



## **Pacific Immigration Development Community**

2021/22 Board Meeting One (Virtual Meeting)

2 & 3 December 2021, Apia, Samoa

---

### **Agenda item 6: RMS 2 – A Regional Coordination Point for Immigration, Liaison, Advocacy, Representation and Agenda Setting**

---

#### **Proposed Recommendations**

The Board is invited to **consider** recommendations proposed under each of the agenda items discussed below.

---

#### **Purpose**

This paper seeks to provide the Board with an update regarding key activities undertaken by the Secretariat during the reporting period to advance the Results Management Suite Output 2. This output aims to establish and maintain PIDC as a regional coordination point for immigration, liaison, advocacy, representation and agenda setting. Agenda items to be discussed include:

- a) PIFS FOC Sub-Committee on Regional Security (FSRS)
- b) Pacific Islands Forum Working Groups
  - (i) PHP – C – TWG on Pacific COVID-19 Vaccination Certificates for Cross Border Travel;
  - (ii) TWG to develop a Regional TNOC Disruption Strategy; and
  - (iii) TWG on Climate Change Mobility
- c) Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms on Migration (ISCM) Update
- d) Joint Heads of Pacific Security Meeting
- e) Partnership Initiatives: Declaration of Partnership Update (OCO, PICP & PIDC)
- f) IOM, UNODC and UNHCR Regional Programmes and Initiatives Update

#### **a) PIFS FOC Sub-Committee on Regional Security (FSRS)**

2. The PIF FSRS is the new coordinating security meeting for the Pacific Islands Region replacing the previous annual Forum Regional Security Meeting and usually meets virtually twice a year. The FSRS met virtually on 19 November 2021 (please refer to attached Agenda as Annex One) and the Secretariat was invited with other regional law enforcement groups to present to the participants on current activities (draft outcomes attached as Annex Two). Key agenda items discussed by the FSRS included:

- (a) Update on the Implementation of the Pacific Humanitarian Pathway on COVID-19 (PHP-C);
- (b) Update on the Implementation of the Boe Declaration;
- (c) Boe Declaration Implementation Priorities for 2022; and
- (d) Law Enforcement and Legal Secretariats Briefs.

3. During the meeting several issues were discussed that will impact PIDC's work and for the most part these are discussed in the following agenda items. Some key issues not discussed as part of the Board agenda however include:

- (a) The implementation of the regional Teieniwa Vision on Anti-Corruption<sup>1</sup>;
- (b) The introduction of a regional security assessment document in 2022 (Pacific Security Outlook) which PIDC will be expected to contribute to; and
- (c) The alignment of all existing PIFS and regional work plans with the Pacific 2050 Strategy which looks to be endorsed by Leaders in February 2020.

**b) Pacific Islands Forums Working Groups**

- (i) *PHP – C – TWG on Pacific COVID-19 Vaccination Certificates for Cross Border Travel Technical*

4. The PIDC is a member of the Pacific Humanitarian Pathway - COVID-19 (PHP-C) Regional Taskforce (RTF) and previously worked with OCO and other RTF Members to develop inter alia regional:

- (a) Common Protocols for the Deployment of Technical Personnel;
- (b) Common Protocols on Customs and Biosecurity;
- (c) Common Protocols on Immigration **(drafted by PIDC)**;
- (d) Common Protocols on Repatriation of Forum Nationals; and
- (e) Common Protocols on Clearances for Aircraft and Ships Transporting Medical and Humanitarian Assistance, Technical Personnel, and Repatriating Nationals.

5. To advance the call by Forum Leaders for the reopening of international borders, PHP-C RTF established a technical working group to advance the development of regional vaccination certificates for cross border travel (TWG ToR attached as Annex 3).

6. The current TWG work plan calls for the development of regional standards by February 2022 and a framework for mutual recognition of these certificates amongst PICTs after that. This work will then look to promote the recognition of the vaccination certification framework beyond the PICTs. To this end, there is a lot of work being undertaken within a very short timeframe to determine what sort of useful regional standard can be developed given:

- (a) The current lack of a globally endorsed standardised approach;
- (b) A number of countries have already developed national vaccination certification systems to support international travel;
- (c) A number of countries are currently looking to reopen their borders and are also looking to develop vaccination certification systems for international travel;

---

<sup>1</sup> At the special session of the Forum Leaders meeting in February 2021, Leaders formally endorsed the Teieniwa Vision to guide regional work on anti-corruption. An extensive review of the review reports of the UNCAC implementation was undertaken to ascertain shortfalls in the region's obligations to the convention. Further consultation will be undertaken with Members, regional organisations, donors and partners before an implementation workplan is finalised.

- (d) The different vaccination data management systems being used to collect and record private vaccination and COVID-19 illness data; and
- (e) What vaccination brands will be deemed acceptable for each individual Member prior to entry of an international traveller.

7. Chaired by SPC with the support of WHO, the TWG commenced its weekly meetings in October 2021 and continues seeking to progress this work as mandated by Leaders. While the initial meetings focused on the establishment and membership of the TWG, discussions quickly turned to the work being undertaken in the region especially by Australia, New Zealand, and various PICTs such as Tonga and Fiji that were already working to develop their own vaccination certification regimes.

8. Given the current lack of a universally accepted vaccination certification framework, the TWG is reviewing what health data collection systems are currently being used at the national level and what vaccination certification systems have been employed in other regions to develop a model for consideration by PICTs. For the information of Members, please find attached recent minutes of the TWG Meeting which provides some insight to key issues being discussed.

9. You will note from the minutes that the key issues discussed to date include:

- (a) The funding being provided by PIFS to support the TWG activities;
- (b) The need to develop a specific mandate to implement this task as directed by Forum Leaders;
- (c) The need to obtain further information from Members regarding national vaccination certificates (This work was to be advanced by PIFS, and OCO also offered to contact their Members for any additional information outside of what was to be provided by PIFS);
- (d) The need to expand the TWG to include Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands Countries and Territories (PICTs) to avoid duplication of work or two separate work streams on the same issue;
  - Australia and New Zealand are now represented by their Foreign Affairs and Passport personnel that have worked in this space and a number of PICTs have also been invited to attend;
- (e) The need for more technical experts on the Pacific Islands Region immigration matters;
  - To date PIDC representation especially with the support of the PIDC technical consultants have been very well received by the TWG especially in support of the initial thinking of what a possible regional vaccination certification system could potentially look like.

The Secretariat will provide a verbal update of the activities of TWG given it continues to meet on a weekly basis.

### **Proposed Recommendations**

The Board is invited to:

- (i) **note** the update provided by the Secretariat regarding the activities of the TWG to establish a Regional COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate;
- (ii) **task** the Secretariat to continue support for this important activity ensuring that PIDC Members' interests are well represented; and
- (iii) **task** the Secretariat to ensure that Members remain briefed on relevant ongoing matters.

#### *(ii) TWG to develop a Regional TNOC Disruption Strategy*

10. The Forum Officials Committee in July 2021 agreed to establish a TWG to develop a regional disruption strategy for Transnational Organised Crime.

11. The TWG held its first meeting on 25 August 2021 to finalise working arrangements and methodology for the development of the TNOC Disruption Framework (Agenda attached as Annex Four). The meeting was attended by the various regional law enforcement agencies as well as Samoa and Fiji and during deliberations PIDC through its Head of Secretariat was selected to Chair the TWG. To seek Members' views on the priorities of the Framework, a regional consultation questionnaire was developed in September 2021 and disseminated to PIF Members for their feedback by 15 October 2021. The PIF Secretariat has advised that while some feedback from Members and regional technical organisations have been received, the majority of PICTs have yet to respond. On this basis, the FSRS agreed to extend the time for responses to 30 November 2021.

12. This work is expected to be completed in July 2022, when the Framework will be presented to the pre-Forum meeting of the FOC. The revised timeline is:

- (a) Member feedback by 30 November 2021;
- (b) Regional Workshops to be undertaken in February/March 2022;
- (c) Drafting to be completed by May 2022;
- (d) Consultation on draft in June 2022; and
- (e) Proposed Framework presented to pre-Forum FOC in July 2022.

### **Proposed Recommendations**

The Board is invited to:

- (i) **note** the update provided by the Secretariat regarding the activities of the TWG to establish a Transnational Organised Crime Disruption Strategy;
- (ii) **task** the Secretariat to continue support for this important activity ensuring that PIDC Members' interests are well represented; and
- (iii) **task** the Secretariat to ensure that Members remain briefed on relevant ongoing matters.

#### *(iii) TWG on Climate Change Mobility*

13. The PIF working group on climate mobility was established to: (a) oversee the drafting of a regional framework to address the key issues emerging in the context of climate mobility, in alignment with existing regional and national policies; and (b) provide

leadership and guidance on the development and subsequent approval of the regional framework including the process to secure political support.

