

# National Conference on Cybercrime and e-evidence for Prosecutors

---

## **CALL TO ACTION**

**Nadi, 13 – 14 June 2024**

We, representatives of Prosecuting Authorities in Fiji met at the first National Conference on Cybercrime and e-evidence for Prosecutors organised by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution (ODPP) and supported the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Council of Europe on 13 – 14 June 2024 in Nadi, Fiji.

COMMENDING the integral role of prosecutors and investigators as leading professionals within the criminal justice system;

RECOGNIZING the need to enhance cooperation in combatting cybercrime and protecting communities in the region including by, inter alia, formulating concrete and effective regional approaches;

BEING AWARE that any crime may involve electronic evidence and that lawful access to such evidence is essential to ensure the rule of law, protect human rights and permit victims to obtain justice;

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of harmonization of laws related to cybercrime and electronic evidence;

MINDFUL of the need to respect fundamental rights and freedoms, ensure the protection of personal data, and to uphold the rule of law when protecting society against crime;

UNDERLINING the value of the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime as a guideline for domestic legislation and a framework for international cooperation;

HIGHLIGHTING the need for extensive capacity building on cybercrime and electronic evidence and for further synergies, closer cooperation and coordination;

The first National Conference on Cybercrime and e-evidence for Prosecutors in Fiji:

- Facilitated discussions on successful cross-border investigations and prosecutions, and identified difficulties and obstacles of legal or practical nature that will ease the cooperation between national prosecution authorities.
- Provided high-level contributions to prosecution-related issues and contributed to the development of informal or formal contacts, as appropriate, between prosecution authorities.
- Discussed the relevant regional and cross-regional trends of cybercrime and the appropriate investigative and prosecutorial measures to counter them and formulated common observations or opinions.

- Shared experiences and good practices in judicial cooperation in criminal matters, and in the use of mutual legal assistance instruments and special investigation techniques for the investigation and prosecution of cybercrimes.

In this context, we consider that actions in the following areas will permit a more effective criminal justice response to the challenges of cybercrime and electronic evidence in Fiji and in the region:

- To engage in international cooperation to the widest extent possible. This includes making full use of the existing bi- and multilateral agreements, in particular the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime,
- To mainstream prosecutorial and investigation training on cybercrime and electronic evidence into the national training curricula for prosecutors. This should include access to basic and advanced training modules on cybercrime and electronic evidence for initial and in-service training,
- Consideration should be given to ensuring that prosecutorial training on cybercrime and electronic evidence becomes compulsory,
- To create and maintain a pool of national prosecutors who are trainers on cybercrime. These trainers should be continuously supported in receiving training on both content related matters and adult training methodologies,
- Make use of existing prosecutorial training materials. Training concepts and materials have already been developed by the Council of Europe, UNODC and other organisations and could be adapted to the needs of ODPP,
- To develop / update and include rules and protocols on the handling of electronic evidence at all levels of national training,
- To strengthen collaboration and cooperation in the fight against cybercrime in collaboration with the international community.

*This call to action was proposed by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution as a way forward.*