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**Agenda item 07(b)(ii): Draft Declaration of Partnership between OCO, PICP, and PIDC**

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**Recommendations**

The PIDC Regular Annual Meeting is invited to:

- a) **welcome** the development of the Draft Declaration of Partnership between OCO, PICP and PIDC noting its endorsement by the PIDC Board at its March 2018 meeting in the Cook Islands; and
- b) **endorse** the Draft Declaration of Partnership between OCO, PICP and PIDC to further enhance collaboration between the three regional law enforcement organisations to strengthen service to our collective communities.

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**Purpose**

To brief Members on the proposed Draft Declaration of Partnership between Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO), Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police (PICP) and PIDC (Attachment One) submitted to the Regular Annual Meeting for its consideration and endorsement to further enhance collaboration between the three regional law enforcement organisations.

**Background**

2. At the Joint Law Enforcement Board meeting for OCO, PICP and PIDC held on 1 March 2018 in Brisbane, Australia, participants agreed to advance a Draft Declaration of Partnership between the regional bodies to strengthen law enforcement collaboration. The Board representatives for each organisation reviewed the draft text and agreed to seek endorsement by their Members of the Draft Declaration. Chronologically, if the Declaration was to be considered and endorsed by the respective annual meetings of the three organisations, OCO and PIDC would meet and discuss in June, followed by the PICP meeting in August.

3. Subsequently the PIDC Board considered the Declaration at its March 2018 meeting in the Cook Islands and endorsed the text for submission to PIDC Members for their consideration and possible endorsement at the 2018 Regular Annual Meeting.

**Declaration of Partnership**

4. In summary, the Declaration seeks to lay a foundation for enhanced cooperation between the three organisations by formalising areas of engagement and promoting inter-agency cooperation to share information, support common training activities and combat transnational organised crime. The Declaration focuses on transnational and organised crime, border security and recognises the need for better collaboration between law enforcement agencies to ensure effective measures are taken. In addition, the Declaration if endorsed, can be reviewed, amended and terminated by the three Parties.

5. The Declaration builds upon existing regional law enforcement agreements such as the Honiara and Nasonini Declarations and is aligned to and consistent with PIDC MoUs for Cooperation previously signed with OCO in 2000 and PICP in 2007. The Draft Declaration encourages Parties to:

- a) conduct regular and systematic joint meetings including ongoing participation at each Party's annual governance meeting;
- b) encourage the collection and sharing of relevant information and intelligence and best practices;
- c) promote coordinated delivery of training and participation;
- d) support national efforts to develop and strengthen inter-agency cooperation;
- e) coordinate contributions to strategic regional assessment reports and regional prioritization processes; and
- f) promote better understanding and appreciation of each agency's role and function for enhancing closer cooperation between all agencies.

### **Strategic Implications**

6. The proposed Declaration provides a number of strategic benefits for PIDC. Firstly, it provides a pathway for enhanced collaboration and will support the Secretariat in implementing PIDC objectives contained in the PIDC Constitution, the strategic planning documents and the Results Management Suite. Secondly, the Declaration formalises and re-emphasizes the relationships between the three organisations into one consolidated document to ensure continuity of collaboration during times of staff turnover. Finally, the Declaration provides a strong message promoting regional law enforcement collaboration and will be useful in enhancing political commitment from Members especially with the current ongoing discussions regarding the call by Pacific Island Forum Leaders for the development of a regional Biketawa Plus type security arrangement.

### **Financial Implications**

7. The Declaration at this stage does not call for any new resources although once finalized, joint funding proposals for possible joint activities will be encouraged where feasible and will need to be included in the annual work plans.