



Pacific Immigration Development Community

2021 Regular Annual Meeting & Special General Meeting

29/30 June 2021 – Samoa Time (Videoconference)

Agenda item 4(a): Board Report

Recommendations

Members are invited to **consider** and **endorse** the 2020-21 PIDC Board Report.

Purpose

The Board seeks Members' endorsement of its report on the delivery of activities under their oversight during the 2020/21 financial period.

Background

2. The Board plays a central role in the oversight and governance of the organisation. The PIDC Constitution requires the Board to act on behalf of the PIDC Membership to provide oversight of the day-to-day operational activities of the PIDC Secretariat, other Subsidiary Bodies, and Committees.

3. The 2020/21 financial year has been a very busy period given the various activities that the Secretariat has been involved with in delivering the Annual Work Plan against a restrictive COVID-19 landscape that has changed the operational realities across the region and internationally. PIDC like many organisations has had to quickly modify its operational processes to adapt to the new operational normality. Emphasis has been placed on delivering activities virtually ranging from workshops, meetings and conferences. However, through these varying levels of activities, the Board has played a consistently central role in ensuring that all activity processes and outcomes were aligned to the organisation's objectives of good governance.

Summary of 2020-21 Board Activities

4. The Board has met on 2 separate occasions over the 2020 -21 financial period and is expected to meet for its third and final meeting on 25th June 2021. The first Board meeting was held in November 2020 (virtual), the second in March 2021 (virtual), and the third and final meeting will be held on 25th June 2021 a week prior to the virtual Regular Annual Meeting (29/30 June – virtual).

5. The Secretariat, under sub-Agenda Items 4 (b) – (e) will provide more detail on the implementation of activities in the 2020/2021 Annual Work Plan and Budget. However, it should be noted that these activities have been regularly scrutinised and vetted by the Board during the reporting period through consecutive Board and Committee meetings. While the third meeting has focussed on finalising the new PIDC Workplan and Budget for 2020/21, the Board as part of its monitoring responsibilities continually reviewed a number of important governance issues to address the COVID-19 pandemic operating environment. One of the major works that the Board has heavily invested in during this reporting period was the endorsement of the PIDC Secretariat Human Resources (HR) consultancy report which reviewed the Secretariat policies and processes and had subsequently established a plan to implement the findings of the HR consultancy.

6. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, has impacted the operational environment significantly with the 2020/21 Financial Year becoming one of the most challenging years for PIDC and its membership. International borders for most PIDC Members continue to be closed indefinitely with direct impacts as well on operations due to social distancing measures to combat the spread of COVID-19. To adapt, the PIDC Board has had to make a significant shift to hosting and participating in numerous virtual meetings which has required the Secretariat to upgrade its communication and online platforms to ensure such activities are effective. However, in spite of the restrictions and limitations created by the new working environment, the Board has consistently maintained its responsibilities to monitor the operational activities of the organisation by working closely with the Secretariat.

7. The following were some of the significant achievements of the Board during the 2020-21 reporting period:

- a) Hosted the PIDC's first ever virtual Special General Meeting on 10 July 2020;
- b) Successful completion of three Board meetings;
- c) Approval of the PIDC Audit report 2019/20 financial year;
- d) Approval of the PIDC Human Resource Consultancy Report and successful implementation of the HR Report recommendations through a prioritisation implementation plan;
- e) Successful coordination of the PIDC COVID-19 communication support package and the strengthening of Members communication capacity across the Pacific;
- f) USP Postgraduate Diploma in Border Security – successful USP partnership to deliver course and successful completion of course by first group of sponsored cohorts;
- g) Successful development and ongoing support of SOP for three Members, Fiji, Nauru and the Marshall Islands;
- h) Successful advocacy of PIDC brand in regional and international forums strengthening of regional and international partnerships with stakeholder organisations;
- i) Success of the Joint Law Enforcement Pilot Multi-agency Table Top Exercise on Transnational Crime;
- j) successful advocacy of PIDC brand in regional and international fora and strengthening of regional and international partnerships with stakeholder organisations;
- k) Development of quality research products to support and strengthen Member's knowledge base, skills and expertise;
- l) Development of PIDC Training Curriculum and Training Modules;
- m) Ongoing utilisation of the PIDC intelligence products throughout the Membership during the COVID-19 travel restrictions to assess the ongoing migration trends in the Pacific's new operational environment;
- n) The recruitment of an Information Coordination Officer to support PIDC's Intelligence network and operations;
- o) Establishment of a PIDC APAN Site on the APAN system to share information securely amongst National Contact Points; and
- p) Increasing use of the formalised new PIDC Request for Information template by the Membership.

8. The Board continues to maintain a core monitoring role over the Secretariat's operations and all returning and new incoming Board Members are required to maintain the monitoring and reporting standards of the Board for the purposes of sustaining the organisation into the future.