



Agenda item 7(b)(i): Inaugural Joint Law Enforcement Board Meeting Update

Recommendations

The PIDC Regular Annual Meeting is invited to:

- a) **note** the outcomes of the Joint Law Enforcement Board Meeting between OCO, PICP and PIDC;
- b) **thank** the PIDC delegation made up of New Zealand (Chair), Fiji (Vice Chair) and the Head of Secretariat for attending to represent PIDC interests; and
- c) **welcome** the activities being undertaken to strengthen collaboration between the three organisations.

Purpose

To brief Members on the outcomes of the Joint Pacific Regional Law Enforcement Agency Board Meeting (the “Joint Board Meeting”) for Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO), Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police (PICP) and PIDC held in Brisbane, Australia on 1 March 2018.

Background

2. The Joint Board Meeting was organised to explore options for closer collaboration amongst OCO, PICP and PIDC. For PIDC, collaboration and promoting integrated border management approaches coupled with scarce national and regional resources and the need to avoid duplication of activities are the major drivers for closer regional engagement. This has resulted in PIDC signing separate MoUs for Cooperation with OCO in 2000 and PICP in 2007 and more recently identifying in Article 3 of PIDC’s Constitution the need for the PIDC to act as a focal point for collaboration with other regional and international bodies.

3. The agenda for the meeting (Attachment One) was developed jointly by the Secretariats with two face to face meetings held to clarify the objectives and issues to be discussed. The two main agenda items were: (a) the development of a draft Declaration of Partnership; and (b) exploring the modality for future Joint Board meetings. Briefing papers (Attachments Two and Three) and talking points were prepared for the PIDC delegation highlighting key strategic interests for PIDC to guide discussions.

Discussions

4. While there were some issues raised by a few PICP Board Members regarding the need to ensure that the Pacific Transnational Crimes Network (PTCN) was supported across the region, the PIDC Delegation were able to advise that: (a) the Secretariat currently works closely with the PTCN and provides intelligence products to the Pacific Transnational Crime Coordination Centre (PTCCC) which currently is often not reciprocated; and (b) PIDC had based a lot of its work this year on addressing the priority immigration related threats such

as criminal deportees, outlaw motorcycle gangs and trafficking through cruise liners that PTCN had identified in its annual Pacific Transnational Crimes Threat Assessment.

Outcomes of Meeting

5. The meeting resulted in: (a) an agreement to advance a draft Declaration of Partnership for the respective organisations to endorse as a means to enhance collaboration (discussed in Agenda Item 7(b)(ii)); and (b) the development of an agreed modality for future Joint Board Meetings being held only when required on the fringes of planned Board meetings of OCO, PICP and PIDC.

Financial Implications

6. While there will be financial implications, steps have been taken to ensure these are minimised by: (a) ensuring future Joint Board Meetings will be held only when required to minimise additional costs to the three organisations; (b) having one of the organisations host by adding an additional session to their scheduled face to face Board Meetings; and (c) agreeing to limit Board representation for non-hosting organisations to the Chair, an additional Board Member and the Secretariat.

Bilateral Meeting with OCO

7. In addition to the Joint Board Meeting, the PIDC Delegation utilised the opportunity to hold a bilateral meeting with the OCO Delegation led by Australia Department of Homeland Affairs. Key outcomes from this meeting included an agreement to enhance collaboration through closer planning and a commitment to explore cross attendance of participants at relevant activities.