



**Agenda item 7: RMS Output 2: A Regional Coordination Point for Immigration, Liaison, Advocacy, Representation and Agenda Setting**

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**Recommendation**

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

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**Purpose**

This paper seeks to provide the Board with an update regarding key activities undertaken by the Secretariat since it last met to advance its advocacy, partnership and coordination programme. 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) Partnership Initiatives: Declaration of Partnership Update (OCO, PICP & PIDC)
- b) Pacific Fusion Centre
- c) IOM Programme in the Pacific
- d) UNODC Programme in the Pacific
- e) JHOPS meeting
- f) PIFS FOC Sub—Committee on Regional Security

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

2. The PIDC Secretariat continues to engage on a regular basis with OCO and PICP regarding collaborative activities amongst their respective membership that would benefit their respective members. PIDC continues to engage with partner agencies on an ongoing basis maintaining regular update meetings and engagements to progress regional initiatives and coordination roles across the region. PIDC continues to work towards advancing the Partnership Declaration significantly through its engagements with PTCN, PICP and OCO. In addition, to a notable increase in goodwill between the organisations, with examples of this enhanced relationship include:

- a) Significant increase in regular direct engagement with PTCCC staff in Apia and the sharing of information between the organisations;
- b) Sharing of resources between PIDC and PTCN;
- c) Invitation from PTCN for the PIDC Secretariat to attend its annual National TCU Team Leaders meeting as a panellist in a specialist session of the conference;
- d) Invitation to PTCN to the PIDC Regular Annual Meeting;
- e) First Immigration Officer selected to head the PTCN in the region;
- f) Sharing of RFIS and coordination between members; and
- g) Undertaking a first ever multi-agency table top exercise for immigration, customs, police and PTCN officers across Fiji, Samoa and the Solomon Islands.

### **Pacific Regional Law Enforcement Conference**

3. One of the major joint activities that PIDC recently undertook with OCO and PICP was the delivery of the first ever Joint Pacific Regional Law Enforcement Conference (PRLEC) that was hosted in Fiji from 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2022 through the support and coordination efforts of the Australia Pacific Security College.

4. Participants in the closed-door meeting engaged in facilitated discussion (see summary in Annex 1) that allowed for exchange of ideas on opportunities to enhance collaboration across their agencies at national and regional levels. Participants were asked to consider: (i) what their level of ambition for particular actions might be; (ii) how action and change could be driven; (iii) how they would hold themselves accountable to delivering actions and change; and (iv) how they would evaluate the outcomes of the changes. The meeting consequently agreed on a range of action areas for possible advancement by stakeholders in the region and in particular, partners in the Partnership Agreement.

5. While there were varying Actions items emerging out of the three days regional discussions, the Secretariat in support of these Action Items has begun exploring opportunities in advancing this outcome in consultation with our members and partner agencies under the Partnership Agreement. Below are some specific Action items that the Secretariat can provide update to actions taken to address these items:

***(i) PTCN Border Management Membership Application for PIDC and OCO Chairs***

6. An application was presented to the recent PICP Annual Conference where Police Commissioners across the Pacific agreed and approved the application for PIDC and OCO Chairs supported by their Secretariats to become Observers in the PTCN Board. While approval has been endorsed, PICP through PTCN have put into motion their internal governance approval processes to formalise our organisations joining the PTCN Board membership.

***(ii) FFA Considered for Membership in the Declaration of Partnership***

7. The Law Enforcement Directors participating at the PRLEC recommended the consideration of the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) to becoming a member of the Law Enforcement Declaration of Partnership that currently only includes PIDC, OCO and PICP. Consequently, PICP and OCO memberships have recently endorsed the inclusion of FFA into the Partnership Agreement. While PICP and OCO membership have formally endorsed the recommendation to include FFA into this partnership, PIDC is yet to obtain the Boards approval to endorsing FFA's inclusion into the current Partnership Agreement.