14. The draft regional framework will be developed based on a defined methodology comprising desk review of existing materials, stakeholder consultation and validation workshops. To advance this work, a number of national consultations have been held in various PICTs<sup>2</sup> to discuss the scope and priorities of the planned Framework with the remainder of consultations to be held up to early 2022.

15. At the WG's recent meeting on 9 November 2021, the main issues discussed were:

- (a) A Statement on a digital platform to address climate mobility proposed by the Government of Tuvalu; and
- (b) A ToR for Technical assistance to Draft the Regional Framework.

16. Given the important links of this work to PIDC activities and also the vital importance of climate change responses to the Pacific Islands Community, the Secretariat recommends that the Board formally endorse PIDC Membership of this WG to ensure that it can contribute fully to the planned work. There are no costs associated with this work and with the engagement of a Consultant to undertake the technical work, the main PIDC contributions is envisaged to be linked to communication and providing feedback to any proposed activities or statements.

#### **Proposed Recommendations**

The Board is invited to:

- (i) **note** the update provided by the Secretariat regarding the activities of the WG on Climate Mobility;
- (ii) **support** PIDC's membership in this important working group;
- (iii) **task** the Secretariat to continue support for this important activity ensuring that PIDC Members' interests are well represented; and
- (iv) **task** the Secretariat to ensure that Members remain briefed on relevant ongoing matters.

#### **c) Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms on Migration (ISCM) Update**

17. The Ninth Global Meeting of Chairs and Secretariats of Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms on Migration (GRCP 9) was held virtually by Zoom on 10-11 November 2021 and was attended by the Chairs and Heads of Secretariat of 23 inter-State consultation mechanisms on migration (ISCM) from different parts of the globe. Held since 2005, the GRCP offers a forum for ISCMs to share their experiences and practices, promote inter-ISCM cooperation, ensure regional-global continuum in policy dialogue on migration, and shape joint approaches to various migration issues, including common ISCM approaches on emerging migration issues and on global initiatives addressing migration.

---

<sup>2</sup> Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands and Federated States of Micronesia.

18. The overall theme for GRCP9 was “International Migration Review Forum: an Opportunity for Inter-State Consultations Mechanisms on Migration to Contribute to the Global Governance of Migration”. The main aim of the conference was to identify possible contributions of ISCMs to the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) which is scheduled to meet in 2022 to discuss the implementation of the Global Compact on Migration<sup>3</sup>. Key issues discussed during the GRCP9 included:

- (a) ISCM role in the IMRF as an ISCM contribution to global governance of migration;
- (b) The benefits of ISCMs engagement in the IMRF for regional and cross-regional migration governance; and
- (c) ISCM review of GCM Objectives and guiding principles.

19. Representatives of 18 ISCMs spoke at GRCP 9 including PIDC. The Head of Secretariat presented to the Meeting on the work undertaken by PIDC in the Region to promote migration governance and also noted the importance of ISCMs being able to support their Members in terms of developing National Migration Policies and Legal Frameworks. The Secretariat noted that PIDC’s existing regional mandate supports the implementation of GCM Objectives 4, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 21 and 23 by including appropriate measures where possible into the strategic and annual work plans of the organisation.

20. For participation at the IMRF in 2022, the Secretariat advised that PIDC was interested in having the PIDC Chair provide a statement on behalf of its Membership on key migration governance issues.

#### **Proposed Recommendations**

The Board is invited to:

- (i) **note** the update provided by the Secretariat regarding the Ninth Global Meeting of Chairs and Secretariats of Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms on Migration held virtually on 10-11 November;
- (ii) **note** the intervention made by the Secretariat regarding the role PIDC plays to support its Members promote migration governance;
- (iii) **support** the provision of a joint statement made by the PIDC Chair to the International Migration Review Forum at its meeting in 2022; and
- (iv) **task** the Secretariat to prepare a statement and circulate to Members in advance of the IMRF for endorsement.

#### **d) Joint Heads of Pacific Security (JHOPS) Meeting**

21. The second Joint Heads of Pacific Security (JHOPS) Meeting was held on 10 November 2021. The meeting, which is hosted and Chaired by Australia and held annually

---

<sup>3</sup> The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration is the first, intergovernmentally negotiated agreement, prepared under the auspices of the United Nations, to cover all dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner. It presents a significant opportunity to improve governance on migration, to address the challenges associated with migration, and to strengthen the contribution of migrants and migration to sustainable development.

brings together Pacific leaders of the various security and law enforcement institutions to share perspectives on common security challenges. The theme for the 2021 Meeting was “COVID-19 recovery in the Pacific: Security challenges and re-opening international borders” which highlighted the two main discussion sessions for the meeting being: (a) COVID-19 recovery and responses; and (b) the re-opening of borders.

22. The meeting was Co-hosted by Australia’s Department of Foreign Affairs, Australia Federal Police, Australia Defence Force and the Australia Border Force. Presentations were made by several PIDC Members including Niue, Palau, Cook Islands and Vanuatu although Director Markson did not present. Key takeaways from the meeting included:

- (a) A recognition that the response to COVID-19 was an interconnected and inter related one with the need for collective and coordinated action amongst the various actors;
- (b) The important role that security institutions played in maintaining stability in response to COVID-19;
- (c) A shared recognition that while online platforms such as Teams and ZOOM were vital in maintaining effective communication during the closure on international borders, the need to re-establish direct face to face contact was vital for the additional personal discussions and relationships essential for building trust between colleagues and agencies;
- (d) The importance of security institutions remaining aware of the national COVID-19 policies especially around vaccination levels required for a safe reopening of borders; and
- (e) The possible need to provide more time for the meeting discussions. One issue that the Secretariat noted was due to time constraints, responses to the presentations and panel discussions had to be limited especially during the second session on reopening borders.

23. In terms of utility, JHOPS represents a significant opportunity to discuss regional security issues that are not currently adequately addressed at the PIF FOC Sub-Committee on Regional Security to advance the implementation of the Boe Declaration on Regional Security. While there were some issues regarding a need for more time for discussions, the meeting provides a space for interaction amongst the various security institutions at the operational level and remains one of the key regional activities that PIDC needs to continue to attend and support.

#### **Proposed Recommendations**

The Board is invited to:

- (i) **note** the update provided by the Secretariat regarding the JHOPS Meeting;
- (ii) **welcome** contribution provided by the PIDC Membership to the meeting; and
- (iii) **task** the Secretariat to continue to actively contribute to future JHOPS Meetings.

**e) Partnership Initiatives: Declaration of Partnership Update (OCO, PICP & PIDC)**

24. After the Multi-Agency Table Top exercise hosted by the three organisations in collaboration with the Pacific Transnational Crimes Coordination Centre and the Australia Pacific Security College at the beginning of 2021, the Heads of Secretariat for PIDC, PICP and OCO continue to hold monthly coordination meetings to advance the Declaration of Partnership (DOP). Over the reporting period, the DOP Meetings have been expanded to include reports and input from the Regional Maritime Surveillance Centre hosted in Honiara by the Forum Fisheries Agency. These monthly meetings have been very effective in promoting the sharing of information amongst the Secretariats especially in regards to regional activities undertaken by other organisations such as PIFS and UNODC. At the next scheduled meeting on 29 November, the DOP will receive a presentation from US Law Enforcement and Security Agencies regarding their planned increased engagement into the region which could have an impact on PIDC activities.

25. As part of current DOP discussions, the group has looked to identify possible additional activities to be undertaken in 2022. Some possible activities that were raised for further discussion include:

- (a) A second multi-agency table top exercise with OCO calling for the event to focus on supporting the Micronesian countries;
- (b) A possible DOP TNOC Conference in Samoa to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Pacific Transnational Crimes Network; and
- (c) Possible annual coordination meetings for law enforcement training providers and also intelligence networks to discuss interoperability.

**Proposed Recommendations**

The Board is invited to:

- (i) **note** the update provided by the Secretariat regarding the DOP activities; and
- (ii) **task** the Secretariat to continue to actively contribute to future DOP activities.

**f) IOM, UNODC and UNHCR Regional Programmes and Initiatives Update**

26. IOM, UNODC and UNHCR are UN based agencies that PIDC has traditionally partnered with over the years to develop and deliver immigration based programmes for the Pacific region. However, there has been a marked increase in the number of regional and international players entering the Pacific with initiatives and development programmes targeting immigration agencies with COVID-19 and climate change issues becoming global priorities with far reaching consequences across different sectors and in particular around migration. While immigration agencies are expected to benefit, from the increase in resources and capacity building programmes in the Pacific, there is the risk of duplication and wastage of resources if left unchecked.



27. However, PIDC continues to monitor new developments in the migration space and as the primary Pacific based migration body, is normally provided the opportunity to influence regional and international discussions on migration issues to ensure that resources and capacity building programmes in particular are targeted and utilised in the appropriate and relevant forums in the Pacific.

