



**Pacific Immigration Development Community
Information Sharing Working Group**

**Information Paper
Meeting 11 – 12 February 2019**

This paper provides Members of the Information Sharing Working Group (ISWG) with background information to support discussions on the main agenda items to be discussed at their meeting scheduled for 11 – 12 February 2019.

[Agenda Item: 5\(a\) Regional Memorandum of Arrangement on Information Sharing \(MoA\)](#)

i. [Update on Signature of Members](#)

Purpose: To update the ISWG on the PIDC Memorandum of Arrangement (MoA) and provide an update of its endorsement.

The PIDC Regional Memorandum of Arrangement was signed by 13 Members at the 2018 Regular Annual Meeting (RAM) being Australia, Cooks Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia & Wallis and Futuna, New Zealand, Palau, PNG, Samoa, and Solomon Islands. Vanuatu signed the MoA at the last ISWG meeting in October 2018.

Members yet to sign include FSM, Kiribati, Niue, Tonga and Tuvalu. The Secretariat has discussed provision of support to all the Members yet to sign the MoA and has been advised that all are in the process of obtaining the necessary internal clearances.

As advised in the previous ISWG meeting, in the interim, these Members have been invited to nominate NCPs to participate in the sharing of information and some are already participating fully as part of the WhatsApp group.

ii. [Establishment of regional network of accredited contact points](#)

Purpose: To update Members on activities undertaken to establish the Regional Network of Accredited Contact Points provided for under the MoA.

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 that is adhered to ensure that each NCP at a minimum is proficient in the treatment of shared information according to its security classification.

By requiring the National Administrator to manage the accreditation process ensures that a senior officer for each Member is invested in the network and responsible for the activities of the NCP.

The Secretariat in 2018 sought nominations from Members for (a) National Administrators and (b) National Contact Points and to date only two Members have yet to provide contact details (FSM and Niue) and both of these Members have yet to sign the Memorandum of Arrangement.

iii. Development of simple guidance for information sharing processes aligned to the MoA

Purpose: To update Members on the development of supporting documents and processes to facilitate the sharing of information under the Memorandum of Arrangement.

As part of the endorsement and implementation of the PIDC MoA, Members at the 2018 RAM tasked the Secretariat and ISWG to develop two documents to simplify the sharing of information and provide guidance to Members.

New Zealand is leading this work and will provide an update.

iv. Development of templates for 'Requests for Information' (RFI) to enable Members to request access when required.

Purpose: To update Members on the development of templates for 'Requests for Information' (RFI) to enable Members to request access when required.

As part of the endorsement and implementation of the PIDC MoA, Members at the 2018 RAM tasked the Secretariat and ISWG to develop two documents to simplify the sharing of information and provide guidance to Members.

New Zealand is leading this work and will provide an update.

v. Possible communication platforms

Purpose: To advise Members on possible communication platforms to be used for secure communication between PIDC Members.

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 on this basis the Secretariat will be providing a briefing on three possible platforms that can be made available to Members. The Secretariat has engaged with JIATFW, PTCN and OCO to provide a briefing on the APAN system while the PIDC Website and Google Suite briefing will be provided by the Secretariat.

- APAN
- PIDC Website

- Google Suite

Agenda Item: 5(b) PIDC Profiling Network

In 2018 the PIDC RAM endorsed the establishment of a Profiling Network and tasked the Information Sharing Working Group to finalise the draft Terms of Reference for Members to consider and endorse at their next meeting.

i. Activity update Report

Purpose: To update Members on activities undertaken to establish the PIDC Profiling Network Update.

The PIDC Profiling Network is currently the most utilised communication platform being used by PIDC Members in the region. The amount of information now being shared between PIDC Members is unprecedented and further work now needs to be undertaken to enhance its role to support of the MoA. While the NCPs remain the main planned conduit for the formal sharing of information under the MoA, establishing an operational communication arm that supports information sharing on a real time basis has been an important exercise showing real success to date.

Since its establishment, the Profiling Network has shared information on around 42 cases discussing over 70 entities and the the Secretariat will provide an update of the Profiling Network activities and also discuss a few important case studies in further detail. A draft Report is attached as Attachment A.

ii. Revised Draft ToR

Purpose: To discuss the revised Draft Terms of Reference for the PIDC Profiling Network developed by the Secretariat for endorsement.

The Draft Profiling Group ToR was submitted at the October 2018 meeting of the ISWG for discussion. Based on recommendations by Members, the revised draft is attached (Attachment B) for ISWG Members to consider for possible endorsement before dissemination to Members for their consideration.

