



Agenda item 19: Climate Change on migration in the Pacific

Recommendation

The PIDC Regular Annual Meeting is invited to:

1. **note** the impact of climate change on migration in the Pacific as discussed in the presentations to be made to PIDC Members; and
 2. **encourage** additional research to be undertaken in this important area; and
 3. **Encourage** Members to support national and regional approaches on managing our borders that consider the implications of climate change.
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Purpose

1. To discuss the impacts of climate change on migration in the Pacific.

Background

2. Climate change is expected to have a significant impact on Pacific Island communities. However, the interaction between environmental change and migration is little understood, although its implications for migration—both within countries and across international borders—could be significant.
3. The Pacific is one of the most vulnerable regions in the world susceptible to natural disasters such as hurricanes, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and the ever increasing existential and environmental threats caused by rising sea levels. The impact of natural disasters on human lives, infrastructure and economic activities can be devastating and long-lasting especially for the Pacific Islands with limited infrastructure.
4. While not the primary agency responsible for managing disaster response, immigration agencies play an important role in minimising the impact of these threats when they occur. As evidenced during the tsunami disaster in Samoa and category 5 cyclones hitting Vanuatu and Fiji recently, immigration departments had an important role to play in managing the inflow of emergency response workers and addressing mass movement of people especially when critical infrastructure and services were limited.

Financial Implications

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

Conclusion

6. Increased migration has been among the most significant demographic changes in the Pacific over the last five decades, during which changes in the form and scale of mobility have taken place. This session will discuss how climate change will affect migration in the

Pacific and what governments can consider anticipating in the future with expected increase in the movement of Pacific Islanders and third country nationals affected by climate change.