



Agenda item 11: Data Collection in Immigration

Recommendation

The PIDC Regular Annual Meeting is invited to:

1. **note** the experiences and challenges of Niue and Palau immigration in collecting immigration data at the national level and to consider options to improve data collection; and
 2. **support** the proposed regional workshop to Strengthen Immigration Data Collection at the national and regional levels.
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Purpose

1. This session seeks to review Palau and Niue's experiences in collecting immigration data, discuss regional challenges and solutions to immigration data collection, and seek support for the proposed regional workshop to Strengthen Data Collection.

Background

2. Maximising the use of immigration data is an issue that has received increasing attention. Data can be used by immigration agencies to measure performance, improve decision making and policy development, support allocation of resources, and underpin development of profiles to target specific criminal activities to strengthen border control.

3. However, many PIDC Members continue to face significant challenges with their management of immigration data. In response to a questionnaire disseminated by the Information Sharing Working Group in early 2017, Members advised that for a number of important transnational crime related data fields, data storage was not uniform and either stored manually or in an electronic form that was not readily accessible for easy analysis.

4. As part of the Annual Work Plan for 2017/2018, the Secretariat is looking to coordinate a workshop to strengthen immigration data collection by supporting Members to develop simple Databases based on the advanced use of Microsoft Excel to store information regarding immigration related criminal activity, irregular migration, interventions and investigations, and specific areas related to criminal deportees, outlaw motorcycle gangs, cruise liners and foreign terrorist fighters. The Workshop will look to support Members in developing simple processes and spreadsheet templates to record agreed data that will feed into national and regional information collection plans.

Strategic Implications

5. The proposed recommendations support the implementation of information management and sharing objectives contained in the PIDC Constitution, the 2016 – 2018 Strategic Plan and the Results Management Suite.

Financial Implications

6. The Secretariat proposes as part of its Annual Work Plan for 2017/2018 to host a regional Workshop to Strengthen Immigration Data Collection.

Conclusion

7. Regional and international stakeholders continue to face challenges in accessing specific immigration data in the Pacific to guide and drive capacity strengthening programmes, systems and process development in the areas of migration. This session has two members to share their experiences and an opportunity for the conference to consider some of the following questions during discussions:

- i. How is information recorded, stored, analyzed and circulated nationally, regionally and internationally?
- ii. Do members have the data that is sought nationally, regionally and internationally?
- iii. Do immigration departments capture and store all immigration data in a central location or is it collocated in more than one location?
- iv. Is there internal demand for the data being generated?
- v. Do members have the capacity to analyse their data to guide policy and operational plans?

8. The discussions raised by these presentations will be used by the Secretariat to further improve the design of the proposed regional workshop to Strengthen PIDC Immigration Data Collection scheduled for 2017/ 2018.
