



Agenda Item 7: Strategic Focus Area 3 – Border Enforcement and Traveller Facilitation

Purpose

To provide a progress update of the Border Enforcement and Traveller Facilitation programmes scheduled for this financial year under PIDC's 2023/24 Annual Workplan and additional proposed partnership programmes initiated through the Secretariat to build members capacities in border enforcement in particular.

(a) PIDC Communication Plan

2. The PIDC Communication is a key document providing guidance towards PIDCs collective efforts in raising its profile. Consequently, the Secretariat has recommended the review of PIDCs Communication Plan to better organise and coordinate our collective efforts of raising the PIDC profile as the preeminent regional immigration body in the Pacific.

Background

3. The current PIDC Communication Plan had been endorsed by Members in 2015 to steer the organisation towards regional and global recognition as the pre-eminent organisation on immigration issues in the Pacific region. The communication plan incorporates a strategic liaison and representation plan to achieve this. While the document is a living document, it hasn't kept abreast of changes to the PIDC operational landscape and the changing migration landscape.

Update

4. In this regard, part of the PIDC Communication Specialists responsibility is to review the PIDC Communication Plan with the view to align the document to the new Strategic Plan and PIDCs forecasted plans into the future on its intentions to grow its profile nationally, regionally and internationally. The Communication Plan will be an important product for the organisation as it organises PIDC to work smarter towards raising its profile in the region. However, crucial to this targeted approach to raising the profile of the organisation is the importance of understanding whether our coordinated approach will be a success or otherwise. Where the document, would need to be flexible in allowing members to ask ourselves whether our target audiences in the region are still aware of our existence and if there is indeed a need for an increased awareness drive of our profile amongst national, regional and international agencies. This Communication Plan in this regard should be open to evaluation and review at the end of its life span whether it's a year or biannual whichever is appropriate to the Board.

5. The development of a revised PIDC Communication Plan is central to the Secretariats renewed efforts in raising PIDC's profile especially with the organisation's growing role and influence in the region. The need for a coordinated approach of the entire PIDC Membership in advocating the interests of the organisation through a Communication Plan becomes crucial at this stage of the organization's growth as a legal entity.

Proposed Recommendations

The Board is invited to:

- (i) **note and welcome** the Secretariat's plans to review the PIDC Communication Plan;
- (ii) **encourage** the Secretariat to continue working with members to identify national efforts to support PIDC's communication plans across the PIDC membership; and
- (i) **task** the Secretariat to present a revised Communication Plan at the final Board meeting in June 2024 for approval to present revised Communication Plan at the 2024 Regular Annual Meeting to raise awareness and drive ownership of the plan with members.

(b) Information Sharing Working Group Update

6. The PIDC Information Sharing Working Groups (ISWG) Terms of Reference reaffirmed members confidence in the Secretariat managing the coordination of ISWG activities. The ISWG will be having its first meeting for 2024 to progress advancing the work of the ISWG in its efforts to strengthen PIDC's information sharing network through its National Contact Point and Profiling Group regional workshop that is scheduled for March 2024.

ISWG Activities

(i) Establishment of the PIDC Maritime Group Contact Group

7. In recognition of the need to continue strengthening PIDC's information sharing network, PIDC has worked towards the establishment of a Maritime Contact Group as an approach to address the growing concern on transnational organised crimes targeting seaports and mariners across the Pacific to ship drugs. While PIDC's information sharing networks is well represented at all international airports, PIDC has continued to face challenges in monitoring and collecting information on movement trends in seaports and mariners across the Pacific. The establishment of this new contact Group is intended to support our monitoring efforts across the Pacific in support of our counterparts' efforts in addressing the challenges of transnational organised crime.

(ii) Monitoring of JDAF West's development of new information sharing platform

8. The ISWG had encouraged ongoing engagement with PICP, PTCCC and OCO for future collaboration on information sharing under the Joint Partnership Arrangement and to monitor the proposed transition of PTCCC from the APAN Site to a new information sharing platform that is being proposed by JDAF West. Consequently, PIDC has been engaged in discussions with PTCCC on PIDC's ongoing access to APAN under the PTCCC APAN licensing and ensuring that PIDC does not lose access to APAN when PTCCC switches to a new information sharing platform provided by JDAF West. To date, assurance has been given by PTCCC and JDAF West that the proposed transition won't affect partner agencies utilising PTCCC's licensing rights to APAN.

