



Pacific Immigration Development Community

2019 Regular Annual Meeting

4 – 6 June, Rarotonga, Cook Islands

PIDC(19)RAM.24

Agenda item 24: Boe Declaration on Regional Security and Related Regional Initiatives

Proposed Recommendations

The PIDC Regular Annual Meeting is invited to:

- a) **note** the ongoing activities being undertaken to implement the Boe Declaration on Regional Security through the development of a regional Action Plan;
 - b) **note** ongoing efforts to develop regional initiatives such as the Pacific Fusion Centre and the Pacific Security College to strengthen regional security;
 - c) **task** the Secretariat to continue providing support to these important activities to ensure that PIDC Members can contribute to and benefit from the regional initiatives;
 - d) **task** the Secretariat to ensure Members remain briefed on the activities being undertaken to develop the Boe Declaration Action Plan, Pacific Fusion Centre and Pacific Security College; and
 - e) **encourage** Members to support these regional mechanisms through provision of direct feedback to guide in their development.
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Purpose

This paper provides an update on the activities undertaken to advance the Pacific Islands Forum Boe Declaration on Regional Security (the 'Declaration') and the development of the Pacific Fusion Centre and the Pacific Security College.

Boe Declaration on Regional Security

2. The Boe Declaration on Regional Security (Attachment One) was endorsed by Forum Leaders in September 2018 and was developed to expand and consolidate existing discussions regarding regional security. While the Secretariat had been consulted initially in the development of the scope and text of the Declaration, on 26 November 2018 the Secretariat attended a Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat/ Australian DFAT hosted workshop in Fiji to begin development of an Action Plan to operationalise the implementation of the Declaration and allocate individual and general roles and functions of organisations such as PIDC. The most recent iteration of the Boe Action Plan disseminated by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat has been attached for Members' information (Attachment Two).

3. The workshop advanced discussions around five strategic focus areas which included Climate Change, Regional Security Engagement and Advocacy, addressing the expanded concept of security, strengthening national security and providing an enabling environment. In addition, Participants at the workshop considered several options for a regional security coordination mechanism to replace the Forum Regional Security Committee and came up with specific criteria for such a mechanism and also gravitated towards a Forum Officials Committee (FOC) Sub-Committee on Security.

4. Based on this work the Secretariat continues to work with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat in developing subsequent iterations of the Action Plan and looks to ensure that PIDC activities and objectives are considered and included in the Action Plan which is to be finalised before mid-2019 for endorsement. While the Action Plan remains a living document continuously evolving, the Secretariat is providing final comments prior to the end of May highlighting key areas of engagement for PIDC listed in the table below.

	Strategic Focus Areas	PIDC linkages
1.	Climate Security	– PIDC climate induced migration engagement.
2.	Stronger Engagement and Advocacy of Regional Security Priorities	– PIDC Law enforcement engagement and advocacy.
3.	Addressing the Expanded Concept of Security	– Transnational crime and border management; and – Human Trafficking and People Smuggling Framework.
4.	Strengthening National Security Approaches	– PIDC Policy and Legislation Development Support; and – PIDC Standard Operating Procedures.
5.	Creating an enabling environment for implementation including an appropriate coordination mechanism	– PIDC Memorandum of Arrangement on Information Sharing; and – Joint law enforcement Declaration of Partnership.

The Pacific Fusion Centre

5. In 2018 Australia announced the introduction of a Pacific Fusion Centre and hosted a workshop in Suva, Fiji on 27 and 28 November 2018 to discuss its establishment with Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) and Stakeholders. As a result of this workshop, a Reference Group was established made up of Principal Donors, sub-regional representatives and regional law enforcement and CROP Agencies (including PIDC) to serve as an advisory body to the Australian Government in the design, establishment and operations of the PFC.

6. The Reference Group was initially scheduled to meet in mid-March 2019 but have had to reschedule its first meeting to later in the year.

