



**Agenda item 5: SFA 3 – Border Enforcement and Traveller Facilitation**

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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 update Board members on recent ISWG activities and discussions to drive PIDC information sharing initiatives.

**Background**

2. An important strategic focus area of the new PIDC Strategic Plan 2022-25 is the need to strengthen national immigration border processes to support international security and domestic social and economic development. Consequently, the ISWG plays a key role in influencing the strategic direction the organisation intends to adopt to meet this key strategic focus goal of the organisation in the next 3 years. The following discussion items (a) –(d) are key regional initiatives that have direct impact on information exchange amongst law enforcement agencies in the region with PIDC considering how to align its work programme and initiatives to these regional initiatives and possibly identify areas of collaboration and partnership.

**(a) Information Sharing Working Group Update**

3. The PIDC ISWG had not been able to meet for the last three years since 2019 after COVID-19 spread on a global scale to progressively monitor PIDC's information sharing network programme of activities. The lack of international travel during this period impacted members ability to share information. However, the operational environment has progressively changed since international borders reopened from August 2022 with border operations and international travel normalising. Consequently, the PIDC Information Sharing Working Group (ISWG) met after three years in Nadi, Fiji on 20 February 2023 (Programme attached as Annex One) where Members were represented by Australia, Fiji, French Polynesia, New Zealand, Palau, Samoa, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

**Activities.**

4. The Working Group discussed issues around: (a) Secretariat ISWG Update; (b) Review of ISWG Terms of Reference; (c) Activities to Strengthen Information Sharing; (d) Communication Platform Update; (e) PIDC National Contact Point Network and Profiling Group Update and (f) PIDC Enforcement Data Collection Tool. Key to this discussion was the need to review the ISWG Terms of Reference as part of the ISWG's governance requirements. Board members at its first meeting in August 2022 identified the need to review the ISWG's functionality in an evolving COVID-19 impacted operational environment, where the Board subsequently **tasked** the Secretariat to revisit the TOR of the ISWG and review its functionality and how it can be strengthened to become more effective to sustain its effectiveness into the future

5. The Secretariat in consultation with the ISWG subsequently reviewed the 2019 ISWG TOR in its initial assessment and identified the following outlined in table 1

Table 1: Assessment of the ISWG 2019 Terms of Reference

Current Structure	Recommendations
ISWG Membership	There needs to be a clear definition to the membership in the TOR in terms of regional representation to be consistent with PIDC sub regional definitions.
ISWG membership	The Secretariat to continue another period of ISWG chairmanship because of its direct oversight in monitoring information coordination and sharing across the membership and the region and is currently best placed to provide strategic advice to the ISWG on ongoing information sharing initiatives and discussions.
Workplan and Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree that the current ISWG workplan in the TOR is outdated and needs to review targeted activities in its workplan while noting the developments in information sharing emerging in the region in the Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) space in particular.</li> <li>• Need to review and strengthen key activities of the ISWG work programme strategically targeting areas that can support membership at the national level and regional approaches to collectively drive membership towards a stronger sense of ownership to any PIDC Information sharing initiative.</li> <li>• ISWG to identify future activities that can be drawn from the NCP &amp; Profiling Group Workshop.</li> </ul>

6. Attached as Annex One is the revised Terms of Reference which incorporates the discussions outlined in Table one.

7. In advancing the work of the ISWG, the Working Group agreed on the following:

- a) **Tasked** the Secretariat to finalise the ISWG workplan and activities to be recommended to the Board for approval and consideration into the PIDC Annual Workplan 2023-24;
- b) **Encouraged** the Secretariat to explore PIDC having a standalone APAN site noting that the current PIDC APAN Site sitting under the PTCN platform has experienced technical log on and uploading issues created by the PTCN parent Site;
- c) **Encouraged** ongoing engagement with PICP, PTCCC and OCO for future collaboration on information sharing under the Joint Partnership Arrangement and to progress discussions on the following:
  - (i) Strengthening of PIDC APAN Site through the PIDC Coordination Officer secondment or mentoring programme with OCO and the NZ Transnational Crime Unit with the intention of strengthening the Secretariats APAN expertise.

8. The Information Sharing Working Group thanked the PIDC Secretariat for hosting the Meeting in Fiji and committed to advancing the proposed work activities through the coordination of the PIDC Secretariat.

