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Our Reference: LSF.95/25- AG.37 16 June 2025

PRESS RELEASE

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE HOSTED THE FIRST IN-PERSON WORKSHOP OF THE PACIFIC ISLAND LAW OFFICER'S NETWORK (PILON) CYBERCRIME LEGISLATION IMPLEMENTATION HANDBOOK SUBCOMMITTEE FROM 11 – 13 JUNE 2025 IN NUKU'ALOFA

From 11 – 13 June 2025, the Attorney General's Office hosted the first in-person Workshop of the Pacific Island Law Officer's Network (PILON) Cybercrime Legislation Implementation Handbook Subcommittee at Tano'a Hotel in Nuku'alofa, which gathered Subcommittee members from the Pacific countries of Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu, as well as experts from the Council of Europe, the Australian Attorney General's Department and the PILON Secretariat.



Group photo during the Opening Ceremony of the Workshop

The Subcommittee began its work on the Handbook virtually in 2024, and is expected to complete its work by mid-2026. The Handbook is designed to be a toolkit for the Pacific Region to implement cybercrime legislation.

The Workshop was opened by the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for MEIDECC, Dr. Taniela Fusimalohi, who acknowledged the important work of the Subcommittee in drafting the regional guide for the Pacific.

The Attorney General of Tonga, Mrs. Linda Simiki-Folaumoetu'i has been the Chair of the PILON Cybercrime Working Group since she took office as Attorney General of Tonga in early 2019. Before that, her predecessor Mr. 'Aminiasi Kefu chaired the Working Group since 2018.

The Subcommittee focused on Chapters 2 to 4 of the Handbook during the Workshop. The Subcommittee will continue their work virtually in the immediate aftermath of the Workshop, and are scheduled to have two more in-person Workshops before the Handbook is finalised.

The Workshop was also one of Tonga's activities as the regional hub of the Pacific under the Glacy-e Project of the Council of Europe's Budapest Convention on Cybercrime.

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