7. Early plans developed by Australia indicate that a consultative and phased approach to establish the PFC will be taken. It is proposed that the PFC will start small and gradually build to full operations over four years with support provided by the Reference Group to ensure that the PFC is aligned with regional priorities. It is currently envisaged that the PFC:

- a) will support and not duplicate existing regional law enforcement activities and products currently being provided by regional bodies such as PIDC;
- b) will be aligned to regional needs and also to the Pacific Security College also being developed by Australia; and
- c) will be operationalised in three Phases being:
 - i. Phase 1 – Establishment and open source analysis (mid-2019 to mid-2020);
 - ii. Phase 2 – Interoperability and unclassified analysis (2020-21); and
 - iii. Phase 3 – Full operations (2021-22).

Pacific Fusion Centre products

8. According to the PFC documentation provided by Australia DFAT, the suite of PFC products will evolve over time in response to feedback from customers (national and regional security decision makers in PICTs). Initial products may include:

- a) *For Regional security environment* - Weekly or monthly open-source overview of Pacific security media reporting, annual assessment of trends and emerging threats;
- b) *For Environmental security* - Threat vector assessment to identify sources and drivers of maritime crime in the Pacific, support FFA analysis of vessel movements reflective of likely transshipment to inform IUU monitoring effort;
- c) *For Human security* - Mapping and maintaining a database of capacity to respond in the event of humanitarian or human safety incidents, risk assessment of the growing cruise tourism market in the Pacific, regional biosecurity risk assessment to identify and prioritise biosecurity threat vectors for further investigation; and
- d) *For Transnational crime* - Review of organised criminal activity assessments in the Pacific to identify common threats, trends and themes, to inform vessel risk assessments and inspections (in partnership with Australia's Maritime Border Command, PTCCC, PICP and FFA), analysis of small craft movements to identify regular movement patterns and suspicious outliers, facilitation of a table top exercise to identify respective responsibilities for coordination and response under various threat scenarios, including national level information sharing.

9. The Secretariat has maintained direct engagement with DFAT to ensure that PIDC concerns and priority needs are considered in the ongoing design of the Fusion Centre. Issues raised include the possible need for resource support to align PIDC and Fusion Centre information and intelligence sharing products.

Questions for Discussion

10. Australia DFAT forwarded a draft Concept Note seeking input to possible PFC proposed activities to identify national and regional priorities. The Secretariat disseminated the questions to PIDC Members for comment which are listed again below for ease of reference.

- a) The Pacific Fusion Centre will undertake analysis and disseminate products to inform responses and policy making; customers are those with the authority and/or capability to influence, manage or direct responses to threats. Information and resources may be provided into the Centre from other partners (e.g. France, US), but they are not considered a customer.
- b) Is this appropriate and is there a role for non-forum Pacific island countries?
- c) Is there a role for the Pacific Fusion Centre to support customers with coordination of responses, for e.g. providing advice on response prioritisation and monitoring to avoid duplication of effort, if resourcing permits?
- d) Which agencies and roles should be included in the distribution of products? Should distribution be limited for sensitive products?
- e) How should products be distributed?
- f) Are the principles of information sharing robust and can they be strengthened to align with the broader concept of security?

- g) How should Pacific analysts best be identified, recruited and seconded in a manner that balances skills and career development with the needs of sending institutions?
- h) How can the Pacific Fusion Centre ensure it does not overtly compete with other regional security agencies for scarce analytical skills?
- i) It is proposed that short term project teams, and potentially virtual teams, form to address particular issues (e.g. biosecurity threat assessment), is this a suitable model for occasional products?
- j) How is capacity building best achieved during short term assignments?

The Australian Pacific Security College

11. The third key regional security initiative which is also being advanced by Australia DFAT is the development of the Pacific Security College. The Security College is being developed to build deeper and stronger cooperation in the Pacific by building capacity and promoting collaboration amongst Forum Island countries (FICs).

12. The Security College has been designed to strengthen regional security cooperation by supporting Pacific Island Countries and Territories to: (a) develop and implement national security strategies; (b) enhance regional collaboration on key security areas and challenges; and (c) build a network of highly trained officials able to engage on priority issues and develop possible solutions.

13. Australia will be asked to speak to these initiatives and provide further details.