8. The inclusion of FFA addresses the need to access information captured through the fisheries network and in particular draw from the FFA Honiara based vessel surveillance system monitoring vessel movement in the northern and southern Pacific waters. To formalise this inclusion, a revision of the 2018 Partnership Agreement (attached as Annex 2) had been undertaken by the original signatories and has currently completed its final phase of review. The amendments to the original Partnership Agreement only includes the

insertion of references to FFA with some minor expansion of definitions for the purposes of clarity. The Secretariats in their final review endorsed the revised version of the Partnership Agreement now attached as Annex 3.

**(iii) PTCN Team Leaders Annual Conference**

9. PTCN in support of the Partnership Agreement have for the first time invited PIDC and OCO to be panellists at their annual conference. This is a renewed approach towards engagement with regional law enforcement agencies who have subsequently committed to supporting this annual conference. PIDC continues to work collaboratively with PTCN exploring ongoing collaborative opportunities in addition with working with PIDC Members encouraging and advocating for more immigration involvement with the Transnational Crime Units at the national level.

**Proposed Recommendations**

The Board is invited to:

- (i) **note** the update provided by the Secretariat and the work undertaken to date;
- (ii) **approve** the inclusion of FFA into the Partnership Agreement and to sign the new Partnership Agreement with FFA;
- (iii) **task** the Secretariat to advise members of FFA's inclusion in the new Partnership Agreement; **and**
- (iv) **task** the Secretariat to maintain engagement with OCO, PICP, PTCN, and the APSC.

**b) Pacific Fusion Centre**

10. The Pacific Fusion Centre (PFC) has initiated a Talanoa Session scheduled for 10-11 November 2022 that is focused on the issues of Maritime Security and Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) in the PIC region. The principal objective of the Talanoa is to exchange initial feedback and candid views from the regional sectoral secretariats regarding the implications for the respective Boe regional security sectors of the enhanced external attention to Maritime Security and offers of various MDA platforms. MDA is essentially concerned with integrated information sharing and analysis around a Common Operating Picture. Issues regarding national sovereignty of data and sectoral operational secrecy are extremely important.

11. The Talanoa is a first step to share and understand the complex regional sectoral perspectives and issues better, before engaging with national members and seeking any formal decision from national authorities on whether formal consideration of a unified, integrated approach to Domain Awareness is appropriate.

### **Proposed Recommendations**

The Board is invited to:

- (i) **note** the proposed Talanoa Session and the opportunities it provides in regional coordination in the area of Maritime Domain Awareness; and
- (ii) **task** the Secretariat to maintain engagement with PFC, OCO, PICP, PTCN, FFA and PIFS on issues emerging in MDA discussions.

### **c) IOM Programme in the Pacific**

12. Eleven Members from the PIDC Membership are now Member States of IOM including the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

13. While IOM has ongoing projects being rolled out to its members at the national level, IOM has advised that they will soon be accessing funding for the region to undertake a major border control capacity strengthening project for responding to infectious disease in the Pacific. The objective of this project is to support Pacific socio-economic recovery through the safe resumption of border management operations and enhanced seamless border management infrastructure technology, equipment, and improved capacity.

14. Reopening international borders, through the adoption of COVID-19 measures that will allow safe resumption of border management operations, including infrastructure upgrades and the provision of necessary equipment and technology, specifically tailored to the needs of frontline border officials, will directly contribute to revitalising economic activity, through re-starting human mobility to drive the development of new business and reignite existing commerce. The proposed project has two key outcomes:

- Outcome 1: Strengthened immigration and border management infrastructure, equipment, and technology for safe border reopening in the Pacific region.
- Outcome 2: Immigration and border management systems in target countries are improved through enhanced strategy, knowledge and skills of respective border agencies to safely manage borders to prevent and respond to public health crises.

15. IOM plans to deliver implementation of these projects in PNG, FSM, RMI, Samoa, Tuvalu, Tonga and Vanuatu. It should be noted that activities suggested in this project area are in response to direct requests from Pacific Island governments. The proposal also includes support to the PIDC Secretariat on the development of a platform for sharing of flow monitoring data. Support on the provision of IT hardware and software to help strengthen the ability of Pacific Islands to have greater information to travellers in the region.

