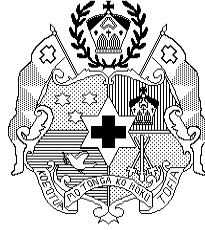


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20 September 2023

**Tonga undertakes its First Country Review under the United Nations Convention
Against Corruption
Nuku'alofa, Tonga**



1. On 18 – 19 September 2023, Tonga conducted its country visit under the first review cycle of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, on articles 15 – 42 of Chapter III for “Criminalization and law enforcement” and articles 44 – 50 of Chapter IV “International cooperation” of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.
2. The meeting was hosted by the Attorney General’s Office, as the current Tonga Focal Point for the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, in collaboration with the

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna and Suva. Present to assist Tonga's Country Review were the country review experts for Tonga, Ms. Lagafuaina Tavita, Director Special Investigations, Office of the Ombudsman Samoa and Mr. Jacques Ngarassal Saham, Coordinator of the Anti-Corruption Organization, Chad, as well as Ms. Tanja Santucci, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, Vienna and Ms. Marie Pegie Cauchois-Suva from UNODC.

3. Tonga effectively became a State Party to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption on 6 February 2020. The Tongan Government in collaboration with the UNODC began its work on Tonga's self-assessment in 2020. The Country visit is essential in completing Tonga's First Review cycle.



4. The two-day meeting brought together key stakeholders which include the Director of Public Prosecutions, Attorney General's Office, Tonga Police, Ombudsman Office, Ministry of Justice, Public Service Commission to clarify and finalize Tonga's implementation of Chapters III and IV of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption.
5. The meeting discussed laws and policies, practices and procedures within the Tongan Government pertaining to its implementation of Chapters III and IV of the United

Nations Convention Against Corruption. The discussions focused also on areas where Tonga could improve existing laws and practices to comply with the Convention. Other areas of discussion included areas in which Tonga needed assistance for improvement.

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