



Pacific Immigration Development Community

2023/24 Board Meeting 3

24 June, Honiara, Solomon Islands

Agenda Item 4(a): Secretariat Report

Proposed Recommendations

Members are invited to **endorse** the Secretariat Report.

Purpose

This report provides an update of major events and activities undertaken by the Secretariat since the last Regular Annual Meeting in June 2023 to implement the 2023-24 Annual Work Plan.

Background

2. The 2023/24 Financial Year has been a busy period given the various activities the Secretariat was approved to deliver under its Annual Work Plan and Budget. The Secretariat has steadily worked towards the successful delivery of its Annual Work Plan and this report presents an activity update on the Annual Work Plan meeting its 2023/24 activity objectives and outcomes.

Summary of 2023/24 Activities

3. The major focus of the Secretariat's tasks following the 2023 Regular Annual Meeting had been the recruitment of the Deputy HOS to ensure that the Secretariat is fully staffed after 1 and a half years of operation without a full staffing capacity at the Secretariat, in addition to progressing all approved activities and in-country technical assistances in this financial year. Despite ongoing challenges, the Secretariat has continued to keep track of its objectives of delivering its schedule of activities.

4. Some significant achievements during this reporting period include:

- Website Development Support programme being rolled out to members to increase their department visibility on entry and travel requirements into members jurisdictions - Fiji (July 2023) and Vanuatu (September 2023).
- Policy and Legislation Review support provided to Tonga, Solomon Islands and Palau.
- Border Management System- Business Case Development Support provided to members to guide their BMS projects: Palau - August 2023.
- Successful completion of the PIDC Audit Report: October 2023
- Recruitment of the Deputy HOS (November 2023) and Finance Officer (December 2023)
- Endorsement and publication of the 2023 PIDC Annual Report.

- Strategic Plan Development Support Programme implementation in the Solomon Islands (October 2023 and Cook Islands (February 2024).
- Hosting the PIDC regional NCP/PG/MG Contact Groups Information Sharing Workshop with around 45 participants and the creation of PIDCs first Maritime Contact Group to coordinate information exchange at all sea ports across the PIDC membership.
- Online Intelligence Briefing and members agreeing to collectively commit to engaging to virtual intelligence briefing after the 2024 PIDC Information Sharing Regional Workshop.
- Hosting of a Information Sharing Working Group meeting in Apia and identifying key strategic approaches to strengthening PIDC's information sharing network.
- Successful completion of key reviews to progressively assess key areas of PIDC governance including (i) Stocktake of PIDC (ii) Membership Contribution Fund review (iii) PIDC Procurement policy development and (iv) PIDCs Travel Policy.
- Successful hosting of three Board Meeting for this reporting period.
- Support to members developing their leadership programme for upcoming leaders through the provision of PIDC's leadership course materials and expert technical support.
- Engaging in partnership engagements on information sharing initiatives with partner agencies including the development of an online immigration specific trend analysis reporting platform with IOM.
- Becoming a member of the Biometric Institute Community to access a community of experts and resources to support PIDC members e-passport journey.
- successful advocacy of PIDC brand in regional and international fora and strengthening of regional and international partnerships with stakeholder organisations resulting in increased partnership and coordination initiatives with regional and international organisations with OCO, PICP, PIFS, UNODC, IOM and UNHCR.
- Participation at the 2024 Global Border Forum in Istanbul becoming one of the first ever Pacific Island based organisations to be represented at this global border forum advocating on PIDC regional priorities including its engagements with partners under the partnership agreement.
- Development of the PIDC-USP Postgraduate Diploma into a Masters in Border Security Programme providing immigration officers at both officer, senior and management level access to the only Pacific specific immigration and border security graduate programme in the region and internationally.
- Engagement with Bali Process on regional capacity building forums and representation of PIDC at the Bali Process Asian regional meeting in December 2023.
- Engaging in the first ever joint vessel boarding course for immigration, customs and fisheries officers in a UNODC Maritime funded vessel boarding course for OCO, PIDC & FFA under the Partnership Agreement.
- Successful co-hosting of the ICAO Working Group meeting and seminar in Fiji in June 2024 with key recommendations to guide PIDC's regional coordination role in supporting members immigration technology development journey.
- The revamping of the PIDC Website as part of its advocacy programme to raise its profile regionally and internationally with the launching of its revamped website at the PIDC RAM in Honiara.

5. Despite competing priorities, staffing limitation at the beginning of this financial period over a period of 5 months and a congested work schedule after the 2023 Regular Annual Meeting, the Secretariat had progressively been able to advance a number of key activities as directed by Members from July 2023. Since December 2023, the Secretariat has for the first time been able to operate fully staffed following the successful recruitment of the Deputy HOS and Finance Officer. This has bought about significant improvements to the Secretariat's efforts in delivering its services.

