



# UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

July – December 2023 Pacific Newsletter



## PIF Leaders Summit - Teieniwa Vision Implementation Progress

In the framework of the collaboration with the Pacific Islands Forum, UNODC's Pacific Anti-Corruption Team played a crucial role in supporting Kiribati President Taneti Maamau as part of the national delegation through the provision of essential technical assistance. The Anti-Corruption Team's involvement at the summit encompassed the provision of updates on the Teieniwa Vision implementation, reporting on the advancements made in the collaborative PIFS/UNODC Teieniwa Vision Implementation Project and supporting the establishment of the Teieniwa Vision Task Force. UNODC Anti-Corruption Team was also an integral member of the UN Delegation at the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting (PIFLM) and participated in meetings with different stakeholders.

The Pacific Islands Forum Leaders meet annually to develop collective responses to regional issues and deliver on their vision for a resilient Pacific Region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion and prosperity. This is to ensure all Pacific peoples can lead free, healthy and productive lives. This year's Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting (PIFLM) was hosted by the Cook Islands under the theme '*Our Voices, Our Choices, Our Pacific Way: Promote, Partner, Prosper*'. The meeting



was chaired by Hon. Mark Brown, Prime Minister of the Cook Islands.



At the PIFLM held on 10 November 2023, significant progress was highlighted with regard to the Teieniwa Vision, wherein leaders acknowledged the proposed establishment of a dedicated taskforce to effectively oversee its implementation. The participation of the UNODC at the PIFLM proved to be a great success, with their contribution strengthening the collaborative efforts aimed at combating corruption, underscoring the organisation's crucial role in fostering

transparency and integrity in the Pacific region.

## Young voices speak up in Serua through UNODC-supported National Youth Council of Fiji

Dranikula Village (Serua), 30 November 2023 – This year's National Youth Council conference was opened by Fiji's Minister of Youth and Sport, the National Youth Council and more than 150 young people calling for inclusivity and dialogue. The event was organised by of the Youth Assemblies of Fiji and the Provincial Youth Council, supported by UNODC.





During his address, Minister of Youth and Sport Jese Saukuru underscored the pivotal role of youth engagement and participation in shaping Fiji's future. He emphasized the government's commitment to establishing a positive environment for youth to thrive, ensuring their voices are heard and their potential realized.

Roughly one third of Fiji's population is between 18 to 25 years old and it is acknowledged that this age bracket routinely faces societal obstacles that hinder their active involvement in supporting their community and having their voices heard. This week's conference highlighted these obstacles and provide a forum for discussing and overcoming them. Ultimately, the aim is to contribute to a more informed, participatory and inclusive framework for young individuals within Fiji's dynamic social landscape.

"Young people are not just the leaders of tomorrow, but active participants in shaping today," said Marie Pegie Cauchois, UNODC Pacific Officer in Charge and Regional Anti-Corruption Adviser.

## The Pacific Prosecutors Association Annual Conference in Nadi



UNODC, in partnership with the Pacific Prosecutors Association (PPA) and the International Prosecutors Association, convened the 2023 Pacific Prosecutors Association Conference in Nadi, Fiji on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of October, marking the first time senior prosecution officials had congregated in this manner since 2016. Under the theme of "**Emerging Transnational and Cyber Crime Trends in the Pacific Region: challenges for prosecutors**", 14 Directors of Public Prosecution and Attorney Generals from across the Pacific contributed to the event, examining and developing responses to the emerging threats of transnational organised crime (TOC), evaluating the implications this has for prosecutors across the pacific as well as a critical look at prosecutorial guidelines and code of conduct.

Of significant note at this event was the respectful remembrance of Mr. David Toganivalu, Fiji's Acting Director of Public Prosecutor. DPP Toganivalu was scheduled to attend the seminar amongst his peers but sadly passed away a few days prior. The participants joined the President in honouring his memory.



The meeting began with speeches from H.E. Wiliame Katonivere, President of Fiji and Solicitor-General Ropate Green. President Katonivere highlighted the threats posed by new technologies such as artificial intelligence and virtual assets. He noted their "enormous potential benefits but also their huge potential for abuse by people with less virtuous and nefarious agendas."

The meeting was significant in view of the increasing and complex TOC threats and the need to proactively improve prosecutors' awareness and capacity to meet them. Effective presentation of complex evidence and its importance in securing successful prosecutions was also highlighted. Going forward, UNODC will collaborate with the PPA to support prosecutors with a variety of interventions aligned to UNODC's portfolio of programmes, including training and on-site technical assistance.