16. While PIDC had not been directly engaged in the initial development of this project is aware that the project programmes had been identified through national bilateral consultations that IOM had undertaken with respective members. PIDC is scheduled to

engage in discussions with IOM on this project in November and will provide more detail to the membership. While funding to this project has been approved, PIDC could use this as an opportunity to work with an international organisation that has access to resources and expertise to support work that our members need. If members at the national level have directly requested support, then PIDC has an undertaking to support our members in their efforts and to play a collaborative and facilitatory role in addition to maintaining an oversight role to ensure that there is no duplication and wastage of resources.

#### **Proposed Recommendations**

The Board is invited to:

- (i) **note** IOM's funded programme to be implemented in the region; and
- (ii) **task** the Secretariat to maintain engagement with IOM and ensure to avoid duplication of activities in the region.

#### **d) UNODC Programme in the Pacific**

17. UNODC has recently also entered into the migration space in the Pacific with its latest programme that it has begun to roll out for the region in partnership with IOM and UNCTAD. To assist Pacific countries in their development and implementation of border re-opening strategies and safe travel corridors, UNDP working closely with IOM and UNCTAD will support Fiji, Palau and Vanuatu, their respective border agencies, and COVID-19 sectoral task forces with:

- measures to support business continuity and front-line border agencies,
- measures to facilitate safe cross-border travel and trade through enhanced use of risk management in the reception and processing of travellers and goods,
- measures to increase internal and external border agency collaboration and
- measures to facilitate regional cooperation and shared understanding of protocols and procedures in coordinating public health measures and smooth operation of global supply chains.

18. It should be noted that this support was offered to the entire PIDC membership but the three aforementioned PIDC members were the only Pacific Island countries that had expressed direct interest to access UNDP's assistance. Consequently, UNDP in partnership with IOM and UNCTAD, will support these three countries, Fiji, Palau and Vanuatu, to deliver capability and support to participating border management agencies, along with key airport and port authorities, assisting them to adopt and implement the practices and standards, and acquire the systems, equipment and infrastructure and capacity to effectively implement pandemic and post-pandemic public health protocols. UNDP also support the pilot of standards-based health documentation and paperless border management documentation for travellers and the expansion of e-government services.

19. The project will encourage the practical implementation of global and regional standards relevant to border re-opening and public health risk management, along with assistance to develop and implement inter-agency, bilateral and regional agreements and governance mechanisms to enhance and support these.

20. As part of the initial phase of this support programme, UNDP will be hosting a regional workshop for the three countries in Fiji from 29-30 November 2022. The main purpose of the regional consultation is to take stock of practices and lessons learned in the Pacific Region and identify strategic opportunities, partnerships, capacities, and support needed that would help participating border management agencies to strengthen its capacities and capabilities and reinforce regional cooperation. UNDP has opened invitation to other members who would like to participate in this workshop in addition to inviting PNG to also participate in this proposed workshop in November.

#### **Proposed Recommendations**

The Board is invited to:

- (i) **note** UNDP's funded border security programmes in the region;
- (ii) **encourage** members to consider UNODC's invitation to participate in the Fiji workshop; and
- (iii) **task** the Secretariat to maintain engagement with UNDP and monitor bilateral and regional activities to avoid duplication and wastage of resources.

#### **e) JHOPS meeting**

21. Delegates from Pacific Islands national security agencies will converge into Fiji from 7-9 November for the second Joint Heads of Pacific Security event. The conference hosted by the Australian Defence Force facilitates strategic-level dialogue and demonstrated capabilities relevant to security across the region. The themes for the event focus on transnational, organised and serious crime; border security and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. The forum provides an opportunity for each country in the Pacific to not only share their experiences but also get a better understanding and appreciation of the effects of common security challenges and prosperity throughout the region. All Immigration Directors have been invited to the event and the regional platform provides another opportunity for members to strengthen their collective responsibilities and roles in regional border security in the Pacific.

