



Pacific Immigration Development Community

2021/22 Board Meeting 2 (Teleconference)

12 and 14 April 2022, Apia, Samoa

Agenda item 6: Results Management Suite Output 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 sub-items discussed below

Purpose

This paper seeks to provide the Board with an update regarding key activities undertaken by the Secretariat since it last met 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) Pacific COVID-19 Vaccination Certificates for Cross Border Travel Technical Working Group Update
- b) Partnership Initiatives: Declaration of Partnership Update (OCO, PICP & PIDC)
- c) PACER-Plus Secretariat
- d) Pacific Fusion Centre

(a) Pacific COVID-19 Vaccination Certificates for Cross Border Travel Technical Working Group Update

2. As Board Members are aware, 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.

3. As part of this work, to advance the call by Forum Leaders for the reopening of international borders, PHP-C RTF established a technical working group (TWG) to advance the development of regional vaccination certificates for cross border travel.

4. This work was advanced over the past several months at a rapid pace with funding from PIFS and the engagement of a technical agency (Accenture) to develop a regional framework noting:

- (a) the current lack of a global standardised approach;

- (b) a number of countries had already developed national vaccination certification systems to support international travel;
- (c) a number of countries were already to reopen their borders and were also looking to develop vaccination certification systems for international travel;
- (d) the different vaccination data management systems being used to collect and record private vaccination and COVID-19 illness data; and
- (e) no regional agreement on which vaccines would be deemed acceptable for each individual Member prior to entry of an international traveller.

5. Chaired by SPC with the support of WHO and PIFS, the TWG commenced its weekly meetings in October 2021 and in the past few months, stakeholder engagements across the region with PICTS and technical agencies were held in the form of online technical workshops to discuss possible approaches to developing a Regional COVID-19 vaccination certificate for cross-border travel.

6. In addition to participating at the meetings and workshops, the Secretariat has shared three draft documents with PIDC Members for their review and possible queries to be raised through the Secretariat. The documents include:

- (a) Draft Protocol Agreement Report – provides a functional overview of a proposed COVID-19 travel document solution that can be used to promote safe cross-border travel in the PICT;
- (b) Draft Technical Conditions – provides an overview of the technical conditions necessary to implement the solution defined in the Protocol Agreement; and
- (c) Draft Common Protocols for the Development and Implementation of a System For Covid-19 Vaccination and Testing Certificates for Cross-Border Travel – provides a high level set of protocols to be followed by PIF Members to guide the development of national vaccination certification measures for cross border travel.

7. The Secretariat and TWG ensured that the draft framework has taken into account all PICT national vaccination and travel data systems and processes (paper-based or digital)

8. In terms of next steps, the PHP-C TWG is scheduled to meet on 29 April 2022 to discuss the documents for possible endorsement for Forum Leaders to consider.

Proposed Recommendations

The Board is invited to:

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

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

9. The PIDC Secretariat continues to engage on a regular basis with OCO and PICP regarding possible collaborative activities that would benefit all organisations. As part of these discussions, the Australia Pacific Security College (APSC) has proposed to support the regional law enforcement Organisations host a Pacific Regional Law Enforcement Conference on Disrupting Transnational Organised Crime from 1 – 4 August 2022 in Fiji should travel have normalised by this time. (draft Concept Note attached)

Proposed Pacific Regional Law Enforcement Conference

10. The proposed conference which is scheduled to last 4 days will be partially funded by APSC and looks to bring law enforcement officials from across the region to meet with representatives of various organisations and academics. The discussions will include both theoretical issues and operational discussions. The current theme being proposed is strengthening a network to beat a network which is reflected in the proposed draft conference outputs.

11. Proposed draft Conference outputs currently include:

- (a) an Action Plan which will be developed by practitioners during the closed-door sessions, which will include operational and strategic dimensions,
- (b) a lessons learned report developed for practitioners and drawing on the conference discussions and outcomes,
- (c) a series of podcasts (real-time podcasts),
- (d) communications products which reach a diverse audience,
- (e) the publication of conference papers published by the Australian National University (and, hopefully, the University of the South Pacific), and
- (f) deeper connections between Pacific law enforcement practitioner

PIDC Conference Side Events

12. OCO and PICP had already planned activities for August 2022 and this proposed conference was opportune to bring the law enforcement community together to meet. OCO will be hosting their annual conference on the fringes of the conference and the PTCN will be hosting a meeting of their TCU Leaders during the same week. This poses a unique opportunity for PIDC Officers to meet with their law enforcement counterparts from across the region to network and share experiences and explore possible solutions to common problems.

Proposed PIDC Side Events

13. The PIDC Secretariat is recommending that to use the valuable opportunity being provided for face to face engagement for the first time in more than two years, the organisation host a number of side activities given the number of immigration and border officers that will be present.

14. Proposed side events include:

PIDC Reopening of Borders Seminar

The PIDC Secretariat proposes that the Heads of Immigration hold a one day meeting to discuss key issues regarding the reopening of borders and also identify priority areas that they

would like the organisation to focus on. This meeting will be held on 5 August and will discuss a number of high level priority activities for Members to agree upon on including how to promote engagement in a new Post-COVID-19 operational environment.

PIDC National Contact Points Training

To regain PIDC information sharing momentum the PIDC Secretariat proposes that a 4 day capacity building workshop be held for the National Points of Contact (NPC) from 1 to 4 August. This workshop will provide refresher training on existing information sharing platforms, processes and information security protocols given the anticipated growth of law enforcement and immigration communication on travellers once the borders reopen. On the 5th of August, the NPCs will be invited to attend the Reopening of Borders Seminar to support discussions of the executive officers.

15. To support these discussions, it is envisaged that the ISWG will also attend the workshop to obtain valuable insight from both the activity and participants to support their future discussions and recommendations to Members.

Proposed Recommendations

The Board is invited to:

- a) **note** the update provided by the Secretariat regarding the DOP activities; and
- b) **task** the Secretariat to continue to actively support the development of DOP collaborative activities.

(c) PACER-Plus Secretariat

16. The Secretariat will provide a briefing on its meeting with Mr Roy Lagolago the current Head of the Pacer-Plus Implementation Unit Secretariat currently based in Apia, Samoa.

Proposed Recommendations

The Board is invited to:

- a) **note** the update provided by the Secretariat regarding its meetings with the PACER-Plus Secretariat regarding possible joint activities; and
- b) **task** the Secretariat to continue to engage with this important organisation to explore possible opportunities to support Members' interests.

(e) Pacific Fusion Centre

17. The Secretariat will provide a briefing on its meeting with Mr James Movick the current Director of the Pacific Fusion Centre based out of Port Vila, Vanuatu.

Proposed Recommendations

The Board is invited to:

- a) **note** the update provided by the Secretariat regarding its meetings with the Pacific Fusion Centre regarding possible joint activities; and
- b) **task** the Secretariat to continue to engage with this important organisation to explore possible opportunities to support Members' interests.