



Agenda item 18: Workshop Session III – Visa Waiver: How Members are addressing risks associated with visa waiver regimes in the Pacific

Facilitator: TBC

Background

Migration and mobility is considered crucial to the processes of globalisation and is connected to the increase in international travel. Citizenship and identification documents have a great influence on the modes and ease of travel. Citizens of countries that enjoy visa free regimes with countries in the Pacific can often progress through immigration checks rapidly while those not enjoying visa free arrangements often have to queue up in long rows and are subjected to additional scrutiny. Consequently, immigration departments continually face challenges in managing visa free regimes with the increased prevalence of irregular travellers exploiting loop holes in visa free regimes.

2. In addition, Pacific Island Countries with visa free regimes do not have the ability to pre-screen incoming passengers prior to departure and as such only have limited time and information at the primary line to determine if someone is a potential threat.

Objectives

3. The objective of this workshop session is for Members to work collaboratively in groups to:

- identify current and future visa waiver trends and challenges that Pacific Immigration Agencies are exposed or vulnerable to;
- understand and acknowledge the changing immigration trends in the Pacific region in relation to global developments; and
- identify regional and national strategies to address visa waiver challenges in the Pacific.

Format

4. The session will open with the Facilitator outlining the objectives of the workshop session. Members will use the subject presentations, discussions in specialist presentations that were delivered in previous sessions, and their respective national experiences as a reference point for their group discussions. Conference participants (including Observers) will be divided into four groups. Each group will discuss the workshop question and will have five minutes to report the key points of their discussion back to the Conference. Groups will report back to the plenary with a view to identifying any common themes for future work that may be incorporated within the PIDC work program.

Group discussions (15 minutes)

Guiding questions based on the objectives:

- How are visa free regimes challenging immigration agencies' capability to manage borders in the Pacific?
 - What are some potential visa free issues immigration agencies are likely to face in the future?
 - What national processes or structures expose our immigration systems to be exploited by irregular travellers in visa free regimes?
 - What can we do (either nationally or regionally) to address emerging threats exposed through visa free regimes?
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Annex 1: Panel Discussion Guidelines

Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference Regular Annual Meeting Guidelines for Panel Discussions

The following guidelines have been developed to assist panellists with their preparation for the Panel Discussions at the PIDC Regular Annual Meeting to maximize information exchange and interaction with conference participants in the limited time available.

2. There are seven panel sessions planned for the Regular Annual Meeting. Each session is structured to provide Session Objectives with specific Session Outcomes to be achieved and Key Issues to be discussed. Due to time constraints, not all panellists will be invited to present and the selection of presenters will be discussed between the panellists with the Secretariat having the final say should there be more than one presenter seeking to present on a specific topic.

Panel discussion process

3. The panel discussion process is as follows:
- a) Prior to each Panel Session the Chair will provide a brief introduction of the topic and its relevance to the PIDC;
 - b) The Facilitator will provide a very brief introduction (no longer than 4 minutes):
 - i. outlining objective(s) of the panel discussion;
 - ii. introducing the panellists; and
 - iii. introducing the panellist presenters, their topics and the time limits.
 - c) Each Panel will be invited to provide between two and three presentations (depending on allocated time) and presenters will be given an 8-10-minute speaking time slot to present on their topic. Presenters will be requested to adhere to this time limit to ensure there is adequate time available for open discussion among the participants;
 - d) At the completion of the scheduled presentations, the non-presenting panellists will be invited to make verbal interventions regarding their experiences with the issue discussed and the objectives of the panel discussion;
 - e) The Facilitator will then open the discussions for comments from the floor; and
 - f) At the conclusion of the open discussions, where there are recommendations, the Chair will invite Members to consider/endorse the proposed recommendations.

Role of Facilitator

4. The main role of the Facilitator is to: (a) guide discussions in the session they are facilitating to ensure the session objectives are achieved; and (b) manage the time (very important) noting the Secretariat will support their role by providing a timekeeper.

5. The Secretariat will provide talking points to guide the Facilitator's interventions and prompt discussions from the panellists who are expected to have expert knowledge of the issues to be discussed.

Role of Presenters

6. Presentation Guidelines:

- a) Presenters are limited to making presentations between 8 – 10 minutes (unless informed otherwise);
- b) Presenters are encouraged to use PowerPoint presentations, which each should consist of not more than 8-10 slides (all inclusive) looking to speak for about one minute per slide on average;
- c) Unless the presenters advise otherwise, all material received will be distributed in electronic form; and
- d) Besides PowerPoint slides, presenters are requested to submit one or two key message(s) or recommendations from their presentations to:
 - i. assist the Facilitators for each respective session in guiding the discussions; and
 - ii. inform the drafting of the workshop outcomes document for the participants to consider. These key messages need to be brief, clear, to the point and should not be more than one or two sentences per key message. Presenters will be requested to submit these key messages by **5 June 2018** to the Secretariat on info@pidcsec.org.

Role of non-presenting panellists

7. These panellists are recognised as having an important point to contribute to discussions but due to time constraints are not provided with a presentation slot. In this instance, these panellists will be asked to make brief comments on their experiences relative to the objectives of the agenda item.