#### **Proposed Recommendations**

The Board is invited to:

- (i) **note** the upcoming Joint Heads of Pacific Security (JHOPS) event to be hosted in Fiji; and
- (ii) **encourage** members to participate at this year's JHOPS meeting as it provides a regional platform to strengthen understanding of law enforcement agencies collective responsibilities and roles in regional border security in the Pacific.

#### **f) PIFS FOC Sub-Committee on Regional Security**

22. The PIFS Forum Officials Committee Sub-Committee on Regional Security (FOCSCRS) formerly known as the FRSC before 2016 is a sub-forum under the Pacific Islands Forum that PIDC is an Observer in with OCO and PICP. PIFS have reactivated this forum and will be having its first ever face to face meeting since 2017 when the former FRSC forum was disestablished

under the former PIFS leadership. The revamped FOC SCRS is a regional leader on political security and governance issues, including terrorism. The FRSC is a vehicle for the discussion among members of reports on regional security issues including civil unrest, transnational crimes and terrorism. The FOCSCRS strives to identify and engage in regional dialogue regarding internal and external security concerns that threaten the stability of the region and its economic development. The FOCSCRS encourages cooperation and coordinated regional law and responses to threats. It also works to identify key priority areas to bolster the capacity of members to respond to these threats.

23. In the 2018 Boe Declaration on Regional Security, Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) leaders recognised that the region is facing an increasingly complex regional security environment driven by multifaceted security challenges. This raises the question of how Pacific Island states will respond to these wide-ranging, but frequently interconnected challenges including what role regional security cooperation can play. The reengagement of the FOCSCRS is intended to provide a regional platform for dialogue to guide members to collectively address and identify solutions to any emerging or ongoing security threat in the Pacific.

24. PIDC has been invited to the first face to face FOC-SCRS Meeting in November 2022 in Fiji since the former FSRC forum was disestablished in 2016. PIDC has been vocal in the reengagement of this forum and PIFS engagement of the regional law enforcement secretariats provides the most appropriate forum to raise emerging and ongoing regional immigration security threats that Forum members need to be alerted to.

#### **Proposed Recommendations**

The Board is invited to:

- (i) **note** and welcome the first face to face FOC Sub-Committee on Regional Security (FOCSCRS) meeting since 2017; and
- (ii) **task** the Secretariat to maintain engagements with PIFS with an ongoing monitoring oversight of the FOCSCRS outcomes and its impact on the PIDC Membership and partnership agreement.



## PRLEC2022: Outcomes document

For consideration by PIDC, OCO and PICP

### Introduction

This outcomes document draws on information and materials discussed and presented at the recent Pacific Region Law Enforcement Conference held at the Hilton Hotel in Nadi, Fiji, 1-3 August. This document is further informed by discussions held at a closed-door meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August 2022 which brought together the Secretariat leadership and country representatives from across the Pacific Immigration Development Community, the Oceania Customs Organisation and the Pacific Island Chiefs of Police. The three organisations are collectively referred to as the **Declaration of Partnership members (DoP)**. DoP requested an outcomes document be produced outlining a series of action areas or options for improving collaboration between the three key regional law enforcement organisations.

This document is only intended to collate and present the options that were discussed, debated and ultimately agreed to in-principle in the closed-door meeting in Nadi by the participants. The options presented here may serve to inform collaborative initiatives to be undertaken by DoP over the next twelve months. It is envisioned that if these options are enacted, it will improve the ability of the Pacific law enforcement community to disrupt transnational crime.

### The Approach

Participants in the closed-door meeting first engaged in a **facilitated discussion** (see summary below) that allowed for exchange of ideas on opportunities to enhance collaboration across their agencies at national and regional levels. Participants were asked to consider: what their level of ambition for particular actions might be; how action and change could be driven; how they would hold themselves accountable to delivering actions and change; and how they would evaluate the outcomes of the changes.

Following the discussion, participants were individually presented with an abbreviated summary of the conference proceedings to orientate them to emerging opportunities and perspectives. Participants were asked to consider the conference proceedings as they prepared for the afternoon of the closed-door meeting where each organisation would be asked to present their top three action areas for change. The action areas from each organisation were then presented back to the whole meeting for further discussion and debate.