## Collaboration on Child Exploitation Awareness Conference & NCMEC Training

In active partnership with the U.S. Embassy, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC), U.S. Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and the Fiji Police Force, UNODC supported the awareness and training week, aimed at fortifying efforts to combat online child exploitation in Fiji. At the initial 2-day conference, The Global Programme of Cybercrime (UNODC) delivered an overview of the programme's priority within the region and explored the specific challenges and opportunities identified with Online Child Exploitation in the context of the Pacific. The following 3-day NCMEC training course was led by experts from NCMEC, HSI and UNODC and delivered training into the use of the NCMEC Cybertip system. UNODC's Pacific Advisor on Cybercrime Matt Watson opened the course with a detailed input on the impact of this training to the efforts in protecting victims, highlighting how this is a first step of many which could lead to a robust and efficient response to Online Child Exploitation within Fiji.



## Solomon Islands Prosecution Conference goes ahead with UNODC support



Following several unforeseen delays, the Solomon Islands Prosecution Conference on Cybercrime was successfully conducted in October 2023 through backing from UNODC's Global Programme on Cybercrime. The conference featured presentations by key stakeholders, including the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF), Fiji's Ministry of Home Affairs, the International Association of Prosecutors as well as UNODC Experts. The Global Programme on Cybercrime's Daniela Eilberg and Matt Watson presented to the 60+ prosecutors and law enforcement officers in attendance, providing both an introduction to the international mechanisms available supporting prosecutions on cybercrime as well as an overview of ensuring admissibility, validity and integrity of digital evidence from identification to presentation in court. This event played a pivotal role in highlighting the issues facing law enforcement and prosecution in relation to cybercrime and provided a critical platform to share invaluable expertise and experiences among regional counterparts.



## Welcome our newcomers

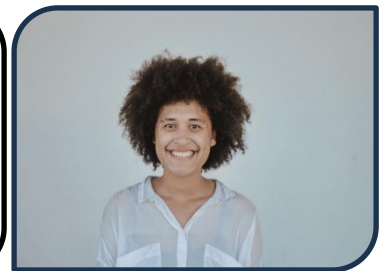


Mr. Matthew Watson. Pacific Advisor on Cybercrime

With a degree in Criminology, he spent a large part of his career as a Major Crime Forensic Scientist specializing in blood spatter analysis, fire investigation and digital forensics before supporting the UK's Home Office at a national level as a Policing and Forensic strategy consultant. Just prior to joining UNODC and in addition to the national programme work, Matthew supported UK policing as a university lecturer on policing strategy in London.

Ms. Ethellina Rawlinson. Programme Assistant

With a background at the Mirthquake Foundation as a Project & Communications Officer, she is a graduate from the University of the South Pacific with majors in Psychology, Management, and Public Administration.



Mr. Atonio Delana Tokaibai. Programme Assistant

He worked at The Government of Fiji's Ministry of Finance as a Procurement Assistant for 4 years. He is currently pursuing his Professional Diploma in Procurement and Supply Chain from the University of the South Pacific in Fiji.



### Contacts:

**Ms Marie Pegie Cauchois** – UNODC Pacific Officer in Charge and Regional Anti-Corruption Advisor  
[cauchois@un.org](mailto:cauchois@un.org)

**Ms Florica Dragomir** – UNODC/PIFS Anti-Corruption Programme Officer [florica.dragomir@un.org](mailto:florica.dragomir@un.org)

**Mr Stephen Fong** – Programme Assistant [stephen.fong@un.org](mailto:stephen.fong@un.org)

**Mr Collie Brown** – Regional Transnational Organised Crime Advisor [collie.brown@un.org](mailto:collie.brown@un.org)

**Ms Sophia Pretrick** – National Programme Officer for Transnational Organised Crime in the Micronesian Islands [sophia.pretrick@un.org](mailto:sophia.pretrick@un.org) (based in the FSM)

**Ms Hyejin Kim** – Transnational Organised Crime Research Assistant [hyejin.kim@un.org](mailto:hyejin.kim@un.org)

**Ms Swastika Shivanjeni Chand** – Programme Assistant [swastika.chand@un.org](mailto:swastika.chand@un.org)

**Mr Matthew Watson** – Cybercrime Programme Officer [matthew.watson@un.org](mailto:matthew.watson@un.org)

**Ms. Ethellina Rawlinson** – Programme Assistant [ethellina.rawlinson@un.org](mailto:ethellina.rawlinson@un.org)

**Ms Marie Jane Fatiaki** – Research Officer/Programme Officer: Crimes that Affect the Environment-Human Trafficking Programme [mari.fatiaki@un.org](mailto:mari.fatiaki@un.org)

**Ms Rachel Jin** – Programme Support Officer - Global Maritime Crime Programme [rachel.jin@un.org](mailto:rachel.jin@un.org)

**Mr Kalusiani Vuki** – National Programme Officer – Global Maritime Programme [kalusiani.vuki@un.org](mailto:kalusiani.vuki@un.org)

**Mr Atonio Delana Tokaibai** – Programme Assistant [atonio.tokaibai@un.org](mailto:atonio.tokaibai@un.org)