



Agenda item 10: Panel Discussion Three - Migration Policies: Challenges and Lessons in Developing Migration Policies

Recommendations

The PIDC Regular Annual Meeting is invited to:

- a) **note** the issues raised by panellists regarding the development of migration policies; and
 - b) **task** the Secretariat to develop a framework specifically identifying key policy areas for migration that are relevant to the PIDC environment.
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Purpose

To provide information to guide discussions regarding the development of migration policies to promote national economic development while at the same time strengthening border security.

Background

2. Migration is a complex issue involving various actors with elements overlapping economic, social, trade, labour, health, cultural, and security policy areas. In addition, migration can be a highly politicised and sensitive topic especially with the discussion of the rights and obligations of migrants and States at the national and international levels.

3. To make better sense of the complex intertwined issues, the development of a comprehensive national migration policy can be a useful mechanism to better manage the relationship between migration and other contemporary social, economic, and political issues. A coherent well-planned migration policy can provide significant benefits in identifying national interests and ensuring coordinated action and resourcing to achieve agreed objectives. It allows countries to negotiate various trade, labour, and visa arrangements based on agreed national positions with identified objectives.

4. In the Pacific Island Countries, with the exception of Kiribati and Tuvalu, there has been limited a development of centralised policies to drive immigration reforms. Discussions with PIDC Members indicates a lack of immigration issues being raised at the national policy level with limited migration references contained in Pacific Island Countries and Territories national planning documents and development strategies.

5. Key areas that can be considered when developing a policy¹ include: (a) managing migration to harness the development potential of migration for individual migrants and communities; (b) facilitating migration to improve the ability of workers, professionals, and other desired migrants to safely move across borders while minimising delay and ensuring

¹ International Organisation for Migration: Migration Models

appropriate border screening; (c) regulating migration to help countries correctly identify persons seeking to access their territories and stopping those who are not authorised to enter; and (d) managing forced migration to help vulnerable persons move away from danger during emergencies and disasters and to return afterwards.

6. To better frame the issues that need to be considered when developing migration policies, it is proposed that the Secretariat be tasked to develop a policy framework building upon previous PIDC work and in consultation with Members and partner organisations.

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.

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.