The meeting ended with in-principle agreement on a range of action areas for possible advancement, which are presented in this outcomes document.

## Setting the Scene: Facilitated Dialogue Summary

In laying the foundations for deliberations on action options, participants engaged in an open and facilitated discussion at the start of the closed-door meeting.

Participants agreed that that they needed to find opportunities at the points where the roles and organization of police, customs and immigration converge. The points of divergence – the unique responsibilities of each organisation - would not form a part of the discussion. Furthermore, participants agreed that it was important to prioritise collaborative actions that were achievable and could build momentum for the future.

Participants strongly expressed that opportunities needed to be identified using the existing structures in place. In particular, the Pacific Transnational Crime Network (PTCN), and its central coordination hub, the Pacific Transnational Crime Coordination Centre (PTCCC) should be strengthened and improved. There is a clear opportunity for improvement given that not all agencies are represented in several Transnational Crime Units (only 50% of TCUs can be described as multi-agency in terms of dedicated representation by police, immigration and customs). Participants acknowledged that while the TCUs variously functioned well at country level, increasing bi-lateral and regional level interaction between the TCUs could increase capability and coordination at a country and regional level.

Participants also acknowledged that while there was a regional political level mechanism for advancing regional agreements and approaches to TNC through the Forum Subcommittee on Regional Security, that mechanism did not support operational coordination. Participants suggested strengthening regional operational coordination would require a revamping of how the three regional secretariats and their country members engaged and collaborated as organisational entities, and DoP members had the authority to take the initiative.

Participants acknowledged the need to identify the roadblocks for the sharing of information and intelligence and endeavoring to remove the blocks whether they be legislative, political or personality driven. Participants would welcome fused intelligence reports from USINDOPACOM and the Forum Fisheries Agency being shared with/through the PTCCC. Participants also acknowledged advances in technologies such as the small craft reporting application and the opportunities to make this application available to all agencies.

Ultimately however, in driving actions that can improve collaboration, it came down to the willingness to recognise that there was a difference between sharing information and sharing intelligence, which is where the real insights lie. Participants acknowledged that they share the Blue Pacific identity, which should also drive the responsibility to share. Transnational crime knows no borders and that should drive increased commitment to enhance collaboration.

## Action Options

Enhancing existing partnership agreement that commits PICP, PIDC and OCO to share resources.

### ACTIONS

1. **Commitment to use APAN for information sharing**, noting the need to support improved access and usability. Suggested collective engagement by PICP, PIDC and OCO with JIATF-W support to tune APAN for Pacific DoP requirements.
2. **Expand the access to OCO's Small Craft App** to other law enforcement partners especially those that have national jurisdiction for vessel clearance. Note that OCO will need to determine resources and a timeline for development of a framework for access and information sharing.
3. Partnership agreement to strengthen - **sharing of resources between the Secretariats** of PICP, PIDC and OCO (e.g. specialist skills and training opportunities).
4. **Joint DoP planning sessions and shared calendar** for capacity building activities to support current monthly meetings.

Strengthening the PTCN as the primary, but not only, network for TNOc law enforcement collaboration.

### ACTIONS

5. **PICP to explore strengthening multi-agency collaboration** within current and future strategic plans would ensure PICP lays out actions that strengthen multi-agency collaboration.
6. PICP to consider examining the current board membership of the PTCN for possible **membership of the PIDC and OCO Chairs supported by their Secretariats** (Secretariats to attend to support dissemination of outcomes as appropriate and implementation of decisions).
7. Push towards **dedicated multi-agency participation in each TCU** (police, customs and immigration).
8. Develop a clear **security classification comparability outline**, to give TCU officers confidence to share across borders and that information will be handled appropriately.
9. **TCU-to-TCU staff exchanges** at a bi-lateral or multi-country level.

Recognition of the strengths the Forum Fisheries Agency brings to law enforcement partners.