### **International Organisation for Migration (IOM)**

28. IOM continues to be actively engaged with members in the Pacific across different thematic areas that are not limited to migration issues. However, a number of projects IOM has heavily invested in included the (a) IOM Pacific Migration Roundtable and Pacific Strategy Consultations; (b) IOM COVID-19 Support; and (c) IOM Country Specific Support Programmes.

#### **(a) IOM Pacific Migration Roundtable and Pacific Strategy Consultations**

29. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is hosting a Pacific Migration Roundtable on 29 November 2021. The regional event will discuss the next IOM Pacific Strategy (2022-2026) and a recent Policy Paper on the role of migration in *“Leaving No One Behind in the Pacific”*. The Secretariat will be participating in this regional forum to ensure the interests of PIDC and its Members are represented and advanced, and to contribute to the discussions.

#### **(b) IOM COVID-19 Support**

30. While PIDC has engaged directly with members in the provision of COVID-19 support programme, IOM has also provided COVID-19 support through its regional Strategic Response and Recovery Plan (SRRP) for the Asian and Pacific region as a proactive initiative to support member countries in the Asian Pacific region. IOM’s approach in 2021 uses a robust SRRP encompassing life-saving assistance and response to humanitarian needs, initiatives to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on migrants and societies, as well as support to recovery and resilience integrating longer-term sustainable development planning. While the different strategic priority objective areas have been identified in the SRRP, IOM is also venturing into ‘reopening of borders’ support and PIDC continues to monitor this programme to avoid duplication of its work for members.

#### **(c) IOM Country Specific Support Programmes**

31. IOM has a number of country based offices across the Pacific with its regional office in Canberra overseeing operations across Pacific based country offices in FSM, Marshall Islands, Fiji, PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. PIDC in the past has never directly engaged IOM’s country specific programme but has most recently been actively engaged with the Fiji based IOM country office in light of overlapping work programmes involving Fiji Immigration. The experience has identified the need for PIDC to be engaged with Pacific country based IOM offices to ensure that there is no duplication of efforts or programmes and wastage of resources across immigration agencies from these member countries.

## **Fiji Case Study**

32. IOM Fiji has completed a recent Assessment Report for Fiji's Border Management Policy and Processes through the project Strengthening Fiji's Border Management Capacity. The report highlighted a number of recommendations including areas of training and capacity building. Through the project IOM will be developing a training program for Fiji Immigration initially looking at providing training on SOPs such as IOM's SOP for Border Officials at Points of Entry. While PIDC is currently providing some SOP support to Fiji Immigration on the development of SOPs as well, this provided the opportunity for PIDC and IOM to collaborate in terms of SOP training support for Fiji. PIDC and IOM are currently considering exploring a tripartite cooperation between IOM, PIDC and Fiji Immigration on the development of a training program and delivery of training on SOPs and other relevant training modules that may be developed in the future. It may be a capacity building cooperation program that PIDC, IOM and Fiji can work together to pilot in Fiji and see how this modality would work with other IOM country based offices. However, this experience has highlighted the need for PIDC to be actively engaged with IOM country based offices in the Pacific to avoid duplication of programmes and wastage of resources.

## **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**

33. UNODC's Suva based office recently developed and delivered a strengthening data collection, analysis and reporting on trafficking in persons Virtual Training course for Pacific countries in Fiji, Kiribati, RMI, Tonga, FSM, Palau and Samoa with law enforcement agencies and NGO's in the Pacific working with people smuggling and human trafficking cases domestically and internationally. The Secretariat supported this activity and disseminated invitations to its Members to attend.

34. The training aimed at strengthening the capacity of national institutions to record, collate and analyse official administrative statistics on trafficking in persons and to establish national baseline data on trafficking in persons. While the course was able to develop and strengthen understanding, knowledge and awareness on the importance of data collection and the need to share information, the training highlighted the need for Immigration agencies to fundamentally strengthen their data collection and sharing protocols and capability.

## **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**

35. While COVID-19 has reduced direct engagements with UNHCR on in country programmes across the Pacific, the Secretariat has continued to engage actively with UNHCR on a number of PIDC activities and initiatives seeking UNHCR's contribution to PIDC work programmes. These include the following:

- (a) **PIDC Induction Model Training Curriculum:** PIDC to share with UNHCR for UNHCR to review and update asylum advice as appropriate and revert;
- (b) **Border SOPs:** PIDC to share Model SOPs for UNHCR to review and update asylum entry advice as appropriate and revert;
- (c) **PIDC Model Legislation:** PIDC to share for UNHCR to review and update relevant provisions on asylum, refugees etc;

- (d) **PIDC Training Timeline:** PIDC to advise on scheduled training dates closer to the time and UNHCR to deliver sessions on asylum, refugees and statelessness in Executive Leadership Training and Training of Trainers; and
- (e) **Expulsion Checklist:** UNHCR to update with latest advice and discuss with PIDC best way to share among relevant members.

**Proposed Recommendations**

The Board is invited to **note** the update provided by the Secretariat on engagement activities with the relevant UN Bodies operating in the Pacific Islands region.

## FORUM EYES ONLY



## PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SECRETARIAT

PIFS(21)FSRS.2.1Rev

## FOC SUB-COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL SECURITY (FSRS) MEETING

19 November 2021

Virtual Meeting

## AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND MEETING TIMETABLE

## Purpose and Summary of Issue

- i. This paper seeks the agreement of the FOC Sub-Committee on Regional Security (FSRS) to the provisional annotated agenda and proposed working procedures for the meeting.
- ii. The Chair is responsible for the procedural conduct of the meeting. The Secretariat stands ready to provide support to the Chair in this regard.
- iii. Members who wish to present any item under any other business may raise this during the discussion of the agenda for Member consideration.
- iv. The Secretariat proposes that the meeting produces:
  - (a) an outcomes document; and
  - (b) a letter from the Chair of the FOC Sub-Committee on Regional Security to the Chair of the Forum Officials Committee.
- v. Further, it is proposed that the outcomes document be finalised out of session.
- vi. The provisional annotated agenda is attached as **Annex 1**.

## Recommendations

The Sub-Committee is invited to:

- i. **Adopt** the provisional annotated agenda inclusive of the meeting timetable; and
- ii. **Agree** that the outcomes document for the meeting be finalised out of session.

## FORUM EYES ONLY



### **PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SECRETARIAT** **FOC SUB-COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL SECURITY**

10.00am – 1.00pm FJT  
Friday, 19 November 2021

Virtual Meeting

#### **DRAFT PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA AND MEETING TIMETABLE**

**1. Welcome Formalities & Adoption of Agenda and Meeting Timetable (10.00am – 10.20am)**

The Chair will call the meeting to order then proceed with opening formalities and invite the Sub-Committee to discuss and agree on the annotated agenda.

*Please refer meeting paper PIFS(21)FSRS2.1Rev*

**2. Update on the Pacific Humanitarian Pathway for COVID-19 (PHP-C) (10.20am – 10.40am)**

The meeting will consider an update from the Secretariat on the Pacific Humanitarian Pathway on COVID-19 including current efforts to develop a Harmonised Regional Vaccination Certificate initiative.

*Please refer meeting paper PIFS(21)FSRS2.2*

**3. Boe Declaration Implementation**

**a. Update on the Implementation of the Boe Declaration Priorities for 2021 (10.40am – 11.10am)**

The meeting will consider an update from the Secretariat on the Boe Declaration implementation priorities for 2021.

*Please refer meeting paper PIFS(21)FSRS2.3*

**b. Boe Declaration Implementation Priorities for 2022 (11.10am – 11.40am)**

The Secretariat will present a paper on the proposed 2022 implementation priorities for the Boe Declaration for Members' consideration.

*Please refer meeting paper PIFS(21)FSRS2.4*

## **FORUM EYES ONLY**

### **4. Law Enforcement and Legal Secretariats Briefs (11.40am – 12.10pm)**

The meeting will consider a number of presentations from Law Enforcement and Legal Secretariats on the assistance provided to Members.

*PowerPoint Presentations*

### **5. Any Other Business (12.10pm – 12.40pm)**

- a. Briefing on AUKUS partnership arrangement

### **6. Next Meeting (12.40pm – 12.50pm)**

### **7. Closing (12.50pm – 1.00pm)**

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat  
12 November 2021



## PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SECRETARIAT

PIFS(21)FSRS 2.2

## FOC SUB-COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL SECURITY (FSRS) MEETING

19 November 2021  
Virtual

## AGENDA ITEM 2: UPDATE ON THE PACIFIC HUMANITARIAN PATHWAY ON COVID-19 (PHP-C)

### Purpose and Recommendations

#### Purpose

This paper provides an update to the FSRS on the progress of the implementation of the *Pacific Humanitarian Pathway on COVID-19 (PHP-C)* including progress of work on the development of a *COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate for Cross-Border Travel*.

