



Agenda item 10: COVID-19 Vaccination Certificates for Cross Border Travel: Trends, Expectations and Standards

Proposed Recommendations

The PIDC Regular Annual Meeting will be invited to:

- a) **note** the updates provided regarding the development of the COVID-19 Vaccination Certificates for Cross Border Travel; and
 - b) **consider** possible trends, expectations and standards raised during these discussions.
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Background

PIDC is a member of the Pacific Humanitarian Pathway- COVID-19 (PHP-C) Regional Taskforce (RTF) and previously worked in 2020 with OCO and other RTF Members to develop inter alia regional:

- a) Common Protocols for the Deployment of Technical Personnel;
 - b) Common Protocols on Customs and Biosecurity;
 - c) Common Protocols on Immigration (**drafted by PIDC**);
 - d) Common Protocols on Repatriation of Forum Nationals; and
 - e) Common Protocols on Clearances for Aircraft and Ships Transporting Medical and Humanitarian Assistance, Technical Personnel, and Repatriating Nationals.
2. As part of this work, to advance the call by Forum Leaders for the reopening of international borders, PHP-C RTF established a technical working group (TWG) to advance the development of regional vaccination certificates for cross border travel.
3. This work was advanced over the past several months at a rapid pace with funding from PIFS and the engagement of a technical agency (Accenture) to develop a regional framework noting:
- a) the current lack of a global standardised approach;
 - b) a number of countries had already developed national vaccination certification systems to support international travel;
 - c) a number of countries were all ready to reopen their borders and were also looking to develop unilaterally vaccination certification systems for international travel;
 - d) there were several different vaccination data management systems being used to collect and record private vaccination and COVID-19 illness data; and
 - e) there was no current regional agreement on which vaccines would be deemed acceptable for each individual Member prior to entry of an international traveller.

4. Chaired by SPC with the support of WHO and PIFS, the TWG began weekly meetings in October 2021 and in 2022 held stakeholder engagements in the form of online workshops and questionnaires across the region with PICTS and technical agencies.
5. As a result the TWG developed several documents including:
 - a) Draft Protocol Agreement Report – provides a functional overview of a proposed COVID-19 travel document solution that can be used to promote safe cross-border travel in the PICT;
 - b) Draft Technical Conditions – provides an overview of the technical conditions necessary to implement the solution defined in the Protocol Agreement; and
 - c) Draft Common Protocols for the Development and Implementation of a System For Covid-19 Vaccination and Testing Certificates for Cross-Border Travel – provides a high level set of protocols to be followed by PIF Members to guide the development of national vaccination certification measures for cross border travel.
6. The Secretariat and TWG ensured that the draft framework has taken into account all PICT national vaccination and travel data systems and processes (paper-based or digital).
7. The Chair of the TWG from SPC will provide an update to Members during this session and Members will be invited to share their experiences.