### ACTION

10. **Recommend that the FFA be considered for membership in the Declaration of Partnership.** Participants considered this an important issue for the DoP agencies to consider given FFA's data holding role and the intersection between transnational crime and illegal fishing/blue crimes.

11. Map out ways to **strengthen exchange of information and analytical skills between law enforcement agencies and FFA.**

**Enhancing regional operational coordination.**

**ACTION**

12. **Committing to regular regional multi-agency tabletop exercises** to strengthen appropriate mechanisms for coordination and provide tangible commitment to improve multi-agency operational coordination<sup>1</sup>
13. **Exploring** the establishment of a more operationally focused gathering of Commissioners of Police, Directors of Immigration and Heads of Customs to discuss regional TNOOC, border security and law enforcement priorities and develop collaborative responses. Potential for annual or biennial meetings. Note the high level of commitment required to bring leaders together – as a first step DoP will consider how to leverage existing arrangements (e.g. the JHOPS meeting) and virtual meetings.

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<sup>1</sup> Note: If requested, APSC would be willing to work with PICP, PIDC and OCO to develop a regional tabletop exercise



## Declaration of Partnership on Regional Cooperation in Law Enforcement and Border Security

Declaration of Partnership on Regional Cooperation in Law Enforcement and Border Security between the Regional Organisations of:

- Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO)
- Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police (PICP)
- Pacific Immigration Development Community (PIDC)

(hereinafter referred to as “the Parties”)

### Preamble

The Parties to this Declaration:

Recognise that transnational organised crime and cross border security represents an increasing and serious threat and risk to the Pacific region;

Acknowledge that transnational criminal activity undermines efforts to maintain a safe and secure Pacific;

Recognise that no single law enforcement or border security agency can, single-handedly, address these threats and risks;

Confirm the value of cooperation and partnership of regional organisations to support and complement national efforts to combat these threats and risks;

Acknowledge that strengthening regional cooperation on transnational organised crime also aligns with the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Framework for Pacific Regionalism [*including the Biketawa Plus Declaration*] in furthering the objectives of a safe and secure Pacific;

Agree to co-operate together in areas of mutual interest as set out below in the terms of this Declaration.

### **1. Vision**

Maintaining safe and secure Pacific communities through strengthened regional law enforcement, security cooperation and partnerships.

### **2. Purpose**

The purpose of this Declaration is to:

Promote awareness and cooperation through collaboration of the Parties in combatting transnational organised crime.

### **3. Status**

This Declaration is a principles-based document under which the Parties will work together collaboratively using these principles on matters of mutual interest and responsibility.

### **4. Scope of Cooperation**

Cooperation by the Parties may be in relation to, or include, but is not limited to:

- a) conducting regular and systematic joint meetings including ongoing participation (as observers) at each Party's annual governance meeting;
- b) encouraging the collection and sharing of relevant information and intelligence and best practices;
- c) promoting coordinated delivery of training and participation;
- d) supporting national efforts to develop and strengthen inter-agency cooperation;
- e) coordinating contributions to strategic regional assessment reports and regional prioritisation processes;

- f) promoting better understanding and appreciation of each Party's role and function for enhancing closer cooperation between all agencies.

### 5. Resources for Implementation

The Parties will be responsible for identifying and providing appropriate resources. Each Party will meet its own cost. Where feasible and appropriate, joint-funding proposals may be developed.

### 6. Confidentiality

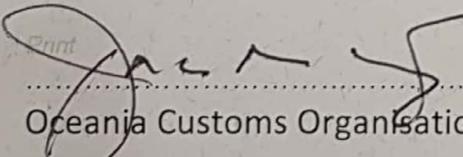
The Parties undertake not to use or further disclose the information provided under this Declaration except in accordance with this Declaration, or otherwise as required or authorised by law.

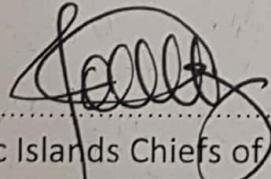
### 7. Commencement, Duration and Termination

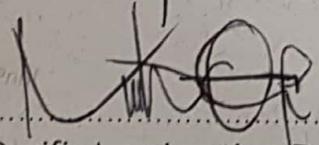
This Declaration will come into effect upon the date that all Parties adopt the Declaration. This Declaration is intended to remain in effect for an unlimited duration. It may be terminated at any time if one or more of the Parties decide to withdraw.