#### Summary

- Since the PHP-C was stood up, a total of 45 flights have delivered almost 310 tonnes of health and humanitarian supplies and moved 153 technical personnel to 14 member countries.
- At the 51<sup>st</sup> Pacific Island Forum Leaders Meeting, Leaders tasked the Secretariat to “utilise existing mechanisms such as the PHP-C to support efforts for comprehensive vaccine coverage, and to continue discussions on harmonised approaches for regional vaccination certification and travel bubbles as and when conditions allow”
- At the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Regional Taskforce (RTF) conducted on 15 October 2021, Members agreed to the concept proposal and the TOR for the Technical Working Group (TWG) to undertake the work. The concept proposal was also endorsed by the Pacific Heads of Health Meeting on 07 October 2021.
- The TWG has since met four times to develop a proposal to be considered by Leaders through the Forum Meeting Processes in January 2022.

#### Recommendations

The FSRS is invited to **note** the update on the implementation of the PHP-C and **provide further advice** on how the development of the Regional Vaccine Certificate for Cross Border Travel could be enhanced.

### A. Background

On 07 April 2020, a Special Meeting of the Forum Foreign Ministers agreed in principle to the establishment of the Pacific Humanitarian Pathway for COVID-19 (PHP-C), under the oversight of a Ministerial Action Group (MAG) established pursuant to Article 2 (iii) (b) of the Biketawa Declaration. The PHP-C would comprise Australia, Fiji, Nauru, New Zealand, the Republic of the

Marshall Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The MAG would be supported by a Regional Taskforce (RTF) comprising of Members, WHO-JIMT, SPC and Regional Law Enforcement and Legal Agencies.

2. On 9 July 2020, common regional protocols developed by the RTF and MAG (on customs and biosecurity, deployment of technical teams, immigration, repatriation and diplomatic clearances) were endorsed out of session by FFM.

3. At the 51<sup>st</sup> Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Retreat, 6 August 2021, Leaders tasked the Secretariat to “utilise existing mechanisms such as the PHP-C to support efforts for comprehensive vaccine coverage, and to continue discussions on harmonised approaches for regional vaccination certification and travel bubbles as and when conditions allow’.

4. On 15 October 2021, the RTF considered and endorsed a proposal to develop a regional COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate for Cross-Border Travel (See [Annex 1](#)), and establishment of a Technical Working Group (TWG) to take forward this work. The TWG meets on a weekly basis and has met four times since its establishment.

## **B. Discussion**

### ***COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate for Cross-Border Travel***

5. At present, the TWG on COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate for Cross-Border Travel consists of SPC, WHO, UNICEF, PIFS, OCO and PIDC. TWG participation has been limited to this group given the current technical nature of the work and the urgency required to commence this initiative. Once the most technical aspects of work are finalised, Forum Members will be invited to join the technical working group to contribute and provide feedback on the proposal before it is presented to the RTF, progressed through the Forum Meeting Processes, then considered by Leaders. The TWG will report to the MAG/FFMM through the RTF. A Terms of Reference (TOR) for the technical working group was also endorsed by the RTF on 15 October 2021 ([Annex 2](#)).

6. Members also endorsed a Budget proposal for this work, attached as [Annex 3](#). Members have noted that further work will be undertaken by the Technical Working Group to review the budget proposal for phases 2 and 3 to take into consideration existing regional public health initiatives and progress made by Members on e-Health and digitalisation of vaccine records. A summary of the proposal including budget is tabulated below. The proposal was also supported by the Pacific Heads of Health (PhoH) meeting conducted on 07 October 2021.

#### *Summary of proposal endorsed by the RTF*

<b>Phase</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Cost (\$USD)</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
*Phase 1	Preparatory and Standards Setting Work for the Introduction of COVID-19 Certificates for Cross Border Travel	325,725	5 Months
*Phase 2	Country Assessment and Strengthening Readiness for the Introduction of COVID-19 Certificates for Cross Border Travel	413,739	3 Months
Phase 3	Implementation of COVID-19 Certificates for Cross Border Travel	499,979	4 Months
		1,239,444	12 Months



*\*Phases 1 and 2 may be conducted concurrently depending on availability of resources.*

### ***Update on humanitarian transport and distribution support by the PHP-C***

7. On 22 April 2020, the first delivery of PPE and other medical supplies donated by the Jack Ma Foundation earmarked was made for Fiji, French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Papua New Guinea. The PHP-C was used to move these medical supplies to Fiji, French Polynesia, Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Tonga. The remaining supplies donated by the Jack Ma Foundation was delivered to PNG, Samoa and New Caledonia.

8. Assistance has been received from the Jack Ma Foundation (PPE and medical supplies), Australia (financial), Cuba (technical assistance), Malaysia (medical supplies), Turkey (medical supplies), United Arab Emirates (PPEs), Taiwan (financial) and China (financial) to assist with the implementation of the of the PHP-C. A summary of assistances received through the PHP-C is attached at **Annex 4**.

9. The Secretariat was able to move health supplies to Members through the commercial means of transportation available at the time, and later with the assistance of the World Food Programme's Pacific Humanitarian Air Services. Since the first Pacific Humanitarian Air Services flight on 06 August 2020, a total of 45 flights delivering almost 310 tonnes of health and humanitarian supplied to 14 member countries have occurred. A summary of flights and Members assisted is attached as **Annex 5**.

### **B. Next Steps**

10. A key decision to be made in early 2022 will be on when the PHP-C initiative will cease noting the progress made by Members on opening of borders. As commercial flights become more readily available to all Members, a proposal will be made to the RTF for Member consideration.

11. In the meantime, the RTF, supported by the Secretariat, will continue to coordinate Member assistance, including distribution of remaining donated supplies, facilitation of further flights under the WFP Pacific Flights Service, and any further incoming donation received.

12. A summary of next steps on the COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate for Cross-Border Travel is tabulated below for Member information and awareness.

<b>Serial</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	Technical Working Group Meetings. (First meeting was conducted on Tuesday, 26 October 2021)	Weekly every Tuesday at 11.00am
2	Preparatory and Standards Setting Work for the Introduction of COVID-19 Certificates for Cross Border Travel. <b>(The TWG will endeavor to have the agreed standards presented to Leaders at their January meeting)</b>	February 2022
3	Finalise Country Assessment and Strengthening Readiness for the Introduction of COVID-19 Certificates for Cross Border Travel	
4	Country Assessment and Strengthening Readiness for the Introduction of COVID-19 Certificates for Cross Border Travel	Mar – May 2022

	<b>(This may conduct concurrently with Phase 1 depending on availability of resources)</b>	
5	Implementation of COVID-19 Certificates for Cross Border Travel	Jun – Sept 2022

### **C. Recommendations**

13. The FSRS is invited to note the update on the implementation of the PHP-C and provide further advice on how the development of the Regional Vaccine Certificate for Cross Border Travel could be enhanced.

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat  
9 November 2021



**FOC SUB-COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL SECURITY (FSRS) MEETING**

19 November 2021  
Virtual

**AGENDA ITEM 3(A): UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BOE  
DECLARATION**

**Purpose and Recommendations**

**Purpose:**

The purpose of the paper is to provide an update to members on the implementation of the Boe Declaration.

**Summary:**

- In September 2020, Members agreed on the implementation priorities of the Boe Declaration Action Plan for 2021. These priorities included the Pacific Humanitarian Pathway on COVID-19 (PHP-C), an update of which was presented under agenda item 2 of the meeting.
- This paper provides an update on the following regional security priorities:

<b>Priority area</b>	<b>Progress since last FSRS</b>	<b>Next steps</b>
<b><i>Strategic Focus Area (SFA) 2: Human Security and Humanitarian Assistance.</i></b> Regional Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Mechanism;	FOC endorsed the proposal in July	Implementation overseen by SPC
<b><i>SFA 4: Transnational Organised Crime</i></b> Regional Transnational Organised Crime (TNOC) Disruption Framework;	Working Group established on 25 August 2021; and regional consultation questionnaire conveyed to Members.	Analysis of data and drafting of Framework
<b><i>SFA 2 - Human Security and Humanitarian Assistance.</i></b> Refreshed Human Security Framework for the Pacific;	Working Group Established on 15 September 2021; and regional consultation questionnaire finalised.	Convey questionnaire to Members for feedback. Analysis of data and drafting of framework
<b><i>SFA 1: Climate Security.</i></b> Climate Security Assessment Framework; and	Climate Security Specialist appointed	Finalise workplan and methodology

## FORUM EYES ONLY

		Commence consultation and drafting of assessment framework
<b><i>SFA 6A: Creating an enabling environment for implementation including an appropriate coordination mechanism.</i></b> National Security Policy Development Guidance Note	Drafting completed	Workshop to contextualise document to Pacific experiences to be undertaken in April 2022.
<b>Recommendations:</b>  The FSRS is invited to <b>note</b> the update provided on the progress of the implementation of the Boe Declaration Action Plan and <b>provide further guidance</b> on how this can be improved.		

