



AGENDA ITEM 1
OFFICIAL OPENING

The PIDC:

- a) **acknowledged** the presence of the Honourable Prime Minister of Tuvalu Kausea Natano, Members of Cabinet and local dignitaries at the official opening of the PIDC Regular Annual Meeting held in Funafuti, Tuvalu;
- b) **welcomed** the opening statements made by Tuvalu’s Minister of Justice, Communications and Foreign Affairs, the Honourable Simon Kofe on the importance of securing our borders and working together as a region in response to a challenging COVID-19 world;
- c) **supported** the Honourable Minister’s call to prioritise the use of PIDC’s collective resources to support Members currently fighting the virus amongst their communities;
- d) **noted** the statement of the Outgoing Chairperson, Ms Kairangi Samuela of Cook Islands Immigration and the several key achievements obtained under her leadership;
- e) **thanked** the Outgoing Chair for the work completed over the last two years (2019-2021) and **acknowledged** with appreciation her substantial contribution and strong leadership during an unstable global COVID-19 period;
- f) **welcomed** the opening statement by the incoming Chairperson, Mr Tauisi Taupo, Tuvalu’s Permanent Secretary of Justice, Communications and Foreign Affairs; and
- g) **noted** Tuvalu’s commitment to continuing the strong leadership set by Cook Islands in manoeuvring the PIDC “vaka” through new immigration challenges that may arise.

AGENDA ITEM 2
WORKING PROCEDURES AND APPOINTMENT OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE

The PIDC **approved** the appointment of a drafting committee comprising of New Zealand, Tuvalu and chaired by Australia.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The PIDC **noted** the inclusion of a proposed regional statement from Tuvalu to be considered in other business and **endorsed** the 2021 Regular Annual Meeting agenda.

AGENDA ITEM 3
GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The PIDC **endorsed** the amendments to the PIDC Constitution and Rules of Procedure to accommodate hosting Virtual Regular Annual Meetings.

AGENDA ITEM 4
SECRETARIAT REPORT

The PIDC:

a) **Board Report**

- (i) **noted** the PIDC Board Report updating the Membership of some of its key activities; and
- (ii) **endorsed** the Board Report.

b) **Financial Update**

- (i) **noted** the financial performance of the Secretariat;
- (ii) **welcomed** the continued financial support provided by Principal Donors, Host Country and Members;
- (iii) **noted** the conclusion on 30th June 2021 of the New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade funding agreement originally signed in 2019 and the current progress made in negotiating a second multi-year funding agreement;
- (iv) **thanked** and **acknowledged** Samoa's commitment under the Headquarters agreement to continue to fund PIDC Secretariat's monthly utilities and rental obligations;
- (v) **welcomed** the commitment shown by Members in supporting the Member Contribution Fund and **encouraged** Members to pay their agreed contribution by 30 September 2021;
- (vi) **noted** the expenditure breakdown provided;
- (vii) **noted** the successful completion of the external audit for the financial year ended 30 June 2020 under the leadership and guidance of the Chair and Board;
- (viii) **noted** the unqualified opinion expressed by the External Auditor;
- (ix) **encouraged** the Secretariat to factor into future projections the environmental challenges of delivering regional and national activities while strategically identifying new delivery modalities that would be adaptable in the new operational environment; and
- (x) **considered** the identification of governance approaches that will enable the Board to redirect savings to implement activities that are adaptable to the membership when restrictive operational environments like COVID-19 persists.

c) **Members Contribution Fund**

- (i) **noted** that Members contribute annually to the Members Contribution Fund based on a tiered approach with each tier linked to an agreed amount;

