



Agenda item 19: PIDC Information Sharing and Challenges

Proposed Recommendations

The PIDC Regular Annual Meeting is invited to:

- a) **note** and commend the activities of the Information Sharing Working Group (ISWG);
 - b) **note** the information and intelligence sharing Framework that provides clarification on how information is to be shared between PIDC Members, the Secretariat, PIDC structures and partner organisations;
 - c) **welcome** the establishment of the PIDC Profiling Group and endorse the draft Terms of Reference developed by the ISWG;
 - d) **welcome** the unprecedented levels of information sharing undertaken through the Profiling Group and the Secretariat;
 - e) **strongly encourage** all Members to contribute to this important real time information sharing platform;
 - f) **welcome** the ISWG activities undertaken to engage the Joint Inter-Agency Task Force West (JIATFW) in trialling its All Partners Access Network (APAN) secure communication system; and
 - g) **strongly commend** the ongoing activities of the ISWG in developing recommendations on how to strengthen information sharing to support the PIDC Membership.
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Purpose

This paper seeks to provide an update on the information sharing activities of the Information Sharing Working Group and the establishment of the Profiling and Intelligence Support Group.

The Information Sharing Working Group

2. The ISWG was established in 2016 to develop recommendations on how to strengthen PIDC information sharing among Members and with partner law enforcement agencies. The Working Group, which is chaired by the Secretariat, provided a list of recommendations to the 2018 Regular Annual Meeting of which a number were endorsed. To advance the implementation of these decisions, the ISWG met twice in Apia, Samoa on 1 - 3 October 2018 and 11 – 12 February 2019 (Programme, PIDC Secretariat Information Paper and Draft Outcomes for the ISWG February meeting attached as Attachments One, Two, and Three respectively).

Update

3. A number of key issues were discussed at the two meetings including:

- a) strengthening the push for universal adoption of the PIDC Memorandum of Arrangement on Information Sharing (MoA) signed by 14 Members since the 2018 RAM¹ with remaining Members indicating they were undertaking internal clearance processes;
- b) the operationalisation of the MoA with activities undertaken to:
 - i. establish the PIDC Network of Accredited National Contact Points (NCP);
 - ii. review possible information sharing platforms for the NCP Network to use; and
 - iii. engage with the Pacific Transnational Crime Coordination Centre (PTCCC) and the US Joint Inter-Agency Task Force West (JIATFW) to trial the All Partners Access Network (APAN) for PIDC purposes.
- c) a proposed review and update of the ISWG Terms of Reference (ToR) to better align the text with current activities tasked by Members;
- d) the development of a Profiling Group ToR as tasked by the 2018 RAM and identification of avenues to improve information sharing using this platform;
- e) supporting the implementation of the Declaration of Partnership signed by PIDC with OCO and PICP of which information sharing is a key component; and
- f) supporting the implementation of the Boe Declaration on Regional Security (Boe Declaration) as endorsed by Pacific Islands Forum Leaders in September 2018 of which again law enforcement information sharing is a key component.

Implementing the Memorandum of Arrangement

4. Two essential goals prioritised by the ISWG for the current financial year included: (a) promoting the universal adoption of the PIDC MoA by supporting the remaining five Members to become Parties to the Arrangement; and (b) operationalising the MoA through the development of agreed structures, processes, forms, and information sharing systems.

(a) Promoting the universal adoption of the PIDC MoA

5. The Working Group at its meeting in February 2019 noted a report from the Secretariat regarding national efforts being undertaken by Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Niue, Tonga, and Tuvalu to become signatories. The ISWG agreed to encourage these remaining Members to sign the MoA and offered to provide support if necessary. The Secretariat engaged with these Members to determine if any further support was required for endorsement of the MoU and they were strongly encouraged to consider signing up to the MoA at the 2019 Regular Annual Meeting.

(b) Operationalising the MoA

Regional Network of Accredited Contact Points

6. The network of accredited contact points is the main formal mechanism for sharing information under the MoA. The network structure is designed to promote trust between Members by providing an agreed process to ensure that each Member at a minimum has officers proficient in the treatment of shared information according to its security classification. The Secretariat through Circular 16/2018 sought nominations from Members for (a) National Administrators (NAs); and (b) National Contact Points (NCPs) and to date only two Members have yet to provide contact details (FSM and Niue) with both yet to sign the MoA.

¹ Vanuatu signed the MoA at the First meeting of the ISWG in 2018.

7. Two trainings have been developed to support the establishment of the network being: (a) a one day workshop to brief national administrators on their functions and responsibilities in overseeing the national contact points (this workshop will be held on 7 June on the fringes of the 2019 Regular Annual Meeting in the Cook Islands); and (b) a one week regional workshop is scheduled for National Contact Points during the 2019/20 financial year.

Secure Information Systems

8. Secure communication platforms are essential for the effective sharing of information between law enforcement agencies. The ISWG has discussed the use of such platforms and reviewed three possible platforms that can be made available to Members. The Secretariat engaged with JIATFW, PTCN and OCO to provide a briefing on the APAN system while a PIDC Website and Google Suite briefing was also provided by the Secretariat. The ISWG agreed to trial the APAN System and is currently using the site as a mechanism for Working Group communications with a report back to Members scheduled for the 2019 RAM. The Secretariat has arranged for a trial of the APAN Platform during the Regular Annual Meeting to highlight its functionality for the information of Members.

Revised Information and Intelligence Information Sharing Framework

9. To provide Members with a summary of the overall information sharing practices of PIDC and also monitor the effectiveness of existing practices, the Secretariat reviewed the initial PIDC information and intelligence sharing Framework that was discussed at the ISWG meeting in October 2018. Based on feedback received from the ISWG, the Secretariat will be submitting a revised Framework for Members to consider and discuss in the lead up to the 2019 RAM which is attached as Attachment Four.

The Profiling and Intelligence Support Group

10. The Profiling Group, which currently consists of representatives of 14 PIDC Members, has been sharing information informally since May 2018 when it was first established inter alia to:

- a) coordinate and drive the introduction of an operational real time regional information sharing function and culture;
- b) develop more formal processes around national and regional profiling to strengthen primary line passenger processing throughout the region; and
- c) provide a platform for:
 - i. exchanging information, views, experiences, and analysis;
 - ii. advancing passenger profiling policy dialogue; and
 - iii. coordinating regional targeting campaigns or operations.

11. The Profiling Group supports the PIDC Memorandum of Arrangement on Information Sharing and is similar to the NCPs although this group has been designed to focus primarily on real time sharing of time sensitive operational information. The attached paper on the PIDC Information and Intelligence Network (Attachment Four) provides more information on the relationships of these two groups although the Secretariat notes that for some Members, the representative on the profiling group will also be the NCP under the Memorandum of Arrangement.

12. At the recent Information Sharing Working Group (ISWG) meeting held in February 2019, a revised Profiling ToR was developed to better coordinate the activities of the Profiling

Group. This draft ToR is to be signed off by the Board for its consideration and submission to Members at the 2019 Regular Annual Meeting.

13. The Secretariat has developed a short self – explanatory report on activities of the Profiling Group (Attachment Five) which the Secretariat will speak on during the Board meeting. The report highlights the unprecedented levels of information sharing introduced by the Profiling Group as of 30 April 2019.