



Parliamentarians for Global Action  
Parlamentarios para la Acción Global  
Action Mondiale des Parlementaires  
برلمانيون من أجل التحرك العالمي

**Pacific Islands Roundtable on the Ratification and Implementation  
of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC)**

Port Vila, Vanuatu

31 May 2019

**Port Vila Plan of Action on the Universality and Effectiveness  
Rome Statute in the Fight against Impunity and toward Accountability**

*We, in our capacities as representatives of Pacific Island states, participating at the Pacific Islands Roundtable on the ratification and implementation of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), following deliberations held in Port Vila, Vanuatu, on 31 May 2019,*

*Expressing* gratitude to the host country of Vanuatu and the partners of Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) that have supported the successful organization of this Roundtable;

*Understanding* that impunity for perpetrators of the most serious crimes included in the Rome Statute poses a global threat to peace, justice, and the rule of law, and increases the likelihood of the commission of new atrocities;

*Affirming* that only through cooperation and concerted effort can we ensure that the Pacific Islands region maintains a strong and unified front to oppose impunity for these crimes in all their forms;

*Recognizing* that membership in the Rome Statute system may facilitate international cooperation among Pacific Island States and with other members of the regional bloc in matters of international law beyond the Rome Statute crimes, including such strategic areas such as the protection of the oceans and climate change;

*Underscoring* the importance of the ICC in deterring, preventing, and countering atrocity crimes, including sexual and gender-based violence;

*Emphasizing* the need to maximize the impact of the Pacific Islands Roundtable and its follow-up actions to generate awareness, understanding, and support for the ICC as a global institution that requires more participation and representation from the Pacific Island region;

*Reaffirming* the role that the Rome Statute might play in addressing widespread, long-term and severe damage to the environment;

*Underscoring* the importance of building a Pacific Coalition to address the issues of a common concern of the Pacific Islands region relevant to the mandate of the International Criminal Court;

*Agree to exercise our legislative, political, and institutional prerogatives to achieve the following national and regional commitments to take action to advance, as applicable, the process of ratification/ accession/ implementation of the Rome Statute domestically and support our regional neighbors in their efforts:*

## STATE ACTION PLANS

### I. Fiji<sup>1</sup>

As representatives of Fiji, we agree to:

- Promote accession to the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the ICC (APIC).
- Promote implementation of the Rome Statute by:
  - Supporting and assisting the Executive to transmit to the Parliament the Law to fully implement the Rome Statute provisions on principles of international law and crimes under the jurisdiction of the ICC and mechanisms to effectively cooperate with the ICC.
  - Mobilizing Parliamentarians to prepare a private member's bill on the domestic implementation of the Rome Statute or provide cross-bench support for such bill if prepared by the Government.

### II. Kiribati<sup>2</sup>

As representatives of Kiribati, we agree to:

- Promote accession to the Rome Statute by encouraging, supporting and assisting the Executive to consider endorsing the accession to the Rome Statute
- Promote implementation of the Rome Statute by:
  - Encouraging, supporting and assisting the Executive to consider introducing to the Parliament a Bill to Implement the Rome Statute
  - Mobilizing Parliamentarians to provide support for the said Bill.

### III. Samoa<sup>3</sup>

As representatives of Samoa, we agree to:

- Promote the Rome Statute ratification/accession and implementation in multilateral relations with neighboring states within the Pacific Islands Region.

### IV. Solomon Islands<sup>4</sup>

As representatives of the Solomon Islands, we agree to:

- Promote accession to the Rome Statute by supporting and assisting the Executive to transmit to the Parliament a legislative dossier with a Cabinet Memo requesting Parliament to endorse accession to the Rome Statute and by mobilizing Parliamentarians to provide cross-bench support for said legislation.
- Promote implementation of the Rome Statute by:
  - Supporting and assisting the Executive to transmit to Parliament the Law to fully implement the Rome Statute provisions on principles of international law and crimes under the jurisdiction of the ICC and mechanisms to effectively cooperate with the ICC.
  - Encouraging the Executive to table a bill to the Parliament on the domestic implementation of the Rome Statute.

