Agenda item 8:   Partnership and Coordination

Recommendation:
The Board is invited to consider recommendations proposed under each of the agenda sub-items discussed below.

Purpose

This paper seeks to provide the Board with an update regarding key activities undertaken by the Secretariat since it last met to advance its advocacy, partnership and coordination programme. This output aims to establish and maintain PIDC as a regional coordination point for immigration by raising its profile regionally and internationally through liaison, advocacy & representation and agenda setting. Agenda items to be discussed include:

(a) PIDC Communication and Advocacy
(b) Partnership Initiatives: Declaration of Partnership Update (OCO, PICP & PIDC)
(c) Heads of Pacific Law Enforcement Talanoa Update
(d) JHOPS Meeting Update
(e) PIFS Regional Initiatives and Programme Update
(f) UNOCT Travel Programme
(g) ICAO ePassport's Standards Update
(h) UNHCR Regional Programme Update
(i) UNODC Regional Programme Update
(j) ICAO Regional Symposium
(k) Bali Process advocacy
(l) IOM Update

(a) PIDC Communication and Advocacy

2.   The Secretariat has sought to strengthen its advocacy programme as it seeks to raise the organisations profile nationally, regionally and internationally. Discussions with Australia are ongoing on funding assistance to support the Secretariats efforts in raising its profile with a number of agreed thematic areas that can be strengthened.

3.   Part of the advocacy plan includes the development of a PIDC communications plan with the view to increasing the profile of immigration issues within the Pacific and globally through an agreed timeframe. Consequently the "PIDC Communications Plan" provides a reference planning document that can guide the Secretariat in its advocacy plans to raise the organisations profile. The Communications Plan will be reviewed and presented to the Board intersessionally for approval and will be the key document that will guide the organisations communications approach and hold staff and members accountable to their activities and responsibility.

4.   In addition, the Secretariat with guidance and support from members has also made courtesy calls with Government leadership in Samoa and where PIDC Secretariat are visiting member countries for PIDC or partner agencies organised forums including the following:
    ▪ Host Country –   Samoa Prime Minister

		-	Australian High Commissioner to Samoa
		-	New Zealand High Commissioner scheduled for a courtesy call in November
▪	Australia	-	Head of Australian Border Force in Canberra *(while delivering the PIDC Leadership and management course in Canberra)*
▪	FSM	-	Chief Migration Officer Department of Immigration *(While attending the OCO Conference in Pohnpei, FSM)*
		-	Chief of FSM Department of Labour

Proposed Recommendations

The Board is invited to:

(i) **note** the update provided by the Secretariat and the work undertaken to date; and

(ii) **task** the Secretariat to work with the Audit and Risk Committee to finalise the PIDC Communications Plan.

(b) Partnership Initiatives: Declaration of Partnership Update (OCO, PICP & PIDC)

5. The PIDC Secretariat continues to engage on a regular basis with OCO and PICP regarding collaborative activities that would benefit our respective members by maintaining regular update meetings and engagements to progress regional initiatives and coordination roles across the region. PIDC consequently advances the Partnership Declaration through its engagements with PTCN, PICP and OCO. In addition, to a notable increase in goodwill between the organisations, with examples of this enhanced relationship include:

(i) Regular direct engagement with PTCCC staff in Apia and the sharing of information between the organisations;

(ii) Sharing of RFIS and coordination between members;

(iii) Ongoing collaboration between the heads of PICP, OCO and PIDC on regular virtual meeting schedule to monitor ongoing activities in the region; and

(iv) All three organisations supporting their respective annual conferences in 2023 and participating in regional discussions

(ii) FFA Membership approve Membership in the Declaration of Partnership

6. The Law Enforcement Directors participating at the 2022 PRLEC had recommended the consideration of the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) to becoming a member of the Law Enforcement Declaration of Partnership that currently only includes PIDC, OCO and PICP. Consequently, PICP and OCO memberships had endorsed the inclusion of FFA into the Partnership Agreement. Following FFA's governance process, Members have agreed to sign up to the Partnership Agreement. Discussions are currently being finalised to ensure that the new partnership agreement is signed in November 2023.

7. The inclusion of FFA addresses the need to access information captured through the fisheries network and to draw from the FFA Honiara based vessel surveillance system monitoring vessel movement in the northern and southern Pacific waters.

