



Agenda item 13: PIDC Regional Framework to Combat Human Trafficking and People Smuggling

Proposed Recommendations

The PIDC Regular Annual Meeting is invited to:

- a) **note** the activities undertaken to develop the draft PIDC Regional Framework to Combat Human Trafficking and People Smuggling which is to be finalised through an iterative process;
- b) **welcome** the significant support provided by Members and partner organisations to the PIDC Regional Executive Seminar to Combat Human Trafficking and People Smuggling hosted by PIDC in Apia from 13 to 15 February; and
- c) **note** the revised draft PIDC Framework to Combat Human Trafficking and People Smuggling and **agree** to review the draft framework for possible endorsement by the end of July 2019.

Purpose

To update Members on the development of the draft PIDC Framework to Combat Human Trafficking and People Smuggling ("Regional Framework") for their consideration and provide a timeline for its review and endorsement.

Background

2. Members at the 2018 Regular Annual Meeting held in Nadi, Fiji agreed as part of the 2018 – 2019 Annual Work Plan to develop a regional framework to coordinate activities and strengthen capacity of PIDC Members and partner organisations to combat human trafficking and people smuggling in the region. While other institutions such as police, civil society, and regional and international partner organisations currently play an important role in combating human trafficking and people smuggling, the intention was for PIDC to identify priority immigration related activities for the organisation and its Members to collectively advance while ensuring not to duplicate existing efforts.

3. The PIDC Executive Seminar to Combat Human Trafficking and People Smuggling was held in Apia, Samoa from 13-15 February 2019 (Programme attached as Attachment One). Attended by over 30 Participants, the Seminar was coordinated and facilitated by the PIDC Secretariat and supported by representatives of PIDC Members¹ with experts from partner organisations such as the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Bali Process Regional Support Office (RSO), UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Labour Organisation (ILO), ACP-EU

¹ Representing immigration departments from Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, New Zealand, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.

Migration Action Technical Assistance for PIDC (ACP-EU) and experts from the PIDC Membership.

4. A key part of discussions was the review of an initial draft PIDC Regional Framework developed by the Secretariat based on national and international policy documents providing a consultative approach to combating human trafficking and people smuggling.

5. As a result of these discussions, participants:

- (a) were introduced to the international legal frameworks on transnational crime, human trafficking and people smuggling²;
- (b) shared both national and regional experiences, case studies and lessons to develop a common understanding of the scope of human trafficking and people smuggling in the region;
- (c) were able to share common enforcement activities and practices to combat human trafficking and people smuggling noting in particular the utility of National Action Plans where appropriate;
- (d) reviewed the initial draft PIDC Regional Framework developed by the Secretariat to guide PIDC national and collective actions; and
- (e) developed a number of key recommendations to inform the revision of the draft document.

6. Initially the Secretariat had looked to circulate the revised draft Regional Framework in early May 2019 for Members to consider endorsing at the 2019 RAM. However, this work was delayed due to: (a) significant redrafting required to respond to requests from reviewers to simplify the document and focus on high level engagement; and (b) competing Secretariat priorities that arose.

7. The revised draft Regional Framework will be provided to Members prior to the 2019 Regular Annual Meeting. Key issues to note regarding the Framework include:

- a) the draft Regional Framework provides a high-level regional coordination mechanism to achieve clearly stated objectives by coordinating activities in four key work areas being Prevention, Detection and Compliance, Protection, and Coordination;
- b) the proposed strategies to implement the Regional Framework are broad and provide Members with ample flexibility to implement based on relevance to national circumstances, competing priorities, and available resources; and
- c) the proposed Regional Framework activities at the national level do not in anyway supersede existing national laws or policies.

8. Members are requested to review the revised draft Regional Framework and provide initial comments to the Secretariat by 21 June 2019. A further iteration will be disseminated and Members will be invited to endorse the final Regional Framework in mid-July. The additional consultation period will allow Members to further familiarise themselves with the text to determine whether there are any additional issues that need to be addressed.

² United Nations Convention on Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC)