



**Agenda item 7(b): COVID-19 Support Programme Update**

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**Proposed Recommendations:**

The Board is invited to:

- a) **welcome** the activities undertaken by the Secretariat to implement the PIDC COVID-19 Support Programme;
  - b) **encourage** Members where possible to incorporate activities and services provided by the PIDC COVID-19 Support Programme into future national budgets;
  - c) **encourage** Members to inform the Secretariat of additional activities and support that they may require as part of the Programme and provide the relevant details to facilitate procurement; and
  - d) **task** the Secretariat to continue to deliver this important programme in an effective manner.
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**Purpose**

To provide the Board with an update on the COVID-19 Support Programme activities undertaken by the Secretariat.

**Background**

2. The PIDC COVID-19 Support Programme was approved at the Special General Meeting in July 2020. It focused on three main areas including providing Members with (i) Communication Packages to help adapt to the new virtual communication reality; (ii) Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) specifically for Immigration Officers as a backup stock; and (iii) policy development support integrating COVID-19 safe measures. The programme is for two years, and during the first year Members received Communication Packages and PPE.

**Additional PPE and other support**

3. The Secretariat has completed bilateral engagements with 14 Members on additional support they require from the Programme. Members who received 12 months Internet data Plans in the first phase of the programme have all requested an extension for another year, plus additional PPE supply and other resources listed in Annex 1 below.

4. In addition, the Secretariat has also:

- a) Completed procurement of additional PPE for Fiji, Samoa, Tokelau, and Palau, and is currently processing procurement for Tonga, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and Tuvalu per request for additional supplies.
- b) Commenced procurement of additional resources listed in Annex 1. There have been delays in procuring some of the items due to delay from Members in confirming prioritised items and/or detailed information requested by the

Secretariat to facilitate the procurement process. The Secretariat continues to work with these Members to advance their requests.

- c) Started scoping the possible development of a Mobile Application to support Members to quickly access important border information, websites and applications for both COVID-19 and immigration matters.

### **Policy Support**

5. The Secretariat continues to work in collaboration with Australia Border Force (ABF) in providing capacity building to Members; this includes Training on Border Fundamentals delivered by ABF piloted with Tonga Immigration Office and then Nauru. Also through collaboration with ABF, the Secretariat has circulated to Members the *Aviation COVID-19 Safe Guide* and offer resource support to Members for guide implementation.

6. The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and the Pacific Community (SPC) has established a Technical Working Group (TWG) to develop a regional COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate for Cross Border Travel to inter alia facilitate cross border travel. PIDC is a Member of this TWG which has met four times to date.

### **Resource Implications**

7. The programme spending so far is within budget (total Budget WST\$373,000<sup>1</sup>) with about 8% spent or committed. The Secretariat continues to work with the Members to advance the procurement process. Annex 2 provides total quantities of resources provided to Members.

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<sup>1</sup> FY2021/22: WST\$300,000 + WST\$73,000 carried forward from FY2020/21.

**Annex 1: List of Additional Resources Requested by Members**

Additional year for internet plan
Additional supply of PPE – glove, face masks, face shields, coveralls, isolation gowns, hand sanitizers
Disinfectants and cleaning equipment
Dual-way window counter intercom
Uniforms and cover foot wear
Signage and Adhesive stickers/signs – social distancing, etc
ID maker
Secure Immigration booth at the airport
Arrival counter for filling in arrival forms
High visibility vests
Queue Stanchions
Ear pieces for radio
Tablets

## Annex 2: Resources Quantities

Communication Equipment:	FY20/21	FY21-22
	Quantity	Quantity
Laptop	28	
Licenses (Microsoft)	19	
Licenses (Antivirus)	19	
Projector	11	
Conference Camera	13	
UPS	12	
Internet Plan	11	Extending plans for an additional 12 months
Interactive Whiteboard	1	
TV	2	
Zoom licenses	25	Extending licenses for an additional 12 months
Personal Protective Equipment:	FY20/21	FY21-22 (as of 09 Nov 2021)
	Quantity	Quantity
Total disposable masks	109 boxes	140 boxes
Total disposable gloves (different sizes)	143 boxes	150 boxes
Total face visors	460 visors	100 visors
Total gowns (different sizes)	450 gowns	300 gowns
Sanitizing wipes	114 pks	
Shoe covers	1000 shoe covers	
Sanitizers (500ml)	243 bottles	128 bottles
Sanitizers (50ml)	240 bottles	
Bleach	20 bottles	
Infra-red gun	1 gun	
Coveralls		100 coveralls
Hand sanitizers (250ml)		30 bottles
Antibacterial hand wash		50 bottles
Hand Sanitizers Refill (5 ltrs)		20 bottles
Disinfectant sprays		30 spray cans

### Annex 3: Photos



Figure 1: Members receiving their communication package in phase 1



Figure 2: Members receiving PPE and additional supply.