Proposed Recommendations

The Board is invited to:

(i) **note** the update provided by the Secretariat and the work undertaken to date; **and**

(ii) **task** the Secretariat to maintain engagement with OCO, PICP, PTCN, and the APSC

(c) Heads of Pacific Law Enforcement Talanoa Update

8. The Heads of the Pacific Law Enforcement Talanoa forum hosted another round of meeting in Nadi on 21 August 2023 prior to attending the JHOPS in Palau. The Talanoa forum continues to work towards sharing and understanding the complex regional sectoral perspectives and issues better, before engaging with national members and seeking any formal decision from national authorities on whether formal consideration of a unified, integrated approach to Domain Awareness is appropriate.

9. Building on the outcomes of the previous Talanoa discussions in 2022, this Talanoa session further discussed a coordinated approach to adopting a Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) platform and products, in addition to fostering a closer relationship and stronger cooperation between the regional Secretariats. The discussion reviewed the roll out of IORIS training in the region and the training modality that was being adopted to ensure that users across the law enforcement sectors would have the internal expertise and capacity to lead IORIS training and sustain it into the future. The meeting was attended by PIDC, OCO, PICP, PFC, PIFS and UNODC's Maritime Programme.

Proposed Recommendations

The Board is invited to:

(i)   **note** the Talanoa outcomes and the opportunities it provides in regional coordination in the area of Maritime Domain Awareness; and

(ii) **task** the Secretariat to maintain engagement with PFC, OCO, PICP, PTCN, FFA and PIFS on issues emerging in MDA discussions.

(d) JHOPS meeting

10. Delegates from Pacific Islands national security agencies converged into Palau from 23-24 August for the Fifth annual Joint Heads of Pacific Security meeting. The conference hosted by the Australian Defence Force facilitated strategic-level dialogue and demonstrated capabilities relevant to security across the region. Law enforcement, national security, and military leaders, including police, customs, and immigration from across the Pacific were represented at this meeting.

11. Members reaffirmed the valuable role and leadership of existing regional security organisations, including the Forum Fisheries Agency, Pacific Fusion Centre, Pacific Security College, Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police, Pacific Immigration Development Community, Oceania Customs Organisation, and the South West Pacific Heads of Maritime Forces.

12. Members agreed that JHoPS will focus on the areas of cross agency cooperation and coordination between regional security agencies to address multidimensional security challenges. Members reiterated their commitment to the 2022 Denarau Outcome and agreed to establish an intersessional working group, to further strengthen relationships, solidify trust and reciprocity and to progress outcomes for ratification at the next Meeting, including;

- support for the Chair's engagement with the Pacific Islands Forum
- a Terms of Reference or Memorandum of Understanding to clarify the JHoPS mandate, mission, and governance framework pursuant to Outcome 16 of the Denarau Outcome
- consideration of a regional treaty framework to enable and enhance the collective ability of security agencies to respond quickly and effectively to regional security challenges, pursuant to Outcome 15 of Denarau Outcome and
- recommendations for JHoPS delegates on the key areas of focus coming out of the tabletop exercise focusing on regional security challenges, national capacities, and capability gaps.

13.   Members acknowledged the importance of coordination, information sharing, and interoperability and committed to sharing concepts of operations and best practices.

Proposed Recommendations
The Board is invited to:
- (i)   **welcome** the JHOPS meeting update; and
- (ii) **task the Secretariat** to maintain engagements with the JHOPS Secretariat with an ongoing monitoring oversight of the JHOPS outcomes and its impact on the PIDC Membership.

(e) PIFS Regional Initiatives and Programme Update

14.   The PIFS Forum Officials Committee Sub-Committee on Regional Security (FOCSCRS) completed its first meeting for 2023 virtually. The FOCSCRS strives to identify and engage in regional dialogue regarding internal and external security concerns that threaten the stability of the region and its economic development. The FOCSCR encourages cooperation and coordinated regional law and responses to threats. It also works to identify key priority areas to bolster the capacity of members to respond to these threats.

