



Agenda item 12: Managing Immigration related transnational crime

Proposed Recommendations

The PIDC Regular Annual Meeting is invited to:

- (a) **note** the ongoing transnational crime threats and trends facing the region;
 - (b) **welcome** the increased collaboration between PIDC Members and also the Pacific Transnational Crime Coordination Centre in sharing information;
 - (c) **welcome** efforts of PIDC Members and partner organisations to work collaboratively to combat transnational crime including through capacity building, sharing of information, targeting and development of initiatives such as the Regional Law Enforcement Declaration of Partnership and the development of a draft Regional Framework to Combat Human Trafficking and People Smuggling; and
 - (d) **strongly encourage** PIDC Members to develop and support specific multi-agency targeted responses to identified threats.
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Purpose

This session will look to discuss case studies of transnational crime activities being investigated by Members and partner organisations such as the Pacific Transnational Crimes Network in the region.

Background

2. Members throughout the PIDC region are witnessing increased transnational crime related activities with travel documents from several Pacific Island Countries and Territories being increasingly targeted to commit travel related identity fraud due in part to new visa free entry regimes to the EU and Israel. Human trafficking and people smuggling cases continue to be investigated on a regular basis across the region with record numbers of trafficked persons being reported in one jurisdiction alone.

3. These problems look set to increase given: (a) the increasing growth in arrivals across the region due to the growth of tourism and international travel; (b) most PIDC Members have visa upon arrival immigration frameworks; (c) the projected increase in direct flights from South-East Asia into more PIDC Members; and (d) the known establishment of transnational crime networks across the region.

4. The panellists for this session will share key transnational crime challenges and trends that they are facing to inform the Regular Annual Meeting. Members will be invited to discuss possible solutions and responses to criminal activities identified and will seek to identify priority areas for collaborative action.

Financial Implications

5. There are no financial implications for any activities identified under this agenda item although Members may propose specific activities as a result of discussions.