



Pacific Immigration Development Community

2022 Regular Annual Meeting

8 – 10 August, Nadi, Fiji

Agenda item 9: Reopening Borders and Adapting to new Operational Challenges: Lessons Learnt

Recommendations

The PIDC Regular Annual Meeting is invited to:

- a) **welcome** the discussions undertaken by Members noting in particular the information shared regarding national experiences; and
 - b) **consider** regional approaches to supporting members strengthen their border operations and management based on lessons shared.
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Purpose

This session features discussions from Members that were some of the first countries in the Pacific to reopen their borders to adapt their operations to the new evolving realities of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Background

2. International travel has significantly changed since COVID-19 spread with the migration landscape continuing to evolve. New variants and viruses continue to emerge providing an indicator of how international travel will continue to be impacted going forward by possible border health requirements.

3. Significant work has been undertaken by Members and remains underway at the national, regional and global levels to identify and manage the risks around international travel in a global pandemic environment. These include efforts to develop standards around sanitary and health protection measures, create secure internationally accepted digital COVID certificates, calibration of testing and quarantine regimes to the risk, and creation and management of safe travel corridors or “bubbles”. Understanding and implementing these has been high priority for Pacific Island states, and involves health, immigration, law enforcement and other border control officials coordinating the operational and policy aspects in ways not previously contemplated.

4. Consequently, Members throughout the region at varying levels of vulnerability have individually responded to this unprecedented global pandemic. This session provides an opportunity for members to discuss the experiences respective members continue to be exposed to in an evolving operational environment and provides lessons that members can consider.