are they important?
- Work with:
 - Parliamentarians
 - civil society
 - media

UN-Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project (UN-PRAC)

- Joint UNDP – UNODC project
- Framed around UNCAC
 - supporting PICs to ratify UNCAC
 - supporting PICs to implement UNCAC
 - supporting PICs to participate in UNCAC processes, including Implementation Review Mechanism
- 4 year project
 - \$4.1m (\$2.45m UNDP-PC / \$1.6m UNODC)
 - DFAT funded
 - Deployment of dedicated UNDP and UNODC personnel
- Linked to UNDP and UNODC global programmes

Why Parliaments, CSOs and Media?

- UNCAC's inclusive approach to fighting corruption
- Parliaments/Governments at the forefront
- **Article 13 of UNCAC:** Encourage the role of individuals and groups outside of the public sector
 - Participation of society
 - Promoting and protecting the freedom to seek, receive, publish and disseminate information on corruption

Engagement with Pacific Parliaments

- UNCAC awareness-raising sessions with Members of Parliament in Kiribati, Tuvalu, Samoa, Tonga
- Kiribati and Tuvalu acceded – Tuvalu is the 177th State party
- Parliamentary Induction Programmes and PAC Workshops held, such as in Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa and Tuvalu

Partnership with GOPAC

- GOPAC Chapters in Cook Islands, Kiribati and Tonga
- Through engagement with GOPAC, Members of Parliament in Tonga established the Anti-Corruption Standing Committee and Tonga GOPAC Chapter in May 2015
- MPs participated at the GOPAC Conference
- Potential for GOPAC expansion in the region

Engagement with Non-State Actors

- Anti-Corruption awareness raising sessions for CSOs in 7 countries
- International Anti-Corruption Day grants
- Participation in regional and international workshops/conferences (IACC16, also with the private sector)
- Pacific Youth Forum Against Corruption
 - Small grants for follow-up in-country work
 - Youth at 2015 IACC
 - Recruitment of Pacific Anti-Corruption Youth Officer with Pacific Youth Council
 - Support for TI PNG's Youth Against Corruption Association (YACA)
- Upcoming Anti-Corruption Workshop for Pacific CSOs in November
- Social accountability grants commencing shortly

Work with Media

- UNCAC Awareness Training for Media
 - Tonga Media
 - Pacific Media (7 countries participated)
 - Invited to Anti-Corruption Workshop for Pacific CSOs in November
 - Phase II of the Project: continuous engagement with the media
- Actively promote citizens right to information (seek, receive and disseminate information on corruption) – including direct support to countries (e.g. Palau, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu)
- Media understand existing anti-corruption mechanisms in the Pacific
- Role of the media in highlighting UNCAC and anti-corruption, and how to influence policy-making

Way Forwards

- UN-PRAC values its relationships with Parliaments, CSOs and media organizations in the region
- Seek opportunities to build/enhance their roles in fighting corruption at national, regional and international forums
- Next cycle of the UNCAC Review has potential for more Members of Parliament and CSO participation
- Increase in media engagement on anti-corruption issues

**For further information, please
contact:**

Annika Wythes
Anti-Corruption Adviser (UNODC)
Suva, Fiji
Email: annika.wythes@unodc.org

Mihaela Stojkoska
Anti-Corruption Specialist (UNDP)
Suva, Fiji
Email: Mihaela.Stojkoska@undp.org

Luisa Senibulu
Anti-Corruption Associate (UNDP/UNODC)
Suva, Fiji
Email: luisa.senibulu@undp.org