### 8. Review and Amendment

The Parties may review this Declaration annually and may make any amendments to the Declaration provided all Parties mutually agree.

*Print*  *Signature* ..... 20 / 07 /2018  
Oceania Customs Organisation

*Print*  *Signature* ..... 13 / 08 /2018  
Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police

*Print*  *Signature* ..... 28 / 06 /2018  
Pacific Immigration Development Community


**FFA**

## **Declaration of Partnership on Regional Cooperation in Law Enforcement, Border, Fisheries and Maritime Security**

Declaration of Partnership on Regional Cooperation in Law Enforcement, Border, Fisheries and Maritime Security between the Regional Organisations of:

- Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO)
- Pacific Immigration Development Community (PIDC)
- Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police (PICP)
- Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)

(Hereinafter referred to as "the Parties")

### **Preamble**

This Declaration expands upon the previous *Declaration of Partnership on Regional Cooperation in Law Enforcement and Border Security* as agreed by the Regional Organisations of OCO, PICP and PIDC and which came into effect on 13 August 2018.

The Parties to this Declaration:

Recognise that transnational organised crime, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and cross border security represents an increasing and serious threat and risk to the Pacific region;

Acknowledge that transnational criminal activity undermines efforts to maintain a safe and secure Pacific;

Acknowledge that transnational criminal enterprises are flexible and dynamic, with criminal networks that seek to exploit opportunities and

maximise profits irrespective of the commodity and with little regard for land or sea borders and related national interests;

Recognise that no single law enforcement or border security agency can, single-handedly, address these threats and risks;

Confirm the value of cooperation and partnership of regional organisations to support and complement national efforts to combat these threats and risks;

Acknowledge that strengthening regional cooperation on transnational organised crime also aligns with the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Framework for Pacific Regionalism, including the Biketawa Declaration and the Boe Declaration, in furthering the objectives of a safe and secure Pacific;

Agree to co-operate together in areas of mutual interest as set out below in the terms of this Declaration.

## **1. Vision**

Maintaining safe and secure Pacific communities through strengthened and coordinated regional law enforcement, surveillance, security cooperation and partnerships.

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To promote awareness and cooperation through collaboration of the Parties in combating transnational organised crime.

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## **4. Scope of Cooperation**

Cooperation by the Parties may be in relation to, or include, but is not limited to:

- a) conducting regular and systematic joint meetings including ongoing participation (as observers) at each Party's annual governance meeting (noting the respective governance meeting rules on joining as observers);
- b) encouraging the collection and sharing of relevant information and intelligence, under the relevant legal frameworks or arrangements regarding information sharing, and best practices;
- c) promoting coordinated delivery of training and participation;
- d) supporting national efforts to develop and strengthen inter-agency cooperation;
- e) coordinating contributions to strategic regional assessment reports and regional prioritisation processes; and
- f) promoting better understanding and appreciation of each Party's role and function for enhancing closer cooperation between all agencies.

## **5. Resources for Implementation**

The Parties will be responsible for identifying and providing appropriate resources. Each Party will meet its own cost. Where feasible and appropriate, joint-funding proposals may be developed.

## **6. Confidentiality**

The Parties undertake not to use or further disclose the information provided/shared under this Declaration except in accordance with this Declaration, or for the purpose for which the information was requested, or otherwise as required or authorised by law.

## **7. Commencement, Duration and Termination**

This Declaration will come into effect upon the date that all Parties adopt the Declaration. This Declaration is intended to remain in effect for an unlimited duration. It may be terminated at any time if one or more of the Parties decide to withdraw.

## 8. Review and Amendment

The Parties may review this Declaration annually and may make any amendments to the Declaration provided all Parties mutually agree.

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Forum Fisheries Agency

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Oceania Customs Organisation

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Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police

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Pacific Immigration Development Community