(iii) Proposed PIDC-IOM Information Reporting Platform system

9. Members recognise the value in PIDC intelligence products including Alerts, Requests for Information and Monthly Intelligence Bulletins through the PIDC Network and continue to reach out to the Secretariat to circulate these intelligence products on an ongoing basis. While interest in our intelligence products continue to grow, reporting consistency from members continue to be an ongoing challenge. To address members reporting capacity, PIDC has ventured support from IOM on the development of a reporting system that collects, tabulates and analyses reported data from members.

10. This project is a revised and advanced version of the former data collection system for PIDC formerly known as the PIDC Enforcement Data Collection Tool (PEDCT) that was used by Palau and

Solomon Islands but was discontinued following the loss of inhouse expertise and challenges of accessing NZ Statistics the systems creator from revamping the PEDCT to other interested members.

11. Consequently, PIDC has engaged IOM expertise to deliver an advanced online reporting system that members can individually feed their monthly reports into the system and obtain immediate analytics to their reporting data sets which can be viewed nationally and regionally if members allow information to be shared regionally. IOM will be invited to present the concept note of this joint project for Board consideration and approval.

(iv) Monthly Intelligence Briefing Session

12. While PIDC has been able to host an online intelligence briefing sessions within the PIDC NCP and Profiling Group to support members in identifying emerging movement trends across the region. This initiative is intended to support members monitoring capabilities with the Secretariat seeking to formalise a monthly commitment from all NCP/PFG & MG Contact Points at this year's Regional Workshop. The monthly briefing session is an opportunity that members can engage in to strengthen the collection and sharing of information and intelligence at the national and regional level and assist members in better understanding irregular migration trends throughout the region. The session is also an opportunity to continuing engaging all our contacts across the PIDC network to sustain the network after this year's regional workshop as there isn't any commitment from PIDC at this stage to hold this regional meeting on an annual basis.

13. The Secretariat continues to monitor and coordinate the PIDC information sharing network and intends to host a second ISWG meeting later in the year to review its proposed activities and efforts in strengthening its ongoing support of information sharing activities and projects.

Proposed Recommendations

The Board is invited to:

- (i) **note and welcome** the ongoing commitment of the ISWG to push PIDC's information sharing initiatives to strengthen its intelligence network;
- (ii) **approve** the PIDC-IOM Reporting system project;
- (iii) **encourage** participating countries to report the effectiveness of the proposed system during the proposed trial pilot period; and
- (iv) **encourage** the Secretariat to continue working with the ISWG members in developing ongoing activities targeted to strengthening our information sharing network.

(c) PIDC National Contact Point/Profiling Group & Maritime Group Contact Points Regional Workshop Update

14. The NCP and Profiling Group were both created in 2019 to facilitate the secure sharing of information under the PIDC Memorandum of Arrangement (MoA) on information sharing. PIDC through recommendations from the Information Sharing Working Group (ISWG) had established the PIDC National Contact Points Network and the Profiling Group in 2019. Both networks were designed as a cost-effective regional mechanism to promote trust between PIDC Members by establishing accredited NCPs and Profiling Group members that were tasked to use, share and store information in a secure manner according to the PIDC Security Classification System. The NCPs and Profiling

Group representatives were to be: (a) nominated by their Directors; and (b) accredited by their national Directors upon completion of training provided by the Secretariat.

15. Consequently, this workshop intends to build on the regional workshop that was hosted in 2023 pulling together selected senior officers from across the region to draw on their experiences and strengthen regional efforts in sharing targeted information. It is important that PIDC Members look to: (a) share information about these identified threats; and (b) develop a set of indicators/profiles of high-risk travellers to assist front line officers in recognising these potential threats.