- (ii) **endorsed** that the Members contribution for 2021/2022 Financial Year is to remain at the same level as previously endorsed by Members at the 2019 Regular Annual Meeting;
 - (iii) **welcomed** the commitment shown by Members in supporting the Members Contribution Fund;
 - (iv) **welcomed** efforts by the Secretariat to collect previously outstanding Member contributions; and
 - (v) **encouraged** Members to pay their agreed contribution for the 2020/2021 Financial Year in full before 30 September 2021.
- d) **2020/21 Secretariat Report on Activities**
- (i) **welcomed** and **noted** the Secretariat activity update regarding activities since the Special General Meeting in July 2020; and
 - (ii) **encouraged** the Secretariat to continue working with the Board and Members to deliver its activities in the new financial year.
- e) **PIDC COVID-19 Member Support Programme**
- (i) **welcomed** the activities undertaken by the Secretariat to implement the PIDC COVID-19 Support Programme;
 - (ii) **encouraged** Members where a priority and also where possible to incorporate activities and services provided by the PIDC COVID-19 Support Programme into national budgets;
 - (iii) **encouraged** Members to inform the Secretariat of additional activities and support that they may require as part of the Programme; and
 - (iv) **tasked** the Secretariat to continue to deliver this important programme in an effective manner.
- f) **2020/21 Workplan and Budget**
- (i) **considered** the draft 2021/22 Annual Workplan and Budget (AWPB) and **requested** the Secretariat to undertake the following in reviewing the draft AWPB for Members' final consideration and endorsement by 30th July 2021:
 - 1) review the work programmes to ensure the activities target Members' needs and priorities in the current COVID-19 environment;
 - 2) ensure work plan activities can be delivered over the next 12 months taking into account current challenges;
 - 3) ensure the proposed work programmes complement and as far as possible do not duplicate the bilateral projects provided by Donors, other partners, and regional and international organisations;
 - 4) engage with Members to validate priority programmes with final confirmation before 30th July 2021;
 - 5) encourage Members to reconfirm their national priority areas to guide the final AWPB by 30th July 2021; and
 - (ii) **requested** the Secretariat to format future AWPBs according to the strategic priorities detailed in the Strategic Plan.

AGENDA ITEM 5: POLICY DISCUSSION

COVID-19 OPERATIONAL IMMIGRATION LANDSCAPE: TRAVEL BUBBLES, COVID-19 VERIFIABLE DOCUMENTS – VACCINE CERTIFICATES AND VACCINE PASSPORTS

PIDC Members:

- a) **welcomed** the presentation by IATA on *COVID-19 Certificates and the IATA Travel Pass* and **noted** the global trend towards the development of COVID-19 travel documents and applications to securely confirm identity and certify COVID-19 vaccinations as a prerequisite to international travel;
- b) **welcomed** the presentations by Australia, New Zealand and the Cook Islands sharing experiences on the *Establishment of Travel Bubbles* and **noted** the importance of the lessons and experiences shared as Members begin preparations and planning for future reopening of borders;
- c) **considered** the presentations made by Australia, New Zealand and the Cook Islands regarding the establishment of travel bubbles and **noted** in particular:
 - (i) the need for national health circumstances to be appropriate before countries can consider opening for quarantine free travel;
 - (ii) the importance of mutual assurances and high levels of trust and close cooperation between Parties and relevant agencies;
 - (iii) the importance of government autonomy allowing for rapid decision making for the implementation of mitigation measures;
 - (iv) the essential role of effective information sharing, including secure information architecture allowing for rapid communication between Parties as well as managers, decision makers and the frontline staff;
 - (v) the need for early and ongoing stakeholder engagement, particularly within Government, and methodical preparation around planning prioritisation to ensure that border control operations operate smoothly;
 - (vi) the need for cross skilling to allow immigration staff to quickly adapt to the evolving operational environment;
 - (vii) the need to encourage policy makers to consider operational staff experiences to correctly identify procedural issues;
 - (viii) the importance of continuously updating communication to all relevant stakeholders to provide information clarity on the status of entry and departure procedures and protocols; and
 - (ix) the importance of maintaining strict biosecurity standards of border entry requirements in an evolving COVID-19 migration landscape.

AGENDA ITEM 6

PIDC RESEARCH PUBLICATION UPDATES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

PIDC Members:

- a) **welcomed** the research products that have been developed to advance the work of PIDC and its Members;

- b) **encouraged** national Immigration Directors and Managers to utilise the research products as guides and information resources to strengthen national planning, policy development and operational activities according to national priorities and circumstances;
- c) **tasked** the Secretariat, pending the availability of resources, to consider providing support for Members seeking to adapt and utilise these research products;
- d) **encouraged** Members to consider the national and regional recommendations contained in three of the research products summarised in Annexes One to Three of the Agenda Paper;
- e) **tasked** the Secretariat to prepare an information paper for Members to consider inter-sessionally providing the context for the proposed regional recommendations and possible options for their implementation;
- f) **tasked** the Secretariat to review the nationally focused recommendations and engage with Members to prioritise possible work programmes that could be undertaken to support their implementation; and
- g) **encouraged** Members to where possible utilise the list of national recommendations as a national best practice checklist, where appropriate, to identify where relevant key gaps to allow for improved engagement with the Secretariat on specific areas of national support required.