### A. Overview/Summary

At the Forum Leaders' Meeting in Tuvalu in 2019, Leaders endorsed the Boe Declaration Action Plan which sets out the priority focus areas for the implementation of the Boe Declaration. Subsequently, Members, Law Enforcement and Legal Secretariats (LESSs) and relevant CROP Agencies were consulted on the 2020 priorities which were captured in the 2020 Activity Matrix. These were agreed to in the FSRS meeting in October 2019 and endorsed by Budget FOC in November 2019.

2. In March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic hit the region. As a result of the stringent measures undertaken by Members (including border closures and the subsequent reprioritisation of effort to the development and implementation of the Pacific Humanitarian Pathway for COVID-19 (PHP-C)), the implementation of the 2020 Activity Matrix was delayed. Some of the priorities for 2020 were reprioritised into 2021.

3. This paper provides an update on the implementation of the 2021 priorities of the Boe Declaration Action Plan and provides an opportunity for Members to provide some guidance on how this could be improved. The paper only focusses on priorities that are being pursued by the Secretariat. Updates on the implementation priorities by relevant CROP and Regional Law Enforcement and Legal Secretariats (LESSs) will be provided separately through presentations under Agenda Item 5.

### B. Discussion

#### Regional Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Mechanism

4. Substantive work was undertaken on this priority in 2020 including consultation and drafting of the Regional Strategic Roadmap for Emergency Management (SREM). In early 2021, the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Secretariat undertook extensive consultation with both technical and political contacts of Members on the draft SREM. A final draft was presented and agreed to by

## FORUM EYES ONLY

Members at the April FSRS meeting. The Regional SREM emphasises the need for strengthened emergency response policy and procedures; the need for increased skilling of emergency management personnel; improving the coordinated development and deployment of assets and technical capabilities and strengthened governance for emergency management at all levels. These areas of emphasis are critical to the effective and efficient functioning of a regional HADR mechanism. The Regional SREM was formally endorsed by the pre-Forum FOC meeting in July 2021.

5. SPC is currently overseeing the implementation of the Regional SREM. Key to its implementation and the eventual set up of a regional HADR mechanism will be its alignment with existing proposed platforms such as the South Pacific Defence Minister's Regional HADR Platform. The Secretariat had reached out to the SPDMM Secretariat to explore how the two initiatives could complement each other and we are awaiting a formal response on this.

### Regional Transnational Organised Crime (TNOC) Disruption Framework

6. At the April 2021 meeting of the FSRS, a Concept Note was agreed by Members to guide the work on the establishment of the Framework. The concept note included the establishment of a Working Group (WG) to undertake the work. Regional consultation on the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the WG was conducted in June 2021. The Concept Note and TOR for the Working Group were formally endorsed by the Forum Officials Committee in July 2021.

7. The WG met for the first time on 25 August 2021 to finalise working arrangements and methodology for the development of the Framework. A regional consultation questionnaire was finalised out of session and shared with Members for their feedback on 09 September 2021. Feedback was requested to be provided to the Secretariat by 15 October 2021. While some feedback from Members and regional technical organisations has been received, some Members have requested for more time to consult widely at the national level. Subsequently, the deadline for submission has been extended to 15 November 2021.

8. The Secretariat will work with Members to consolidate feedback on the regional consultation questionnaire before the analysis of this information, conduct of regional workshops and the drafting of the final document is conducted. This work is expected to be completed in July 2021, whereby the Framework will be presented to the pre-Forum meeting of the FOC. A revised timeline for its completion is included under Next Steps below.

### Refreshed Human Security Framework for the Pacific

9. A proposal, which included a recommendation to establish a WG on human security, was presented and agreed to by the FSRS at its April 2021 meeting. On 18 June 2021, a regional security consultation session gave Members an opportunity to discuss and finalise a TOR for the WG to be presented to FOC. The Concept Note and the TOR for the WG were both officially endorsed by FOC at its pre-Forum meeting in July 2021.

10. At its first meeting (on 15 September 2021) the WG agreed on the working arrangements for the WG. The meeting also considered and endorsed a proposed methodology for the development of the framework noting that the Secretariat will provide a more in-depth presentation on the regional

## FORUM EYES ONLY

workshops to develop the framework. A draft regional consultation questionnaire was also discussed and WG Members agreed to finalise this out of session before it is shared with Members. Given the busy regional schedule of ongoing work and the delays in the submission of the regional TNOC questionnaire, the regional consultation questionnaire on this piece of work is being held back to allow Members time to finalise their TNOC questionnaire first.

11. As a result, there is expected to be a delay in the finalisation of this piece of work with the proposed framework to be presented to Budget FOC in November 2022. A revised timeline for the delivery of this work is included under Next Steps below.

### Climate Security Assessment Framework

12. In 2020, the Secretariat collaborated with the UNDP to put together a proposal to access the United Nation's Secretary General's (UNSG's) Peace Building Fund (PBF) for a regional climate security project. While this project will work predominately with Kiribati, the Republic of Marshall Islands and Tuvalu (with whom work has already commenced), a Regional Climate Security Specialist will work with PIFS to develop a regional climate security assessment framework that can assist Members in identifying climate security priorities as part of their policy development processes.

13. Following initial delays due to a successful candidate's late withdrawal, this specialist shall be appointed shortly. A more detailed 12-month workplan on the development of the Climate Security Assessment Framework will be finalised once the specialist is appointed.

14. As part of the awareness program to promote the work and regional understanding on climate security, the Deputy Secretary General of the Secretariat participated in a climate security podcast co-developed by the Secretariat and UNDP. The Podcast can be accessed here: <https://www.pacific.undp.org/content/pacific/en/home/presscenter/podcast/2021/catching-the-last-wave.html>.

### National Security Policy Development Guidance Note

15. In February 2019, the Asia Pacific Centre for Strategic Studies (APCSS) assisted the Secretariat with the conduct of a Security Sector Development (SSD) Workshop. The purpose was to provide an opportunity for Members who had already developed National Security Policy/Strategy (NSP/NSS) to share their experiences around this work and to encourage Members who do not have NSP/NSS to consider developing them to guide their national security work. A follow up workshop was to have been undertaken in 2020, however COVID-19 hit the region and the workshop was put on hold.

16. At the September 2020 FSRS meeting, Members agreed on the need to develop a National Security Policy Development Guidance Note to assist and guide Members who are yet to develop their NSP/NSS. A draft document has been prepared by the Secretariat based on the discussion from the 2019 Workshop and further consultation will be undertaken with Members who have already developed their NSP/NSS to contextualise the document to Pacific experiences. A follow up workshop has been organised with APCSS in April 2022 to assist in finalising the document. The final document will be launched at the April 2022 meeting of the FSRS.

## FORUM EYES ONLY

### C. Next Steps

17. The next steps for progressing the implementation of the outstanding 2020 priorities are tabulated below:

Serial	Activity	Timeline
1	Regional Transnational Organised Crime (TNOc) Disruption Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Member feedback by 15 November 2020</li><li>▪ Regional Workshops to be undertaken in February/March 2022</li><li>▪ Drafting to be completed by May 2022</li><li>▪ Consultation on draft in June 2022</li><li>▪ Proposed Framework presented to pre-Forum FOC in July 2022</li></ul>
2	Refreshed Human Security Framework for the Pacific	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Regional Consultation Questionnaire to be conveyed to Members on 26 November 2021</li><li>▪ Feedback from Members by 26 January 2022</li><li>▪ Regional Workshops to be conducted in April/May 2022</li><li>▪ Drafting to be completed by August 2022</li></ul>
3	Climate Security Assessment Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Timeline to be presented separately once Climate Security Specialist has been appointed</li></ul>
4	National Security Policy Development Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Consultation with Members who have developed NSP/NSS to commence in January 2022</li><li>▪ Regional Workshop – March/April 2022</li><li>▪ Final document to be launched at April FSRS meeting</li></ul>

### D. Recommendations

18. The FSRS is invited to note the update provided on the progress of the implementation of the Boe Declaration Action Plan and provide further guidance on how this can be improved.

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat  
9 November 2021



## FOC SUBCOMMITTEE ON REGIONAL SECURITY (FSRS) MEETING

19 November 2021

Virtual

## AGENDA ITEM 3B: BOE DECLARATION IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES FOR 2022

## Purpose and Recommendations

**Purpose**

The purpose of the paper is to provide an outline of the priorities to be pursued in 2022 on the implementation of the Boe Declaration.