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<sup>1</sup> Fiji ratified the Rome Statute on 29 November 1999 and has partially implemented its provisions.

<sup>2</sup> Kiribati has neither signed nor acceded to the Rome Statute, but representatives of the Executive have on several occasions committed to the accession. There is no domestic law to implement the Rome Statute provisions, but the Attorney General adopted the revised Commonwealth Model Law to Implement the Rome Statute in July 2011 in Sydney

<sup>3</sup> Samoa ratified the Rome Statute on 16 September 2002 and acceded to the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the ICC on 8 April 2016. Samoa has adopted comprehensive legislation to implement the Rome Statute into national law, thus complying with the obligations to cooperate and to give effect to the complementarity principle.

<sup>4</sup> The Solomon Islands signed the Rome Statute on 3 December 1998, but has not yet ratified it.

## V. Tonga<sup>5</sup>

As representatives of Tonga, we agree to:

- Promote accession to the Rome Statute by:
  - Verifying the commitment of Tonga to join the Rome Statute system and any potential obstacles preventing it from advancing the accession process.
  - Encouraging, supporting, and assisting the Cabinet in recommending to the King in Privy Council for the accession to the Rome Statute
- Promote implementation of the Rome Statute by:
  - Supporting and assisting the Executive to transmit to Parliament the Law to fully implement the Rome Statute provisions on principles of international law and crimes under the jurisdiction of the ICC and internal mechanisms to effectively cooperate with the ICC.

## VI. Tuvalu<sup>6</sup>

As representatives of Tuvalu, we agree to:

- Promote accession to the Rome Statute by:
  - Filing the report from the Roundtable on the Pacific Islands Roundtable to the Attorney General and following up on the decision to accede to the Rome Statute
  - Recommending to deposit the instrument of accession with the United Nations, considering that the required process at the domestic level has already been completed.
- Promote implementation of the Rome Statute by:
  - Encouraging the Executive to transmit to the Parliament the Law to fully implement the Rome Statute provisions on principles of international law and crimes under the jurisdiction of the ICC and mechanisms to effectively cooperate with the ICC.
  - Mobilizing Parliamentarians to prepare a private member's bill on the domestic implementation of the Rome Statute or provide cross-bench support for such bill if prepared by the Government.

## VII. Vanuatu<sup>7</sup>

As representatives of Vanuatu, we agree to:

Promote implementation of the Rome Statute by:

- Promoting said implementing legislation to obtain endorsement by the Council of Ministers.
- Supporting and continuing to cooperate with the Executive to prepare and transmit to Parliament the Law to fully implement the Rome Statute provisions on principles of international law and crimes under the jurisdiction of the ICC and mechanisms to effectively cooperate with the ICC.
- Mobilizing Parliamentarians to prepare a private member's bill on the domestic implementation of the Rome Statute or provide cross-bench support for such a bill if prepared and tabled by the Government.

*We, the Participants of the Pacific Islands Roundtable agree to this non-binding Port Vila Plan of Action on the ratification and implementation of the Rome Statute of the ICC as an affirmation of our commitment to international justice and accountability worldwide and within the region of the Pacific Islands.*

*To give action to this principle and promote collaboration toward our mutual goals, we commit to informing the PGA Secretariat on a periodic basis of all the actions and initiatives that we will carry out to implement its objectives, and share with the PGA Secretariat on the results of the Pacific Islands Roundtable.*

*Adopted by consensus in Port Vila, Vanuatu, on 31 May 2019.*

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<sup>5</sup> Tonga has neither signed nor acceded to the Rome Statute, but its Members of Parliament have expressed their interest and support for the accession to the ICC in various international fora.

<sup>6</sup> Tuvalu has neither signed nor acceded to the Rome Statute. However, Cabinet has already endorsed the accession, thus satisfying the requirements of the domestic process of the accession to the Rome Statute.

<sup>7</sup> Vanuatu acceded to the Rome Statute on 2 December 2011 but has not implemented it.