15.   Key PIFS regional initiatives impacting law enforcement agencies this year include the:
   a) ***2050 Strategy Implementation Plan in particular the Peace and Security thematic areas*** - The Peace and Security thematic area of the 2050 Strategy will provide an overarching strategic guide on the region's collective security efforts moving forward.
   b) ***Regional Climate Mobility Framework*** - to guide Pacific Islands Forum governments, communities, non-state actors and partners in ensuring rights based and people-centred movement in the context of climate change, including staying in place, planned relocation, migration, and displacement through a proactive, inclusive and collaborative regional approach that reflects common Pacific interests in a culturally appropriate manner, while respecting national sovereignty and dive; and the
   c) ***Regional Transnational Organised Crime Disruption Strategy*** - The development of the framework is also aligned to the requirements of the 2050 Strategy and the Honiara Declaration which recognises the need for a more comprehensive, integrated and collaborative approach to counter the potential impact of transnational crime. The framework will guide future regional work and help inform national policy development on transnational organised crime.

16.   All three key documents are undergoing final stages of regional consultations and drafting approval process with a view to presenting the finalised documents to Forum Leaders at their November 2023 meeting for endorsement.

(f) UNOCT Travel Programme

17.   The United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel (CT Travel) Programme, is a flagship global initiative that assists beneficiary Member States in building their capabilities to detect and counter-terrorists and serious crimes by using Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) data to improve the use of international databases with known and suspected terrorists and criminals.

18.   The CT Travel Programme is led by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), in an "All-of-UN" partnership with UN Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), UN Office of Information and Communication Technology (OICT), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). While the CT Travel Programme had been made available to PIDC Member states, only Fiji and Samoa have sought support and are currently being assisted in this programme through funding from the IOM Development Fund (IDF). The IOM has a complementary project for Pacific Island states on Samoa and Fiji to localize the CT Travel Programme, and support the strengthening of passenger data exchange systems.

19.   The CT Travel Programme currently supports Samoa and Fiji to collect and analyze API and PNR data to improve the use of international databases, such as INTERPOL databases, with data relating to known and suspected terrorists and criminals, and enhance information exchange, in accordance with Security Council resolutions 2178 (2014), 2396 (2017), and 2482 (2019), international standards and recommended practices and human rights principles.

20.   A team of United Nations experts were in Samoa and Fiji in July 2023, to conduct national consultations on Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR), as the first step of the Programme. This is just the initial step in a long-term partnership between the partners of the Countering Terrorist Travel Programme and the Governments of Samoa and Fiji as they intend to work collaboratively to establish and operationalize an effective API - PNR system

21. An approach was made by the PIDC Secretariat on the availability of the assistance to other PIDC Members with the option of looking at a regional funding model that could cater for all PIDC Members. A number of financing models were discussed with CT Travel experts with a willingness to consider these regional financing model if workable. In this regard, the CT Experts will be presenting the CT Travel programme for other PIDC Members not included in the current funded programme to consider with the option of opting into the CT Travel programme with the possibility of also reviewing regional financing models to support members ability to sustain the ongoing consequential costs of adopting this capability. In addition, due to costs and volumes of international passenger movements into the Pacific, the offer of the CT Travel programme would potentially prioritize countries with high volume people movement in the region not included in the current programme like Vanuatu, Solomons, PNG and potentially Tonga.

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Proposed Recommendations
The Board is invited to:

(i) **note** the United Nations Countering Terrorist (UNOCT) Travel (CT Travel) Programme and its benefits and applicability in members border operations;

(ii) **consider** regional financing models to support members sustain running costs of CT travel into the future;

(iii) **task** the Secretariat to advise PIDC members on UNOCT Travel CT Programme invitation to interested Members; and

(iv) **encourage** the Secretariat to continue engaging with the CT Travel Programme to monitor ongoing CT Travel programme discussions and member's interest.

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(g) ICAO ePassport Standards Update

22. The ICAO Implementation and Capacity Building Working Group (ICBWG) was tasked to explore the feasibility of the ePassport's Roadmap and produce research and analysis to inform future discussions on whether ePassport's should be considered for adoption as a mandatory standard in Annex 9. The subsequent E-passport workshop hosted after this year's PIDC Regular Annual Meeting in Vanuatu and regional survey that was circulated intended to provide reliable feedback to the work of the ICA ICBWG.

23. The ICBWG, through this regional surveys and workshops, and desk-based research was able to determine the impacts of such a mandatory standard, and provided a summary of views from regions across the world including the Pacific on the cost versus benefit of ePassport implementation. The subsequent Working Paper determined through its global assessment, that ePassport's should not be made a mandatory standard at this point. This subsequent recommendation has been presented in the Working paper to be considered by the ICAO Working Group in its next meeting.

