



**Agenda item 3: Governance Arrangements**

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**Proposed Recommendations:**

The PIDC Membership is invited to **endorse** the proposed amendments to the PIDC Constitution and Rules of Procedure to accommodate hosting Virtual Regular Annual Meetings.

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**Purpose**

This paper proposes Members support the amendment of the PIDC Constitution and Rules of Procedure to allow for the hosting of Virtual Regular Annual Meetings (RAM). This proposal seeks to provide an alternate meeting method for future meetings due to Member's inability to undertake international travel as a result of exceptional circumstances such as COVID-19.

**Background**

2. At the first Board meeting for the 2020/21 financial year in November 2020, the Board:

- (a) **noted** the uncertainty regarding the reopening of international borders and travel in 2021 and its possible impact on the scheduling of the next PIDC Regular Annual Meeting;
- (b) **noted** the low likelihood of hosting the 2021 Regular Annual Meeting in a member country due to the lack of definitive advice on the reopening of international borders and people movement across the region and internationally; and
- (c) **agreed** to host the 2021 Regular Annual Meeting through a virtual platform should international borders remain closed by the second Board meeting in March 2021.

3. Consequently, the Board tasked the Secretariat to:

- (a) **identify** the procedural requirements of virtually hosting the Regular Annual Meeting and the appropriate amendments to the Constitution to enable this new meeting platform; and
- b) **table** intersessional constitutional amendments for hosting a Regular Annual Meeting virtually if required.

**Background Analysis**

4. In its review of the PIDC governance documents, the Secretariat identified that the Constitution doesn't provide any specific instructions to hosting a Virtual RAM while providing general references around 'other meetings' which potentially accommodates hosting of Virtual Regular Annual Meetings. However, the lack of specificity to Virtual Regular Annual Meetings exposes the organisation to risks around the mandate Members have to make decisions in Virtual RAM meetings.

5. While no one ever expected or foresaw the new reality of international border closures, this provides an opportunity to amend the Constitution to provide specific references to hosting virtual Regular Annual Meetings. Amendment to the Constitution for the purposes of hosting Virtual RAMs would protect the organisation from governance risks that may emerge when the validity of Virtual RAM decisions is potentially challenged by members or stakeholders.

### Proposed Amendments

6. The PIDC Board in considering the advice of the Secretariat in its subsequent meeting of March 2021:

- a) **agreed** to implement the necessary actions to amend the PIDC Constitution and Rules of Procedure; and
- b) **endorsed** the insertion of the following text in the PIDC Constitution and Rules of Procedure:

7. In its discussions, there appeared to be a general consensus amongst the PIDC Board that the holding of a virtual RAM was to be undertaken only in exceptional circumstances such as in the current instance with international travel restricted due to a global pandemic. The Board Members discussed that there was still real value in face to face meetings where bilateral meetings could be held more easily, more emphasis could be placed on attendance of the meeting, and bilateral and multilateral relationships could be strengthened.

8. To implement the decision of the Board Members were advised of the proposed amendments by PIDC Circular on 30 April 2021 which is attached as ANNEX ONE.

9. The text to be amended is detailed below.

<b>Recommended Text Insertion for the Constitution and Rules of Procedure</b>
<p>1. The following text (highlighted) is to be inserted into Article 16.1 of the PIDC Constitution:</p> <p><i>"The PIDC shall hold a regular annual meeting at which the election of officers, and the Board, shall occur. Where the Members are unable to physically meet for the Regular Annual Meeting in a member country due to exceptional circumstances, the Board may agree for the Regular Annual Meeting to be held using a virtual platform."</i></p>
<p>2. The following text (highlighted) is proposed to be inserted in Rule 3.1 of the Rules of Procedure:</p> <p><i>"The PIDC shall hold a Regular Annual Meeting in a member country each calendar year. Where the Board determines that Members are unable to physically meet for the Regular Annual Meeting in a member country due to exceptional circumstances, the meeting shall be held using a virtual platform. Before the end of each Regular Annual Meeting, the Secretariat, in consultation with PIDC members, shall decide the date and approximate duration of the next Regular Annual Meeting."</i></p>



## PACIFIC IMMIGRATION DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY CIRCULAR

<b>To:</b>	<b>PIDC Members</b>
<b>From:</b>	<b>PIDC Secretariat</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>30 April 2021</b>
<b>Circular No.</b>	<b>01/2021</b>

Dear Colleagues,

### PIDC Regular Annual Meeting and Special General Meeting for 2021

The Secretariat is pleased to advise that the Board has agreed to hold the PIDC Regular Annual Meeting (RAM) on 29 and 30 June 2021 using a virtual electronic platform (Zoom).

2. Immediately prior to the RAM, a Special General Meeting (SGM) will be held to consider changes to the PIDC Constitution and Rules of Procedure endorsed by the PIDC Board and detailed below. The proposed changes are to allow for PIDC to hold a RAM using a virtual platform when a physical face to face meeting is not possible.

#### Proposed amendment to the PIDC Constitution

- a. The following text (highlighted) is to be inserted into Article 16.1 of the PIDC Constitution:


*“The PIDC shall hold a regular annual meeting at which the election of officers, and the Board, shall occur. Where the Members are unable to physically meet for the Regular Annual Meeting in a member country due to exceptional circumstances, the Board may agree for the Regular Annual Meeting to be held using a virtual platform.”*

#### Proposed amendment to the PIDC Rules of Procedure

- b. The following text (highlighted) is proposed to be inserted in Rule 3.1 of the Rules of Procedure:

*“The PIDC shall hold a Regular Annual Meeting in a member country each calendar year. Where the Board determines that Members are unable to physically meet for the Regular Annual Meeting in a member country due to exceptional circumstances, the meeting shall be held using a virtual platform. Before the end of each Regular Annual Meeting, the Secretariat, in consultation with PIDC members, shall decide the date and approximate duration of the next Regular Annual Meeting.”*

3. The Secretariat will disseminate a draft agenda for the meetings within the next few weeks for Members to consider.
4. Please do not hesitate to contact the Secretariat for further information if required on [info@pidcsec.org](mailto:info@pidcsec.org).



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Ioane Alama  
**Head of Secretariat**