Workshop Objectives

16. The workshop intends to:

- a) Build and strengthen capacity of PIDC Members to meet the information needs of organisation and stakeholders;
- b) Build capacity of National Contact Point (NCPs) to effectively collect, store, analyse and share Immigration information as required under the PIDC MoU;
- c) Strengthen the PIDC regional profiling group/network of practitioners for PIDC;
- d) Identifying latest profiling trends and indicators in border control activities and operations;
- e) Identifying information and intelligence sources to be used to develop national and regional profiles; and
- f) Developing an agreed set of recommendations on possible ways to strengthen the PIDC NCP's and Profiling Group for Members to be considered in PIDC's 2024 Annual Work Plan.

17. It is envisaged that the training will encourage Members to commit to our sharing information network and to introduce/strengthen profiling processes in addition to identifying competent and trained staff to undertake this important work.

Proposed Recommendations

The Board is invited to:

- (i) **note and welcome** the arrangements put in place to hold this important regional meeting; and
- (ii) **encourage** the Secretariat to continue working with members to strength their commitment and support to share information across the PIDC network.

(d) UNODC Maritime – PIDC/OCO & FFA Joint Vessel Boarding Training Update

18. The Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP) of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in partnership with the Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO), PID and the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) under its partnership agreement agreed to deliver a multi-agency vessel boarding training course with specialized components relating to immigration officers, customs officers and fisheries officers during vessel boarding operations.

19. The Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP) of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is establishing a Regional Boarding Training Facility in Suva, Fiji with the necessary training equipment and target vessels boarding training for maritime law enforcement personnel.

20. PIDC is venturing to this joint training initiative with fisheries and customs officials as an opportunity to (i) promote interagency collaboration both at the nation and regional leve; (ii) expose immigration officers to specialised training courses outside of immigration specific training and (iii) strengthen partnership with counterparts from customs and fisheries. While there was

interest from the wider membership, the course will only be accessible to funding support to 9 PIDC member countries currently engaged in UNODC supported programmes.

21. The multi-agency vessel boarding training will be held from 8 – 19 April 2024 at the Regional Training Facility located in Suva, Fiji.

Proposed Recommendations

The Board is invited to:

- (i) **note** and **welcome** the partnership initiative to engage in a first ever joint vessel boarding course for immigration, customs and fisheries officials; and
- (ii) **encourage** the Secretariat to continue working with partner law enforcement regional secretariats on future joint training opportunities under the partnership agreement.

(e) PIDC Training Needs Analysis

22. The three yearly Training Needs Analysis (TNA) is a key PIDC planning document that guides the organisation in planning and mapping out its training plans for the next 3 consecutive years; 2024 – 2027. The findings of the report provide an in-depth analysis and a summary of key issues raised through a regional survey that is undertaken throughout the PIDC membership. Where its findings consequently propose a number of recommendations for the organisation to consider in the context of supporting and strengthening Member's capacity building programmes.

TNA Regional Survey Administration

23. This year's TNA survey study will be undertaken internally by the Secretariat and as such there are no additional costs to PIDC. The major changes in the TNA survey questionnaire (attached as Annex 1) is the linking of questions to the new PIDC Strategic Focus areas. In doing so, the TNA survey will ensure clear alignment to our strategic vision and mission, to secure international movement of our Pacific communities, promoting economic prosperity and strengthen partnership and collaboration in immigration platforms.

TNA Administration

24. In light of increased regional surveys currently being undertaken across the region, the TNA survey will be administered during the NCP regional Workshop from 18th March, 2024. All Member agencies will be represented during the meeting and provides the opportunity of obtaining 100% responses from all members in addition to having the opportunity of having one on one discussions and interview with member respondents at this regional workshop.

Funding and Financing

25. No additional costs will be needed for this survey. It shall be administered online and member countries shall be able to complete using Internet provided during the workshop. It should be noted that more than \$20,0000 ha been saved with the review done internally by the PIDC Secretariat.

Proposed Recommendations

The Board is invited to:

- (i) **note** and **welcome** the development of the TNA report; and
- (ii) **encouraged** members to provide their responses to the TNA regional survey to support the development of clear guidance on the membership capacity building programme.