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Proposed Recommendations
The Board is invited to:

(i) **note** ICAO's recommendations on ePassport's mandatory requirement based on a global sub-regional survey and workshop outcomes; and

(ii) **task** the Secretariat to maintain ongoing engagements with ICAO to monitor recommendations that can impact member operations

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(h) UNHCR Regional Programme Update

24. PIDC has initiated a reengagement approach with UNHCR following an extended period of non-activity between PIDC and UNHCR since 2019 and the ensuing global pandemic. Discussions have been ongoing in terms of monitoring their capacity building activities in the region. Initial joint discussions resulted in PIDC ensuring that PIDC members were prioritised with UNHCR high level

trainings in specialised areas of interest to members. Consequently, Palau and Kiribati were offered seats in a Stateless training programme.

25.   PIDC continues to monitor UNHCR's capacity building programme in the Pacific with the intention of providing guidance in terms of members interest in these programmes

Proposed Recommendations
The Board is invited to:
   (i)   **note** PIDC's ongoing engagement with UNHCR; and
   (ii)   **task** the Secretariat to maintain ongoing engagements with UNHCR on any regional capacity building programmes

(i) UNODC Regional Programme Update

26.   UNODC in the 2022-23 financial period had entered the migration space in the Pacific to assist Pacific countries in their development and implementation of border re-opening strategies and safe travel corridors, where UNDP, worked closely with IOM and UNCTAD, to support Fiji, Palau and Vanuatu border agencies, and COVID 19 sectoral task forces with:

- measures to support business continuity and front-line border agencies,
- measures to facilitate safe cross-border travel and trade through enhanced use of risk management in the reception and processing of travellers and goods,
- measures to increase internal and external border agency collaboration and
- measures to facilitate regional cooperation and shared understanding of protocols and procedures in coordinating public health measures and smooth operation of global supply chains.

27.   The project had encouraged the practical implementation of global and regional standards relevant to border re-opening and public health risk management, along with assistance to develop and implement inter-agency, bilateral and regional agreements and governance mechanisms to enhance and support these. To date there hasn't been any further developments outside of these country specific led projects for Fiji, Palau and Vanuatu with no immediate developments of new emerging migration related projects being coordinated by UNODC.

Proposed Recommendations
The Board is invited to:
   (i)   continue **monitoring** UNDP's funded border security programmes in Fiji, Palau and Vanuatu; and
   (ii)   **task** the Secretariat to continue maintaining engagement with UNDP to monitor any developing bilateral and regional migration related activities in the PIDC membership to avoid duplication and wastage of resources.

(j) ICAO Regional Symposium

Background
28.   ICAO in consultation with Fiji Immigration, Fiji Civil Aviation and PIDC has been exploring the possibility of hosting the regions first ICAO Regional Symposium in Fiji from 03-07 June 2024. PIDC has expressed support to this regional initiative as we have been advocating on the need for more PIDC

members to have active participation in ICAO forums specifically on areas impacting identity travel documents and systems that directly impact future operations. It is crucial for members to keep track of emerging traveler document, systems, technology and border management trends and be in a strategic position to influence any decision-making process impacting how members could potentially manage future border operations.

29. One of the key reasons of supporting this regional forum was the opportunity for PIDC members to be exposed to regional and international issues discussed at this forum and to be aware of any emerging trends and changes evolving around rules governing future identity travel documents, border management and technologies that members need to be kept abreast off. By bringing the forum to the Pacific, it would allow more PIDC members the opportunity to attend the forum as it has normally been held outside of the Pacific region.

Regional Symposium
30. The ICAO TRIP Regional Symposium consequently addresses the five elements of the ICAO Traveller Identification Programme (ICAO TRIP) Strategy: (i) robust evidence of identity processes, (ii) machine readable travel document (MRTD) standards, (iii) specifications and best practices, (iv) secure travel document issuance, as well as (v) information sharing technologies in addition to health proof issuance and validation.

31. Seminar speakers and facilitators include top experts in the field, policy makers and senior managers, practitioners, and researchers, many from the relevant ICAO TRIP working groups as well as international organizations. This provides a unique opportunity to exchange information and enhance expertise.