**Summary**

In addition to ongoing priorities presented under Agenda Item 3A, the following are the proposed priorities for the implementation of the Boe Declaration for 2023 for Member consideration:

<b>Boe Declaration Strategic Focus Area (SFA)</b>	<b>Priority Action</b>
1, 2, 3, 4 & 5	Develop Security Policy Roadmap in support of the 2050 Strategy
6	Implementation of the Teieniwa Vision
1, 2, 3, 4, & 5	Pacific Security Outlook Report
2 & 6	Assistance to Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Security Policy Development</li> <li>TNOC/Illicit Drugs Policy Development</li> </ul>

**Linkages and Alignment**

- The Security Policy Roadmap work is to ensure that the security work is aligned to the requirements of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific. Ongoing work on the Pacific Humanitarian Pathway for COVID-19 (PHP-C) and the importance of Health Security will be a critical component of this work. The development of the Pacific Security Outlook Report will also help shape the development of the policy roadmap.
- In addition to SFA 6 of the Boe Declaration, the Teieniwa Vision work is linked to existing bodies of work that are being progressed by the Pacific Community through the Regional Rights and Resource Team (RRRT) and by the UNDP through the United Nations Pacific Regional Anticorruption Project (UNPRAC).



## FORUM EYES ONLY

- Assistance to Members aligned to ongoing work on Transnational Organised Crime Disruption Framework and ongoing work on Security Sector Development work with Members and with the Asia Pacific Centre for Security Studies (APCSS) and the Asia Pacific Security College (APSC).

### Recommendations

The FSRS is invited to:

- i. **note** the content of the paper;
- ii. **agree** to present the proposed activities for 2022, tabulated under paragraph 6 above, to the FOC for formal endorsement; and
- iii. **agree** on the concept note at **Annex 1** to guide the implementation of the Teieniwa Vision and present this to the FOC at its budget session for formal endorsement.

### A. Problem/Opportunity Identification

Given the broad scope of the Action Plan and the number of proposed actions under each of the Strategic Focus Areas, Members, in 2019, began prioritising annual work priorities to be pursued under the Leadership of the Secretariat. Bearing in mind the significant impact COVID-19 has had on the region, this provided an opportunity for the region to consider a reprioritised regional security agenda for 2022 noting the ongoing implementation of the 2021 agenda.

### B. Background (Context)

2. In 2019, Leaders endorsed the Boe Declaration Action Plan including the establishment of the FOC Subcommittee on Regional Security (FSRS). At the first meeting of the FSRS conducted in September 2019, Members, in recognition of the broad scope of the Action Plan, established a prioritisation process to be undertaken annually by the FSRS to clearly identify annual work priorities for the Secretariat.

3. COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the implementation of the Boe Declaration. The 2020 priorities were reprioritised into 2021 due to the restrictive environment brought about by the pandemic, unfamiliarity with the virtual modality of work and the busy regional work program which included among others the establishment and operationalisation of the Pacific Humanitarian Pathway on COVID-19 (PHP-C). The papers presented to this FSRS meeting under Agenda Items 2 and 3 provide an update on the implementation of existing priorities, and notes that some work remains ongoing. The proposed 2022 priorities action list below takes into account those ongoing commitments including the impact COVID-19 continues to have in the region.

4. As the region begins to learn to cope with the pandemic and as Members begin to open up, it is anticipated that the 2022 environment will be better than that which we confronted over the last two years and that the region will begin to operate in a more conducive environment for an effective roll out of the regional security program.

## FORUM EYES ONLY

### C. Linkages and Alignment

5. This work is directly linked to the implementation of the Boe Declaration through the various strategic focus areas tabulated under paragraph 6 below. The Security Policy Roadmap in support of the 2050 is linked to ongoing work on the 2050 strategy, this may lead to a review of the priority areas of the Boe Declaration. Our ongoing work on the Pacific Humanitarian Pathway on COVID-19 is also directly linked to this piece of work and the importance of Health Security to the region. The development of the Pacific Security Outlook Report will also help shape the development of the policy roadmap.

6. In addition to SFA 6 of the Boe Declaration, the Teieniwa Vision work is linked to existing bodies of work that are being progressed by the Pacific Community through the Regional Rights and Resource Team (RRRT) and by the UNDP through the United Nations Pacific Regional Anticorruption Project (UNPRAC).

7. Assistance to Members on Transnational Organised Crime (TNOC) is linked to ongoing work by the Secretariat on the development of a Regional Transnational Organised Crime Disruption framework which we intend to finalise in July 2022. This is intended to ensure alignment of regional security efforts to National level. It is also intended to provide strategic direction and supplement work that are being undertaken in this space by the Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police (PICP) through and the Pacific Transnational Crime Coordination Centre (PTCCC), the Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO), the Pacific Immigration Development Community (PIDC) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). On the National Security Policy work, this is to complement work that are being undertaken by APCSS and APSC in this space.

### D. Analysis of Policy Options

8. The following rationale may be used by the FSRS to consider the options for prioritisation of the priorities below:

- i. the urgency of the required action;
- ii. the impact that progressing a particular proposed action will have on national and regional security;
- iii. the contribution of the action in support of broader policy objectives such as the 2050 Strategy for a Blue Pacific Continent;
- iv. feasibility of the proposed approach; and,
- v. resourcing considerations.

9. In addition to existing priorities which are to be completed by mid-2022, the table below outlines the additional proposed priority actions for 2022.

SFA	Priority Action	Rationale
1, 2, 3, 4 & 5	Develop Security Policy Roadmap in support of the 2050 Strategy	Leaders will consider the final draft of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific when they meet in February 2022. Once endorsed, the Secretariat will

## FORUM EYES ONLY

		<p>undertake a review of the Boe Declaration Action Plan against the requirements of the 2050 Strategy. A proposal will be made to the FSRs in May 2022 on actions needed to align the Action Plan to the 2050 Strategy.</p> <p>In addition to the above, this will also provide an opportunity for the region to review the impact of COVID-19 on the regional security environment and to ascertain the validity of the priority actions under the Boe Declaration Action Plan.</p>
6	Implementation of the Teieniwa Vision	<p>At the special session of the Forum Leaders meeting in February 2021, Leaders formally endorsed the Teieniwa Vision (presented by the Government of Kiribati) to guide regional work on anti-corruption.</p> <p>Since then, the Secretariat has been working with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to develop a framework for its implementation. An extensive review of the review reports of the UNCAC implementation was undertaken by UNDP between April and September 2021 to ascertain shortfalls in the region's obligations to the convention. The proposed framework for the implementation of the Teieniwa Vision is based on the findings from this review.</p> <p>Further consultation will be undertaken with Members, regional organisations, donors and partners before the workplan is finalised. This is to ensure that the statuses of UNCAC implementation is updated and that Members agree to work with the Secretariat and UNDP on the priority areas identified to help operationalise the Teieniwa Vision. A concept note is attached at <b><u>Annex 1</u></b> for Member consideration.</p>
1, 2, 3, 4, & 5	Pacific Security Outlook Report	<p>The Secretariat will work with Law Enforcement and Legal Secretariats (LESSs), relevant CROP agencies and the Pacific Fusion Centre to develop a Pacific Security Outlook Report. The report will help guide the prioritisation of activities under the Boe Declaration Action Plan for 2023.</p> <p>In addition to research, assistance from LESSs, relevant CROP and PFC, and inputs from Members, the report will also utilise the key findings from the Pacific Security Webinar Series to help inform the report. This report is intended to be submitted to Members on</p>

## FORUM EYES ONLY

		a bi-annual basis to help support national security preparedness and response.
2 & 6	Assistance to Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Security Policy Development</li> <li>• TNOC/Illicit Drugs Policy Development</li> </ul>	<p>In 2020, PIFS worked with Tonga to develop its National Illicit Drugs Policy. This is an area that the Secretariat is working on to help assist our Members with the various security policy/strategy work that they are developing.</p> <p>In 2022, the Secretariat is looking to assist Members with National Security Policy/National Security Strategy and Transnational Crime/Illicit Drugs policy work. This service is made available at no cost to Members in a bid to ensure the delivery of Leader's commitment under the Boe Declaration and to ensure that alignment of national and regional security policy development.</p>

### E. Consultation

10. In addition to internal consultation at PIFS, relevant LESs were consulted for the relevant activities proposed for 2022. For the Teieniwa Vision work, the UNDP was consulted and provided extensive assistance to the Secretariat in the development of the concept note. Further consultation will be conducted on the Teieniwa Vision with Members and the Pacific Community (SPC) to ensure that there is no duplication of work in this space.

### F. Recommendations:

11. The FSRS is invited to:
- note** the content of the paper;
  - agree** to present the proposed activities for 2022 tabulated under paragraph 6 above to FOC for formal endorsement; and
  - agree** on the concept note at **Annex 1** to guide the implementation of the Teieniwa Vision and present this FOC at its budget session for formal endorsement.

