

REGIONAL WORKING GROUP ON FAMILY PROTECTION / DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LEGISLATION

OUTCOMES DOCUMENT

A. Introduction

1. The first meeting of the Regional Working Group on Family Protection / Domestic Violence Legislation¹ ('the WG') was held in Nadi, Fiji, from 14 to 15 May, 2019.
2. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Kosrae and Pohnpei states from the Federated States of Micronesia, the Solomon Islands, the Marshall Islands, Vanuatu, and Tonga.²
3. The meeting was chaired by Fiji ('the Chair') and supported by the Regional Rights Resource Team of The Pacific Community ('SPC RRRT') as the WG Secretariat ('the Secretariat').

B. Outcomes

4. The WG endorsed its Terms of Reference.³
5. The WG agreed that it should hold at least one face-to-face meeting per year and that such meeting should take place in the month of May.
6. The WG extended its appreciation to Ms Shamima Ali, representing the Pacific Regional Network on Gender-Based Violence ('Network'), for her presentation on the membership and work of the Network, and noted her suggestions as to how the WG could interact with the Network.
7. The WG noted the presentation by the Secretariat on the Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls ('PPEVAWG') and the Spotlight Initiative ('Spotlight').
8. The WG acknowledged that its work is aligned with, and could be supported by, the Network, PPEVAWG and Spotlight, and agreed to explore opportunities to collaborate with these and other similar regional and national initiatives. The WG further agreed that the Network, PPEVAWG and Spotlight and other similar regional and national initiatives should be invited to participate as resources at WG meetings, from time to time and as appropriate.
9. Acknowledging the important role of civil society organisations / non-state actors ('CSOs / NSAs') working in the violence against women and girls space, and the expertise and experience which they hold, the WG agreed to explore opportunities to collaborate with such CSOs / NSAs, and to invite them to participate as resource` at its meetings, from time to time and as appropriate.

¹ The WG was established in October 2019 2018 as an outcome of the Regional Consultation on the Implementation of Family Protection / Domestic Violence Legislation.

² See Annex A for details of the representatives of the WG members.

³ See Annex B for the Terms of Reference.

10. The WG considered reports by each member on the status of implementation of their respective family protection / domestic violence legislation, following which the WG engaged in discussions which resulted in the identification of three regional priorities:
 - a. Counselling – The WG identified the priority need of member countries for the full range of counselling services necessary for the effective implementation of family protection / domestic violence legislation, with clear roles and responsibilities, and appropriate accreditation systems and processes.
 - b. Advisory Committees / Councils – The WG identified the priority need of member countries to strengthen mechanisms to guide, inform, coordinate and improve the implementation of family protection / domestic violence legislation.
 - c. Data Collection and Monitoring and Evaluation – The WG identified the priority need of member countries to strengthen data collection and monitoring and evaluation frameworks, in order to ensure the effective monitoring and implementation of family protection / domestic violence legislation as well as the effective and appropriate measurement of the outcomes and impacts of the legislation.
11. The WG agreed to establish committees from within its membership to design and implement action plans for the priorities. The WG instructed the Secretariat to liaise with member countries to establish these committees and to support them to design and implement the action plans.
12. The WG confirmed that the implementation of the action plans should complement existing regional and national initiatives, including of members, relating to the implementation of family protection / domestic violence legislation or to addressing violence against women and girls more generally.
13. The WG agreed to invite Palau and Papua New Guinea to join the WG, noting that they are implementing family protection / domestic violence legislation.
14. The WG agreed to invite the Federated States of Micronesia to join the WG, noting that it has enquired about membership on the basis that it holds the responsibility for the country's national reporting obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.
15. The WG instructed the WG Secretariat to work towards increasing the visibility and status of the WG and its activities.