32. The Regional Symposium will provide an opportunity to enhance international and regional cooperation and collaboration to address the threats faced by international civil aviation. It includes the promotion of the global regulatory framework established by Annex 9. It will also highlight border integrity and border control management challenges, such as the implementation of Advanced Passenger Information (API) systems.

ICAO ICBWG
33. A key Working Group that undertakes key advisory work on ICAO issues is the ICAO Implementation and Capacity Building Working Group (ICBWG) which is a subsidiary group of the ICAO Technical Advisory Group for the Traveller Identification Programme (TAG/TRIP). The group has a focus on:
- o Supporting the issuance and use of machine-readable travel documents (MRTDs) and eMRTDs in member states.
- o Carry out capacity building outreach activities in conjunction with States, other international organizations, inter-governmental bodies, and the private sector; and
- o Develop guidance material for implementing MRTDs and eMRTDs standards and specifications.

34. The working group meets twice annually, with subgroup meetings in-between (typically virtual) to progress any work. Currently the ICBWG has 8 subgroups - Evidence of Identity, MRTDs (Non-compliance, Procurement, Annex 9, Doc 9303 Compliance Scheme), Document Issuance and Control, Border Management, Small Island, Regional and Developing States, Communications, ePassport as a Mandatory Standard and Digital Travel Credential Policy Guidance Material).

35. While PNG is an active member, with Hilda Kapram leading the Small Island, Regional and Developing States Subgroup, we would really like to have more participation from Pacific States and

this regional symposium is an opportunity to have direct access to these high-level discussions with the potential of raising awareness amongst members on the need to be part of strategic discussions occurring through these ICAO specialists Working Groups.

Proposed Recommendations
The Board is invited to:
  (i) **note** and **welcome** the initiative to host the first ICAO regional symposium in the Pacific islands; and
  (ii) **encourage** the Secretariat to maintain ongoing engagements with the ICAO Pacific representative and to keep monitoring any ICAO related developments that would have any direct impact on PIDC members border operations.

(k) Bali Process Advocacy

36.   As part of PIDC's ongoing engagement to advocate and raise its profile regionally and internationally, PIDC has begun engaging and collaborating directly with the Bali Process RSO. Consequently, as a result of this ongoing reengagement with the Bali Process, PIDC has been invited by the Regional Support Office of the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime (RSO) to be a key note speaker at the upcoming RSO 2023 Border Forum in Bangkok, Thailand from 6 –7 December 2023. The forum intends to bringing together colleagues at a senior government and frontline official level across the Bali Process membership to facilitate cross-border dialogue and sharing of practices and insights that encourage coordinated action around people smuggling, trafficking in persons and related transnational crime.

37.   The Annual Border Forum is one of RSO's flagship events, and will bring together colleagues drawn from law enforcement, border and immigration agencies, maritime agencies, government and policy makers and the judiciary system—who hold a decision-making remit and are able to take action to strengthen multi-agency cross-border cooperation within national agencies. The 2022 RSO Border and Technology Forum brought together 88 Delegates from across 36 Bali Process Member and Observer States and Organisations—with attendees identifying key priorities around online scam centres, accessing and sharing data across borders and understanding and harnessing technology.

38.   The 2023 theme is 'Multilateral Information Sharing', and the RSO has subsequently invited PIDC to lead a session at its 2023 Border Forum providing the opportunity for PIDC to reflect on the theme of multilateral information sharing through the lens of the work that PIDC has undertaken across its membership and with partner agencies through our own experience and expertise in this space in the Pacific. The Border Forum will also include talks from regional leaders and experts, panel discussions and interactive workshops led by the RSO, regional partners and Member States, providing an opportunity for focused and practical knowledge-exchange and dialogue.

39.   PIDC has expressed support and commitment to contribute to this regional forum and intends to use the opportunity to further raise PIDC's profile in the Asian region in addition to strengthening its course to become an Observer organisation in the Bali Process membership.

Proposed Recommendations
The Board is invited to:
  (i) **welcome** Bali Process invitation to PIDC to be a key note speaker at the Bali Process Border Forum; and
  (ii) **encourage** the Secretariat to maintain ongoing collaboration with the Bali Process on immigration specific capacity building programmes on people smuggling and human trafficking for both Bali and PIDC members.