AGENDA ITEM 7

PIDC STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-24 UPDATE

The PIDC:

- a) **noted** and **welcomed** the progress in undertaking the next strategic plan review process;
- b) **strongly encouraged** Members to respond to any online surveys or workshops to support the strategic plan review process; and
- c) **tasked** the Secretariat to include in the consultant's Terms of Reference:
 - (i) consideration on how the PIDC can link work plan activities back to the Strategic Plan; and
 - (ii) the inclusion of a monitoring and evaluation framework, to measure performance of all activities against these key objectives as identified in the Strategic Plan.

AGENDA ITEM 8

CAPACITY BUILDING

The PIDC:

- a) **USP and PIDC Academic Programme: USP Postgraduate Certificate & Diploma in Border Security Update**

- (i) **noted** the update provided regarding the USP Academic Programme;
- (ii) **congratulated** PIDC Officers that have completed the Postgraduate Diploma on Border Security;
- (iii) **endorsed** the proposal by the Secretariat for scholarships to be provided to the 18 enrolled PIDC Officers, to ensure the maximum amount of officers possible according to available funding can attend this important programme;
- (iv) **agreed** to strongly encourage their staff to undertake these valuable academic courses;
- (v) **tasked** the Secretariat to continue working with USP to upgrade the current Postgraduate Diploma to a full Masters Programme;
- (vi) **acknowledged** the value of the USP Academic Programme especially the benefits immigration agencies stand to obtain from the increased level of knowledge and expertise sponsored officers gain from the postgraduate course in addition to obtaining an internationally recognised tertiary level qualification; and
- (vii) **encouraged** members to fully utilise the capacity building programmes offered by PIDC to build and strengthen their national capacities.

b) **PIDC Training Programme**

- (i) **noted** the 2020/21 Training programme update; and
- (ii) **encouraged** the Secretariat to continue working with partner organisations in delivering capacity and capability development programmes for Members.

c) **Hakili Matagi and Australian Capacity Building Programme**

- (i) **encouraged** the Secretariat to continue working with Australia and New Zealand in coordinating capacity building programmes across the PIDC membership;
- (ii) **welcomed** Tonga's combined law enforcement online 5-week border fundamentals course provided through the Australian Border Force and looked forward to learnings from this course that could be adopted in future trainings;
- (iii) **welcomed** Australia's offer to support individual membership training on the small craft application if required;
- (iv) **welcomed** Australia's *Aviation COVID-19 Safe Guide*, developed by the Australian Border Force which has been developed for use by PIDC and OCO members and is currently available on the PIDC website;
- (v) **noted** the Australian Home Affairs Portfolio, Immigration New Zealand and New Zealand Customs partnership approach to capacity building in the Pacific to avoid duplication of training programmes in the region; and
- (vi) **welcomed** Hakili Matagi's update on capacity building activities undertaken with partners and noted the progress made on the development of the Immigration Core Elements Training Curriculum.

AGENDA ITEM 9
2022 REGULAR ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

PIDC Members:

- a) **welcomed** PNG Immigration and Citizenship Authority's offer to host the 2022 Regular Annual Meeting; and
- b) **endorsed** Papua New Guinea becoming the in-coming Vice Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 10
ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2021/22

PIDC Members **endorsed** the Board members for the 2021/22 period as follows:

- a) Chair – Tuvalu
- b) Incoming Vice Chair – Papua New Guinea
- c) Outgoing Vice Chair – Cook Islands
- d) Melanesia – Solomon Islands
- e) Polynesia – Tokelau
- f) Micronesia – Republic of the Marshall Islands
- g) Small Island States – Nauru
- h) Secretariat Host Country – Samoa
- i) Principal Donor – Australia
- j) Principal Donor – New Zealand

AGENDA ITEM 11
OTHER BUSINESS

Statement by Incoming Chair on COVID-19

PIDC Members **welcomed** the statement made by Tuvalu as the incoming Chair of PIDC regarding its priorities and the need for the region to work together in supporting one another where possible to assist in the repatriation of Pacific Island citizens that have been stranded due to COVID-19.

AGENDA ITEM 12
ADOPTION OF THE 2021 COMMUNIQUE

PIDC Members inter-sessionally **adopted** the 2021 Regular Annual Meeting Resolutions and Decisions.