



Pacific Immigration Development Community

2024 Regular Annual Meeting

25-27 June, Honiara, Solomon Islands

Agenda item 14: Regional Framework and Initiatives: Understanding it through an immigration Perspective.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note regional initiatives across the Pacific and to identifying areas of opportunities and complementarity.

Facilitator: Secretariat

Objective

This session seeks to review regional initiatives across the Pacific and to better understand Member's role in these regional initiatives in addition to identifying areas of opportunities and complementarity.

Overview

The regional security landscape is growing crowded and complex, leading to the launch of several initiatives aimed at strengthening regional approaches to ensuring the region's safety and security. Regional initiatives such as the Boe Declaration, development of the Pacific Regional Security Architecture, Regional Transnational Organised Crime Disruption Strategy and the endorsement of the overarching 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific continent amongst others are regional frameworks that immigration agencies are required to be familiar with as we collectively aspire towards a common vision of a safe and secure Pacific.

This session provides an opportunity to review these regional initiatives and better understand immigrations roles and responsibilities under these initiatives. A number of key regional initiatives includes the following:

(i) 2050 Strategy for Blue Pacific Continent

The 2050 Strategy for Blue Pacific Continent outlines a long-term plan for regional cooperation, focusing on seven key thematic areas to tackle common challenges and promote the wellbeing and prosperity of the Blue Pacific Continent. The thematic areas include (i) Political Leadership and Regionalism; (ii) People-Centered Development; (iii) Peace and Security; (iv) Resource and Economic Development; (v) Climate Change and Disasters; (vi) Ocean and Environment; and (vii) Technology and Connectivity. Thematic areas (iii), (v) and (viii) are directly related to immigration and border security. Members will discuss the strategy, and how to align collaborative efforts particularly related to thematic area (iii), (v) and (vii) to ensure safe and prosper Pacific region.

(ii) 2050 Strategy Implementation Plan

The 2050 Strategy Implementation Plan sets out the implementation of the 2050 Strategy for Blue Pacific Continent with a timeframe to 2030. The Plan recognises the need for strengthening institutional arrangements, operating systems, collaboration approaches and integrated planning. Regional collective actions (RCAs) are identified in the plan to be carried out by Members, regional agencies, development partners and stakeholders at all levels. It also includes a monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) approach for the outcomes under the plan.

(iii) Regional Transnational Organized Crime Disruption Strategy

Transnational Organized Crime (TNOc) is a threat to regional security and supporting Members and law enforcement agencies across the region to combat TNOc has been a core PIDC priority for many years. In April this year the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS) Subcommittee on Regional Security launched the Pacific Regional TNOc Disruption Strategy. The Strategy was developed through a wide-ranging consultation process with forum Members, forum partners, as well as regional and international agencies. It aims to significantly reduce the threat posed by TNOc to regional security through a series of priority actions from 2024 to 2028, led by forum members, Pacific regional Law Enforcement Secretariats, regional partners, and agencies. This session will help members identify the priority TNOc challenges to the region and also key areas needing support and alignment of national operations with the TNOc Disruption Strategy.

(iv) Boe Declaration and Regional Security

The Boe Declaration on Regional Security, adopted by the Pacific Islands Forum in 2018, expands the concept of security to include human security, environmental security, and regional cooperation. It acknowledges the increasing complexity of security challenges in the Pacific region, including climate change, and emphasizes the need for collective action to address these issues. The declaration calls for strengthened regional security cooperation, capacity building, and the integration of security measures into national and regional policies to ensure a safe, secure, and resilient Pacific region.

(v) Joint Heads of Pacific Security (JHoPS)

The fifth annual JHoPS meeting was held in Palau in August 2023. It was attended by law enforcement, national security, and military leaders, including police, customs, and immigration from across the Pacific. Key meeting outcome included Members agreeing to focus on areas of cross agency cooperation and coordination to address multidimensional security challenges. Members decided to form an intersessional working group. This group aims to enhance relationships, build trust and reciprocity, and advance the 2022 Denarau meeting outcomes. In this session Members will also revisit PIDC Information Sharing Arrangements and discuss opportunities to further strengthen relationship and cooperation among border security partners.

(vi) Pacific Regional Framework on Climate Mobility

The Framework delivers on the Pathways in the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent to ensure the protection and practice of the rights, cultural values and heritage and traditional knowledge of Pacific peoples in global and regional protocols for climate and disaster risk 2 reduction, and mobility including relocation, migration, and displacement'. It pursues in line with our ambition under the 'Climate Change and Disasters Thematic Area' to remain resilient

to the impacts of climate change and disasters and builds the capacity of communities to effectively address the impacts of climate change. By strengthening our collective action on climate mobility so that all our people can enjoy protection of their human rights in the context of climate mobility and help to achieve our vision for a resilient Pacific region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion and prosperity, that ensures all Pacific people can lead free, healthy and productive lives.

The Framework is underpinned by the 2050 Strategy values to ensure peaceful, safe, and stable communities and countries, ensuring robust security and wellbeing for the peoples of the Pacific. We recognise our collective responsibility to ensure access to sustainable resourcing and promote climate justice for the whole Pacific region.

These frameworks and initiatives demonstrate the commitment of the Pacific Region to collaborate on security, stability and development issues, addressing both traditional and non-traditional security threats.