Agenda item 14:   **Panel Discussion – Using Technology to Protect our Borders and Facilitate Cross Border Movement of People and Goods: Sharing Experiences**

Recommendation

Members are to note the types of technology that can be accessed to protect our borders and facilitate cross border movement of people and goods.

Purpose

This session intends to explore the role of technology in border management and how immigration agencies have embraced technology to protect our borders and facilitate the cross-border movement of people and goods.

Background

2.   The Pacific Region like the rest of the world has transitioned to the use of technology to safeguard borders and enable smooth cross-border movement. Technological advancements offer innovative solutions for enhanced security, streamlined processes, and efficient trade and travel. Key areas where technology plays a significant role include border surveillance, biometric identification, automated border control, cargo tracking, electronic clearance, risk assessment, data analytics, collaboration, and information sharing among border agencies. While technology brings benefits, privacy, data protection, and potential misuse concerns must be considered. Overall, leveraging technology in the Pacific Region ensures secure borders, efficient processes, and economic growth.

3.   Countries across the region and the globe are harnessing technological advancements to enhance their domestic capabilities, including the introduction of new electronic border management systems (BMS). This session will focus on current issues pertaining to technology used by various countries and highlight the use of new technologies to enhance the targeting of potential threats and promoting cross-border cooperation in the region. Members will be encouraged to explore the potential application of technology in the future, with a focus on how it can be leveraged to benefit the broader PIDC Membership.