### G. Next Steps

12. The following are the next steps for the proposed 2022 priorities:

Priority	Next Steps
Develop Security Policy Roadmap in support of the 2050 Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with 2050 team and Members to identify security requirements for the 2050 strategy once signed off by Leaders.</li> <li>• Develop a proposal to FSRS by May 202.</li> <li>• Finalise Policy Roadmap for Member consideration by</li> </ul>

## FORUM EYES ONLY

	November 2022
Implementation of the Teieniwa Vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Work with UNDP to undertake Member consultation</li><li>• Undertake consultation with anti-corruption actors in the region</li><li>• Finalise implementation plan for the next 3 years by May 2022 and have this incorporated as part of the Boe Declaration priorities under SFA 6.</li></ul>
Pacific Security Outlook Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Research work to be undertaken throughout 2022 including consultations with Members, regional LESs, relevant CROP and PFC</li><li>• First draft of document to be developed by September 2022</li><li>• Regional consultation of draft from October to November</li><li>• Launching at November FSRS</li></ul>
Assistance to Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National Security Policy Development</li><li>• TNOC/Illicit Drugs Policy Development</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Await Member request for assistance before next steps are established.</li></ul>

### **H. Regional Governance Implications**

13. Most of the proposed work to be undertaken in 2022 falls within the remit of the Secretariat and is in line with the requirements of the Boe Declaration. The implementation of the Teieniwa Vision is the one priority that will need the direct input from SPC and UNDP. The Secretariat will work to undertake the necessary consultations between now and May 2022 before we finalise the implementation plan for the next three years. That being said, all priorities will need input from LESs, relevant CROP agencies and Members, and the Secretariat will continue to ensure that all regional security policy work is Member driven and led.

### **I. International Advocacy and Engagement Implications**

14. The work to be undertaken in 2022 will help guide Advocacy and Engagement priorities on regional security. The Teieniwa Vision is a new regional initiative and the implementation plan to be rolled out will shape our regional and international engagement on anti-corruption.

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat  
15 November 2021

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE (ToR) FOR THE COVID-19 VACCINATION CERTIFICATES FOR CROSS BORDER TRAVEL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP**

**Confirmed** – 15 October 2021, Regional Taskforce for the PHP-C

**Duration** – 15 October 2021 until the completion of its implementation

### **1. Mandate**

- i. As tasked by the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Communique of 6<sup>th</sup> August 2021, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and the Pacific Community (SPC) agree to establish a COVID-19 Certificates for Cross Border Travel Technical Working Group (the Working Group) to progress the development and adoption of harmonised approaches for COVID-19 vaccination certification to, inter alia, facilitate cross border travel.
- ii. The Working Group will recommend a set of standards required for an interoperable COVID-19 certificates solution which will be accepted for international travel, recognising that interim solutions may be adopted to reflect PICs health information systems maturity.
- iii. The Working Group, as requested, will support member countries to ensure their vaccination data is complete and verifiable.
- iv. The Working Group will work with CROP agencies and may engage development partners, local and international regulatory authorities and evolving standards bodies in both the public and private sectors.
- v. The Working Group will make recommendations to PIFS through the Regional Taskforce (RTF) for the Pacific Humanitarian Pathway's on COVID-19 (PHP-C) on vaccination certification technical implementation as agreed by the Working Group quorum.

### **2. Membership**

- i. The Working Group will act under the overall direction of SPC who will provide administrative and secretariat support.
- ii. The Working Group will at the outset consist of SPC, WHO, UNICEF, PIFS, OCO and PIDC engaging internal or external expertise as required. Pacific Island Forum members will be invited to nominate delegates to the Working Group. The representatives should be officials responsible, within their administrations, for matters relating to vaccination certification and/or policy on COVID-19 response, including but not limited to health, border services, justice and ICT.
- iii. The Working Group may invite other representatives to attend the Working Group to observe and provide advice, as required. This may include additional technical experts from line ministries and regulatory agencies with economic development functions such as the ministries of economy, labor, trade and foreign affairs, and other special interest groups from non-governmental organization and trade associations such as the national chamber of commerce, tourism, airlines and travel associations.

### 3. **Purpose and Scope**

The roles and functions of the Working Group are to:

- i. contribute to the technical discussion on COVID-19 vaccination certificates in respect of the underlying policies and the development, administration and implementation of vaccination certificate solutions in Forum Member states;
- ii. develop guidelines designed to enhance individual Forum Member countries implementation and recognition of interim and permanent COVID-19 vaccination certificates, and promote their use by Members, to ensure interoperability and the adoption of interim (and longer-term) digital vaccine certification solutions;
- iii. enhance co-operation between governmental and non-governmental (private sector) organisations relating to health system strengthening and border requirements and the implementation of non-repudiable interim (and longer-term) digital COVID-19 vaccination certificates that are trusted and internationally recognized;
- iv. provide advice to the RTF on the work of the Working Group and the information needed to support policy engagement on the acceptance and national adoption of COVID-19 vaccination certificates by Forum Member countries;
- v. provide technical guidance for Forum Member border agencies on capacity building programmes for Forum Members as both interim and permanent COVID-19 certificates solutions are rolled out.

### 4. **Key deliverables**

The Working Group will:

- i. establish the use cases for the interim and digital vaccine credentials;
- ii. agree on the architecture, standards and governance to progress the work;
- iii. publish the architecture and standards for Members to consider and adopt;
- iv. report to and make recommendations to PIFS on the matters within its area of responsibility; and
- v. initiate or undertake actions in the areas for which it is responsible.

### 5. **Governance**

- i. Chairperson: The SPC with WHO support will act as Chairperson of the Working Group.
- ii. Agenda: The SPC will develop an agenda for each meeting of the Working Group and circulate it to the Members of the Working Group seven (3-7) working days in advance of each meeting. Extraordinary agenda items may be added to the Agenda, as required. Working documents, especially those which may require consultation at the national level, should also be made available to all Members, with sufficient time provided to ensure consultation at national level.
- iii. Minutes: The SPC will produce minutes of each meeting, including documentation of action items arising. Action Items will be coordinated by the SPC and tabled for discussion by the Working Group s on subsequent agenda.
- iv. Sub-Committees: The Working Group may establish sub-committees as necessary to assist it in the performance of its functions. Agenda, minutes and action arising will be communicated to the principal Working Group in a timely fashion and shared with all Members.

6. **Resources**

- i. Each member of the Working Group bears the expenses of its own representatives to the Working Group.
- ii. Costs for supporting country readiness assessment and implementation of interim and digital vaccination certificates are to be determined and secured.
- iii. Meetings will be held virtually and face to face as and when appropriate. The general arrangements for Working Group meetings, including the invitations, the dates and duration of each session and the priorities to be fixed for the items on the Working Groups agenda, shall be the responsibility of the SPC.



**COVID-19 VACCINATION CERTIFICATES FOR CROSS BORDER TRAVEL**

**TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING 6**

**11.00am – 1.00pm**

**Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://spc.zoom.us/j/98138468819?pwd=RXorZ3hWN3A4NWRIRkJvNVl0MGE3dz09>

Meeting ID: 981 3846 8819

Passcode: 598915

**DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Confirmation of Minute of Meeting 5, 23 November 2021
4. Matters arising out of Meeting 5, 23 November 2021
  - 4.1 Phase 1 funding agreement (SPC & PIFS)
  - 4.2 Written summary of MFAT and DFAT support for HIS strengthening (secretariat)
  - 4.3 Legal instrument options paper (PIFS)
  - 4.4 Mapping of PICs HIS readiness (SPC/WHO/DFAT)
  - 4.5 Information session for member stakeholders
5. New Business
  - 5.1 African model
  - 5.2 Debrief on the member awareness session
  - 5.3 Australia's presentation on their use of the ICAO Visible Digital Seal standard for their vaccination certificate
6. Any Other Business
7. Close of Meeting

**MINUTES OF THE  
COVID-19 VACCINATION CERTIFICATES FOR CROSS BORDER TRAVEL  
TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING**

**Date:** 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021.  
**Time:** 11.00-12.00 Fiji standard time.  
**Venue:** Virtual.

**1. In Attendance**

Organisations represented at the meeting included DFAT, MFAT, New Zealand Ministry of Health, New Zealand Department of Internal Affairs, New Zealand Customs, OCO, PIDC, PIFS, SPC, UNICEF and WHO. Detailed list of attendees is provided in section 8.

**2. Apologies**

No apologies were received.

**3. Welcome Formalities and Adoption of Agenda**

Sunia (SPC) called the meeting to order.

**4. Confirmation of Minute of Meeting 4; 16 November 2021**

No comments or amendments were received from members, the minutes were subsequently adopted as circulated.

**5. Matters arising out of Meeting 4, 16 November 2021**

5.1 Phase 1 funding agreement (SPC)

Sunia informed the meeting SPC had reviewed the draft funding agreement and submitted it to PIFS for finalization with the view of signing later in the week.