5. Despite competing priorities, staffing limitation at the beginning of this financial period in July 2023 and a congested work schedule after the 2023 Regular Annual Meeting, the Secretariat had progressively been able to advance its schedule of activities as directed by Members from July 2023. Since December 2023, the Secretariat has for the first time been able to operate fully staffed. This has bought about significant improvements to the Secretariat's efforts in delivering its services.

A Traffic lights report is summarised below for ease of reference for the Board.

(a) Traffick Light Summary of Secretariat Report

SFA	Core Activity	Core Countries	Priority	Progress Update
Strategic Focus Area 1: Partnership and Coordination				
SFA 1	Stakeholder Engagement	Partner Stakeholders	Core	Completed: Annual Conference engagements with OCO and PICP Ongoing engagements with OCO, PICP, PIFS, IOM, UNDP, UNODC, JHOPS, APSC, PIFS, FFA, Pacific Fusion Centre & PTCN
Strategic Focus Area 2: National Immigration Strengthening				
SFA 2	Policy & Legislation Support	Solomon Islands	Core	Completed
		Palau	Core	Completed
		Tonga	Core	Drafting in Progress
	Drafting of Legislation Support	Solomon Is./Niue	Core	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Solomon Islands drafting in progress - Niue recently received Cabinet approval and endorsement of drafting instructions option and next steps to be progressed in new financial year.
		Strategic Plan Development Support	Solomon Is.	Core
	Training Curriculum Support <i>(Procurement of Consultant in Progress)</i>	Cook Islands	Core	Completed
		Nauru	Core	Initial meetings completed and currently scheduled to be completed in July/October due to competing priorities of members
	Standard Operating Procedures Support	RMI	Core	
Tuvalu		Core	Activity has been delayed and rescheduled to July/August 2024	
Tokelau	Core	Activity has been delayed and rescheduled to July/August 2024		
Strategic Focus Area 3: Border Enforcement and Travel Facilitation				
SFA 3	BMS Support to review systems & operational environment	Palau	Core	Completed
		Tuvalu	Core	<i>Australia support Tuvalu BMS business case development as bilateral arrangement following</i>

SFA	Core Activity	Core Countries	Priority	Progress Update	
SFA 3				<i>signing of new Australia-Tuvalu partnership agreement.</i>	
	Website Support	Fiji	Core	Completed	
		Vanuatu	Core	Completed	
	COVID-19 Regional Support	All Members	Core	Completed	
	Information Sharing Working Group	ISWG Members	Core	Completed	
	PIDC Awareness and Visibility	Membership	Core	On track to be completed: Ongoing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recruitment of communication specialist completed - Communication plan to be reviewed by specialist & purchase of visibility products in progress - Revamped PIDC website to be launched at 2024 RAM 	
	Regional Training Programmes:				
	a) Leadership Alumni Online Mentoring and engagement	All Members	Core	Completed: Support in the delivery of national leadership programmes for Cook Islands and Solomon Islands	
	b) Intelligence Support Programme	RMI	Core	Completed: RMI and FSM supported through the NCP/Profiling Group/Maritime Group workshop	
		FSM	Core		
	c) Advanced Online Excel Spreadsheet Training	All Members	Core	Completed: training completed at NCP/Profiling Group/Maritime Group Regional Workshop	
d) Operational Secondment Programme	Two Members	Core	Completed: One secondment from Solomon Islands confirmed for quarter 4 and arrangements in progress		
e) NCP & Profiling Group Regional Workshop	All Members	Core	Completed: On track to be completed in March 2024		
f) USP Postgraduate Diploma in Border Security	All Members	Core	In progress: PIDC funded students enrolled for 2024 academic year and on track for next cohort of graduates		
g) USP Masters in Border Security Development	All Members	Core	In progress and on track: Masters Development Programme MoU signed and development of Masters Programme started with intention to present for USP academic Board approval by end of 2023 with intention to roll out Masters Course for 2025 Academic year		
h) PIDC-ICAO Working Group Meeting & Seminar	All Members		Completed		
Strategic Focus Area 4: Governance and Secretariat Support					
SFA 4	Governance/RAM & Board meetings	Board Members	Core	Ongoing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Board meeting No.1 in Palau in November 2023 completed (ii) Bord meeting No.2 in Apia in March 2024 completed (iii) 2024 RAM and Board meeting No.3 on schedule to be completed 	
	Reviewing PIDC Procurement Policy		Core	Completed.	

SFA	Core Activity	Core Countries	Priority	Progress Update
	Reviewing PIDC Travel Plan/Policy		Core	Completed
	PIDC Organisational Stocktake Review		Core	Completed
	PIDC Membership Fees Review		Core	Completed
	PIDC Office Refurbishment		Core	Completed

Key

	Completed
	In progress
	To be completed/Delivered
	Delayed
	Can't Complete