Agenda Item: 5(c) PIDC Data Collection Update

Purpose: To update Members on activities undertaken to strengthen data collection practices amongst PIDC Member given its importance to the capacity of Members to share information.

At the 2018 RAM, Members welcomed the PIDC Data Collection tool developed by New Zealand Statistics and the PIDC Secretariat and encouraged Members to adapt the tool to strengthen collection of immigration information.

To advance this work, the Secretariat as part of its endorsed work plan (a) hosted two secondments during week beginning 24 September 2018 for officers from Solomon Islands and Palau to strengthen and enhance the capacity of Members to collect priority immigration

data using simple databases; and (b) undertook two country missions to Palau and Solomon Islands to support the in-country introduction of the PIDC Data Collection Tool.

The Secretariat will provide a report on the outcomes of the two In-Country Data Collection Support Missions and also advice regarding additional requests for support that have been received by the Secretariat from Federated States of Micronesia and Solomon Islands.

Agenda Item: 5(d) Revised Information and Intelligence Information Sharing Framework

Purpose: To provide the ISWG with a summary of the overall information sharing practices of PIDC.

The Secretariat has reviewed the initial PIDC information and intelligence sharing Framework that was discussed at the ISWG meeting in October 2018 and will be submitting the revised Framework for Members to consider and discuss for possible endorsement for PIDC Board discussion.

Agenda Item: 5(e) Declaration of Partnership between OCO, PICP and PIDC

Purpose: To brief the ISWG on activities undertaken to operationalise the Declaration of Partnership between PIDC, OCO, and PICP.

PIDC, OCO, and PICP Members at their respective annual meetings in 2018 endorsed the Declaration of Partnership to enhance cooperation between the three organisations. The Declaration enhances collaboration in several key areas calling for Parties to strengthen: regular joint engagement; sharing of law enforcement information and intelligence; multi-agency law enforcement training; and support for regional law enforcement assessments and reports.

It was envisaged that the Declaration of Partnership would support and guide collective regional law enforcement positions and initiatives to support and implement the 2018 Boe Declaration on Security.

The Secretariat has held a series of meetings with OCO, PICP, and PTCN both via teleconference and also on the fringes of regional meetings such as the November 2018 meeting hosted by Australia DFAT and PIFS for the development of Pacific Islands Fusion Centre. At the recommendation of the Secretariat, PIFS has agreed to coordinate future meetings of the regional law enforcement Secretariats with PILON and FFA and the Secretariat will provide further details.

Agenda Item: 5(f) Integration of social media into PIDC information sharing activities

Purpose: To update Members on activities undertaken to introduce social media as a tool to advance PIDC objectives and interests.

In discussing the possible use of social media as a communication platform to advance PIDC interests, the PIDC Board at its meeting in the Cook Islands endorsed the PIDC Social Media Policy and noted that the Secretariat prior to utilising a social media platform should have

due considerations of the objectives, target audience, and potential impacts including security implications and resource considerations.

While a number of challenges were raised by the Board in utilising this platform based mainly on the limited number of Secretariat staff and also possible security issues, the Secretariat notes that the social media sites such as Facebook remain one of the most effective forms of communication in the Pacific Islands.

Since the last ISWG meeting, the Secretariat has reviewed Facebook pages hosted by agencies linked to PIDC used in the region and has noted in particular the Australian and New Zealand High Commission pages for Fiji, Samoa and Tonga and based on these lessons looks to begin utilising this social media platform shortly.

[Agenda Item: 5\(g\) Australia Update on Fusion Centre](#)

Purpose: To update Members on activities undertaken to develop the Pacific Fusion Centre.

In 2017 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 PICTs and Stakeholders.

As a result of this workshop, a Reference Group was established made up of Principal Donors and regional law enforcement and CROP Agencies to serve as an advisory body to the Australian Government in the design, establishment and operations of the Regional Fusion Centre.

The PIDC Head of Secretariat along with the Secretariat Heads for PICP and OCO were invited to represent their respective organisations as Members of the Reference Group and the invitation is attached as Attachment C.

[Agenda Item: 6 Proposed Amendment of ISWG Terms of Reference](#)

Purpose: To discuss the proposed amendments to the ToR of the PIDC ISWG.

A number of proposed amendments to the PIDC ISWG ToR have been developed for discussion. The proposed amendments are attached with a draft memo to the Board in Attachments D1 – D3. The ISWG will be invited to discuss the proposed amendments and make suitable recommendations for the Board to consider endorsing for Members to discuss at the 2019 RAM.