**Action:** PIFS to review SPC edits/comments and advice on the way forward.

5.2 Written summary of country updates (OCO)

Sunia thanked Richard (OCO) for sharing the written summary of the updates he had received from members.

5.2 TWG information session with countries (Secretariat)

Sunia informed the meeting a briefing with member countries is being organized for next week.

### 5.3 Communications to countries on information gathering (PIFS & MFAT)

This action item will be deferred for now, pending further information coming out of the briefing session with members.

### 5.4 TWG invitation to French Polynesia and New Caledonia (PIFS)

Michael and Terio (PIFS) updated members that invitations had been extended to French Polynesia and New Caledonia but no responses including the other members (Fiji, Tonga, Tuvalu and Kiribati) previously invited.

### 5.5 Pacific Immunization Data Model Blueprint (WHO)

Refer to 5.7.11

### 5.6 Written summary of MFAT and DFAT support for HIS strengthening (DFAT/MFAT).

Kat (DFAT) informed the meeting the summary document was submitted to the Secretariat.

**Action:** Secretariat to circulate the summary document to TWG members.

### 5.7 Legal instrument “Options papers”

5.7.1 Michael (PIFS) informed the TWG that the SPC, WHO and PIFS met to discuss options and opportunities for progressing this important work.

- There was consensus the Pacific Leader’s Communique, the PHoH approved recommendations and RTF endorsement of the TWG TORs Concept Note for Vaccine Certificate for Cross Border Travel provided the mandate for proceeding this work.
- Michael, however, pointed out the disconnect between the mandate and member government stakeholder agencies.
- PIFS will convene an awareness session for countries partners (ASPA, SPTO and PASO) at a date and time to be confirmed.

5.7.2 Nola (PIFS) informed members there are two options for consideration after member inputs and technical information becomes available to the legal team,

- A regional protocol document outlining minimum standards signed off by MAG.
- Regional legally binding agreement signed off by all members/parties and held by PIFS SG.

Nola indicated additional information is required develop a comprehensive instrument to present to members in a single event as opposed to presenting multiple instruments.

5.7.3 Connie (MFAT) expressed their preference for a protocol which would be non-binding for countries. Connie added that a legally binding agreement are usually more difficult to navigate through government systems and may take a lot longer to process and can potentially be a deterrent to reaching regional agreement.

5.7.4 Kate (DAFT) also shared their preference for a protocol which will be a more practical tool for achieving tangible results.

5.7.5 Sunia highlighted the value of regional vaccine certification rests in using the highest standards possible. It is a sliding scale, the higher the standards, the longer it will take to secure agreement, but it will be trusted and widely accepted. The lower the standard, the quicker we can progress with its implementation; however it would have lower value in terms of utility, trust and credibility. Thus, the challenge is striking a balance between a high standard solution which will take longer to achieve, and a lower standard one which would be quicker to achieve with potential implementation challenges. SPC and WHO recognize a bottom-up approach is preferred policy (protocol agreement, technical conditions and minimum standards) are developed to inform the development of the instrument. Equally important, the decision to opt for a legally binding or non-binding instrument rests with the member countries.

5.7.6 Lauro stated that work on the instrument could proceed and the decision on how countries ratify it can occur at a later stage once the protocol agreement and technical conditions have been agreed to.

5.7.7 Ioane (PIDC) reminded the meeting of the need for flexibility to adapt to the rapidly changing landscape.

5.7.8 In his summary of the discussions, Sunia highlighted there seems to be consensus that whatever form or shape the instrument would look like, it needs to be deferred at this stage while work on the technical aspects and standards are developed through engagement of the advisory firm.

**Action:** PIFS to develop a 1-2 pager options papers highlighting pros and cons of each option. The paper can be presented to members as part of the planned briefing.

5.7.9 Richard (OCO) pointed out a significant amount of work has been carried out at the national level, and the standards being worked on at country level can be mapped across to what this TWG is trying to achieve. Richard drew reference to DFAT's bilateral support Solomon Islands and the TWG might benefit this assistance.

- Sunia (SPC) reminded members of discussions at the last meeting of the need to get ahead of countries already working on vaccine certification and to provide them with global best practises, as it might be a bigger challenge for these countries to retrofit their current work to meet the minimum standards.
- Kate (DFAT) thanked Richard for highlighting DFAT's work with the Solomon Islands and agreed with some of the points that Richard raised. Kate added that they would be happy to share their thoughts around the minimum standards.

5.7.10 Lauro (WHO) pointed out that the Pacific Immunization Reference Data Model developed by WHO provides a blueprint for a model immunization system. He further highlighted some PICs do not meet these standards and the key is to support these PICs to meet the standards.

5.7.11 Katri (WHO) informed the meeting that WHO standards documents is undergoing final approval processes and would endeavour to seek clearance if the draft version could be made available to the TWG.

## 6. New Business

### 6.1 African model

- Lauro (WHO) apologized that this will be presented in the next meeting. The purpose of presenting the African model is demonstrate the complexities of this work. In the African model, countries agreed on the entry requirements however these rules are always changing. A portal exist where countries enter their entry requirements, and these become the business rules for entering the country. Lauro added that something similar to this may well be considered for the Pacific.

## 7. Other Business

7.1 Nola (PIFS) sought insights from PIDC on how they see this work, from an integration perspective, functioning across the region. Ioane responded that immigration are taking advise from health in terms of what should be done at the border.

- Lauro (WHO) welcomed the point made by Nola and mentioned that there is a need to start thinking about an integrated border management approach. Lauro emphasized that it should be a joint collaboration and coordination is required by the border agencies and health.

7.2 Richard (OCO) shared with the meeting that OCO members are keen align with the ICAO principles. He also asked if the name “region” mentioned in previous meetings meant the Pacific only or if outcome of this work meant that people can also enter Europe.

- Sunia explained that the ICAO system, in its most simplistic term, takes the credentialed-ready information from health as a means to allow border officials to determine proof of vaccination to facilitate cross border travel. Sunia added that the aspiration is for Pacific citizens to have access to the EU through its 3<sup>rd</sup> party arrangements and a potential option to realise this is to base the Pacific standards on Australia and New Zealand’s potentially would be a good starting point.
- Michael (PIFS) highlighted that ASPA and PASO are interested in understanding how the work of the TWG can tie in with the ICAO standards and this will be discussed in the upcoming briefings.

7.3 Connie (MFAT) updated the meeting on developments in New Zealand where vaccine certificates for domestic use and international travel were launched last week. She added that New Zealand has become a third party to the EU GCC system, and MFAT is in very early discussions with the EU, to determine if New Zealand can issue vaccine certificates for international travel on behalf of the New Zealand realm countries given, they possess New Zealand passports. MFAT is also in discussions with New Caledonia and French Polynesia given their arrangements with the EU as French territories.

- 7.4 Kate (DFAT) requested for an updated on Phase 1 so they can determine where best to place their support. Sunia referred to the presentation on re-thinking of Phase 1 to bring some of the work in Phase 2 forward in terms of supporting the countries that are ahead in terms of the vaccine certificate work, noting that SPC and WHO working budget is the Phase 1 costs approved by the RTF would welcome any further support from DFAT to undertake this additional work.

- Kate responded that DFAT is particularly interested in the mapping exercise and keen to see this moving.  
**Action:** SPC/WHO and DFAT to organize a time to discuss how best to coordinate the mapping exercise.

## 8. List of Attendees

Organisation	Name	Job Title
DFAT	Kate Macklin	Director Safe Travel and Operations, Office of the Pacific
	Kat Knope	Health Adviser, Indo-Pacific Centre for Health Security
	Caroline Reid	Policy Officer, Safe Travel and COVID-19 Operations Section
MFAT	Constance Kelly	Policy Officer, Pacific Regional Division
	Kataraina Anaru	Policy Adviser, COVID-19 policy
Ministry of Health, NZ	Micaela Rae	Senior Advisor, Polynesian Health Corridors
	Laupepa Va'a	laupepa.va'a@health.govt.nz
New Zealand Customs	Aimee Sanders	Aimee.Sanders@customs.govt.nz
OCO	Richard Brennan	Head of Secretariat
PIDC	Ioane Alama	Head of Secretariat
	Peter Speldewinde	PIDC consultant
PIFS	Terio Koronawa	Policy Adviser (Regional Security) Team Leader
	Michael Crowe	Regional Security Adviser
	Timaima Tora	Legal Officer
	Nola Faasau	Nola Faasau <nolaf@forumsec.org>
SPC	Sunia Soakai	Deputy Director, Public Health Division
	Revite Kiriton	Advisor, Health Planning and Performance
UNICEF	Ye Zin Zin	Immunization Specialist
WHO	Katri Maria Kontio	Technical Officer, Digital Health
	Lauro Vives	WHO Consultant Digital Health