



Pacific Immigration Development Community

2023 Regular Annual Meeting

20-22 June, Port Vila, Vanuatu

Agenda item 5: PIDC Secretariat Report

Recommendations

PIDC Members are invited to **note** the PIDC Secretariat Report and **acknowledge** the delivery of activities in this financial year.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an update of major events and activities undertaken by the Secretariat since the last Regular Annual Meeting in August 2022 to implement PIDC objectives and the 2022-23 Annual Work Plan noting specific challenges faced.

Background

2. The 2022/23 Financial Year has been a very busy period given the various activities the Secretariat was expected to deliver under its Annual Work Plan and Budget endorsed by Members at the 2022 Regular Annual Meeting (RAM) in Fiji. While the postponement of the RAM from June to August facilitated members request to have its first face to face meeting after 2 years of virtual meetings, it challenged the Secretariat to deliver its approved schedule of activities and programmes within a reduced delivery period. Against this new operational normality, the Board and the Secretariat had to quickly readjust its sequencing of activity delivery.

Summary of 2022/23 Activities

3. While the reporting period is from the end of July 2022 to mid-June 2023 the Secretariat only started working to deliver its activity from late August 2022 – June 2023, around a 10-month period due to the delayed hosting of the 2022 RAM. The major focus of the Secretariat's tasks following the 2022 RAM has been the activation of the HOS recruitment process at the end of the former Head of Secretariats contract, handing over of the Former HOS, adjustments and finalisation of Staff Individual Work Plans and progressing bilateral with individual members to confirm new scheduling and sequencing of approved activities and in-country technical assistances in this financial year following the full reopening of international borders across the membership towards the end of 2022.

4. However, despite these challenges, the Secretariat continued to implement PIDC with a number of significant achievements including:

- a) approval of the PIDC External Auditors report for the 2021/22 Financial Year;

- b) Successful hosting of PIDC's face to face Regular Annual Meeting after three years of virtual meetings in August 2022 including two Board meetings and a final Board meeting a day prior to this year's RAM;
- c) Completion of legislative review national consultations in Palau, Solomon Islands and Niue;
- d) successful delivery of three regional workshops and training including (i) PIDC's National Contact Point and Operational Profiling Group regional workshop; (ii) BMS in the Pacific regional workshop with PNGICA; and (iii) PIDC leadership and Management training for emerging leaders across the PIDC Membership;
- e) completion of three Board meetings – 2 virtual and one face to face meeting;
- f) Leadership of the PIDC Information Sharing Working Group Committee in developing strategies towards the strengthening of the PIDC intelligence network across the region;
- g) Increased engagement of members through the PIDC intelligence network reflected through the improved level of information exchange throughout the PIDC Profiling Group and intelligence network;
- h) USP Academic Board commitment to work with PIDC towards developing and upgrading the online USP Postgraduate Certificate and Diploma in Border Security to a Masters Course;
- i) successful coordination of regional training programmes with partner organisations including the (i) Transnational crime course with the Australia Pacific Security College; (ii) Table Top Exercise across Tonga, PNG, Palau and Samoa with APSC, OCO and PICP
- j) successful advocacy of PIDC brand in regional and international fora and strengthening of regional and international partnerships with stakeholder organisations resulting in increased partnership and coordination initiatives with regional and international organisations with PIFS, OCO, PICP, IOM, UNODC and UNHCR;
- k) successful implementation and utilisation of PIDC COVID-19 communication package support for Members assisting members in the reopening of their international borders;
- l) completion of in-country Strategic Plan development support for Fiji and Vanuatu;
- m) Website Development Support programme being rolled out to members to increase their department visibility but more so with information access convenience on a global scale to immediately impact service efficiency; and
- n) Recruitment and appointment of the new Head of secretariat.

5. In spite of competing priorities, a congested work schedule after the delayed 2022 Regular Annual Meeting with a shorter delivery timeframe, and staff capacity challenges, the Secretariat has continued to successfully advance majority of its scheduled activities as directed by Members. Central to the Secretariat's ability to deliver these activities successfully has been the support provided by Members and in particular the Board and its Committees who have supported the Secretariat immensely during this reporting period.