



## Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference

2018 Regular Annual Meeting

26 – 28 June Nadi, Fiji

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### Agenda item 14: Panel Discussion Four - Biketawa Plus, Pacific Leaders New Direction on Security and Partnering with Regional Organisations to Secure our Borders

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#### Recommendation

The PIDC Regular Annual Meeting is invited to:

- a) **note** the direction from Pacific Islands Forum Leaders for an expanded Regional Security Declaration;
  - b) **welcome** the proposed expansion of the Biketawa Declaration to include human security, humanitarian assistance, prioritising environmental security, and regional cooperation in building resilience to disasters and climate change; and
  - c) **strongly encourage** the Pacific Islands Forum of the need to strengthen law enforcement coordination amongst national and regional law enforcement agencies to successfully combat existing security threats linked to organised crime groups and transnational, border related and domestic criminal activity.
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#### Purpose

To brief PIDC Members on current activities being undertaken to advance regional discussions for the development of a Biketawa Plus Security Declaration as called for by Pacific Islands Forum Leaders in 2017.

#### Background

2. The 2000 Biketawa Declaration endorsed by Forum Leaders establishes a framework for regional responses to crises and provides a basis for conflict resolution initiatives. The Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) was mobilised under the Biketawa Declaration and with the conclusion of its mission in June 2017, Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) began to discuss security cooperation post-RAMSI with the intention of building on the Biketawa Declaration.

3. As a result of these discussions and based upon recommendations by the Forum Foreign Ministers, Forum Leaders, at their 48th Meeting in Apia, Samoa in 2017 called for the development of a Biketawa Plus Security Declaration to be discussed at the 2018 Forum in Nauru to expand and strengthen collective action for regional security due to emerging security threats in the region. Leaders agreed to build on the Biketawa Declaration and other Forum Security related declarations as a foundation for strategic regional responses, recognising the importance of an expanded concept of security inclusive of human security, humanitarian assistance, prioritising environmental security, and regional cooperation in building resilience to disasters and climate change.

4. To shape the proposed declaration, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) developed a Concept Note to guide discussions (Attachment One) that provided key issues, principles and established a timeframe for engagement. The initial timelines however have been slightly delayed with the proposed framework for the Biketawa Plus Declaration currently being developed and refined throughout June 2018 for submission to the Pacific Islands Forum Officials Committee meeting in July 2018. PIDC Members will be invited to provide comments on the draft framework during this Agenda Session and Pacific Islands Forum will lead discussions and advise on the key focus areas.

5. While the Secretariat will prepare a more detailed briefing paper when it has had an opportunity to review the initial draft framework, as a preliminary guide, when PIFS held its first round of consultations and sought through questionnaire input from the OCO, PICP and PIDC Secretariats on key security issues impacting PICTs, the Secretariat advised that the major issues to be addressed included:

- a) Establishment of Transnational Crimes Networks in the region
- b) Corruption
- c) Smuggling of Persons/ Labour fraud
- d) Lack of central coordinating mechanism for the regional law enforcement bodies and
- e) The lack of direct links between regional law enforcement bodies and Forum Leaders.

6. Crucial for PIDC purposes, Members will need to ensure that in practical terms, any 'Biketawa Plus' regional security declaration should at the least reaffirm the existing regional security architecture which inter alia calls for enhanced law enforcement collaboration and is contained in the following Forum regional security declarations: (a) 1992 Honiara Declaration; (b) 1997 Aitutaki Declaration; (c) 2000 Biketawa Declaration and (d) 2002 Nasonini Declaration (Attachment Two).

Insert PIFS Concept Note Dated 5 December 2017

## **Pacific Islands Forum Regional Security Architecture**

### **Forum Regional Security Committee**

The annual meeting of the Forum Regional Security Committee (FRSC) is the principal forum for setting a regional security agenda and identifying priorities for enhancing the capacity of Members to respond to internal and external security threats.

### **Security Declarations**

1992 Honiara Declaration on Law Enforcement Cooperation: Leaders recognised that an adverse law enforcement environment could threaten the sovereignty, security and economic integrity of Forum Members and jeopardise economic and social development and called for closer law enforcement cooperation at the regional level.

1997 Aitutaki Declaration on Regional Security Cooperation: Forum Leaders agreed to a number of principles governing security cooperation in the region.

2000 Biketawa Declaration: The Declaration sets the framework for regional crisis management and conflict resolution initiatives.

2000 Nadi Framework Initiative: Legal Framework for a Common Approach to Weapons Control in the Pacific region.

2002 Nasonini Declaration on Regional Security: Leaders recognised the need for immediate and sustained regional action in response to the current regional security environment.