



Agenda item 14: 2016 Pacific Transnational Crime Assessment Report

Recommendations

The PIDC Regular Annual Meeting is invited to:

1. **note** and discuss issues emerging from past and current trends in transnational organised crime in the Pacific and explore the possible development of joint collaborative responses; and
 2. **task** the Secretariat to seek to enhance collaboration with PTCN and UNODC across the breadth of their activities in the region and engage in collecting data around people smuggling, human trafficking, criminal deportees, foreign fighters, outlaw motorcycles gangs and cruise liners.
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Purpose:

1. To discuss the most recent trends in transnational crime in the Pacific region and explore possible joint responses.

Context

2. Regional law enforcement organisations report that organised crime groups, particularly from Asia, have established a commercial presence in a number of Pacific countries to gain access to the affluent markets in Australia, New Zealand and North America. Transnational criminal groups have been linked to several business sectors including import, export, retail, wholesale, shipping, logging and fisheries. Often operating in several different Pacific countries, transnational criminal groups are able to facilitate the transport of illicit goods and illegal migrants from source countries in Asia to target destinations.

3. Globalisation is connecting the Pacific to the outside world at an increasing rate. The exponential growth in international trade and travel has influenced the increase in movement of goods, money and people between jurisdictions, while technological advancements in communication has facilitated social and economic changes.

4. Likewise, organised crime groups have developed sophisticated business models with supply chains to transport products, people and money between jurisdictions. Due to the nature of demand and supply, illicit products and services usually offer extremely high financial returns. In 2011 UNODC estimated the global proceeds from criminal activities at US\$2.1 trillion.¹

¹ UNODC Estimating Illicit Financial Flows Resulting from Drug Trafficking and Other Transnational Organised Crimes, 2011

5. To combat transnational organised crime it is recognised that law enforcement agencies need to: (a) prioritise a partnership approach between motivated law enforcement agencies and well informed communities; (b) incorporate an integrated whole of government approach to coordinate multi-agency initiatives and responses; (c) enhance interoperability and the sharing of information and intelligence between law enforcement agencies and across jurisdictions; (d) prioritise law enforcement capacity building and training to ensure agencies and officers combating organised crime have the required skills; and (e) focus on hardening the regulatory environment and increasing the ability of the public and industries to protect themselves from organised crime threats.

Strategic Implications

6. The proposed recommendations support the implementation of objectives promoting collaboration with partner law enforcement agencies contained in the PIDC Constitution, the 2016 – 2018 Strategic Plan and the Results Management Suite.

Financial Implications

7. There are no financial implications for any activities identified under this agenda item although Members may propose specific activities as a result of discussions.

Conclusion

8. PIDC Members will need to enhance collaboration and information sharing to ensure their responses to combat transnational crime are targeted and effective. Discussions need to occur with partner law enforcement networks that operate in the region such as PTCN, PICP, OCO and PIFS. This agenda item provides a valuable opportunity for Members to consider emerging trends, discuss common immigration priorities and identify joint responses.