#### Proposed Recommendations

The Board is invited to:

- (i) **Acknowledge** the work undertaken by the ISWG to reengage national contact points and Profiling Group representatives into the PIDC Information Sharing Network
- (ii) **Endorse** the ISWG Terms of Reference in its revised form
- (iii) **Encourage** the ISWG to continue monitoring the information sharing activities

## **(b) PIDC National Contact Point and Profiling Group Workshop Update**

9. Information sharing across the region significantly dropped during the pandemic period where international borders were closed and international travel came to a standstill. The National Contact Point & Profiling Group workshop in February was a programme of work that was primarily initiated to reengage key information sharing operators across the PIDC Membership combining National Contact Points and Profiling Group representatives. The workshop brought together senior officers from across the region drawing on their experiences to strengthen PIDC's regional efforts in sharing targeted information. The workshop enabled key players in the PIDC information sharing network to: (a) share information about identified trends and threats; and (b) develop sets of indicators/profiles of high-risk travellers to assist front line officers in recognising these potential threats. But more importantly to develop relationships amongst the network and understand PIDC information sharing protocols.

### **Workshop Outcomes**

10. While the Workshop had set out a programme that intended to train and strengthen the capability and networking knowledge and understanding of our NCP and Profiling Group, it also provided an opportunity to seek participants views on how we could strengthen our information sharing network through the ISWG. One of the key outcomes recommended by members was the need to annual hold the NCP/Profiling Group Workshop to maintain consistency in information sharing standards and practises as we continue to build and strengthen our intelligence network.

11. Attached as Annex 1 is a detailed workshop outcomes document outlining participants recommendations on how we could further strengthen the PIDC information sharing network. A number of recommended activities in the workshop outcomes have now been incorporated into the Draft 2023-24 Annual Workplan. However, some key findings of the Workshop identified the following:

- (i) The Workshop agreed on the need for PIDC Members to work together at the regional level to address people smuggling, human trafficking and irregular migration. Disparity between countries' approaches contributes to irregular movement, and uniformity of data collection and information sharing standards throughout the region would be a strong and effective approach to collectively addressing potential irregular migration in the Pacific.
- (ii) In seeking to adopt consistent approaches to addressing irregular migration in the Pacific, the Workshop acknowledged the important role of building trust and sharing information in this process.
- (iii) The workshop recognised the value of information exchange as well as sharing of experiences amongst PIDC members; and that this plays a crucial role in Members ability to understand and put in place systems and process to share information in addressing issues around irregular people movement, people smuggling and human trafficking. The Workshop reaffirmed the need to strengthen the collection and sharing of information and intelligence at the national and regional level to better understand irregular migration trends throughout the region and to successfully combat people smuggling and trafficking networks.
- (iv) The Workshop also noted the value of immigration specific data collection and initiatives such as the PIDC Annual Collection Plan and analysis of its survey. Participants agreed to encourage active participation in the PIDC Annual Collection Plan process and to raise standards in national data collection.
- (v) The Workshop recognised the increase in irregular people movement into the region as a key challenge for PIDC Members and acknowledged that the Pacific was no longer just a transit destination and was growing to be a target destination country and that there was a need to promote dialogue between countries in the region to better understand the trends and indicators of irregular people movement as well as strategies that can be adopted to reduce irregular people movement.

- (vi) Recognised the need to utilise resources and tools to drive information sharing amongst members through secure information sharing platforms like APAN.
- (vii) The Workshop noted that strong legal frameworks are an important element in countries' responses to irregular migration. Legal frameworks must criminalise people smuggling and trafficking in persons, but must also make provision for protection of asylum seekers, refugees, smuggled migrants and victims of trafficking in line with relevant international human rights instruments, and the People Smuggling and Trafficking Protocols to the UN Convention on Transnational Organised Crime.
- (viii) Recognised the strict requirements and procedures guiding deportation and the need for Members to strictly follow deportation procedures across the PIDC Membership.

**Proposed Recommendations**

The Board is invited to:

- (i) **Note** and acknowledge the success of the PIDC NCP/Profiling Group Workshop in reengaging members to strengthen information sharing across the membership
- (ii) **Task** the Secretariat to incorporate the workshop recommendations into PIDCs 2023-24 Annual Work plan
- (iii) **Consider** annually hosting the PIDC NCP/Profiling Group Workshop

**(c) APAN and WhatsApp Communication Update**

12. PIDC's approach to sharing information on secure information sharing platforms was intended to provide confidence to the network on how PIDC managed restricted and classified information. The APAN system was subsequently approved as the platform members would be accessing to share information. While PIDC had only shifted to APAN in 2019, the take-up by members of the APAN system has been slow compared to partner organisations like PTCCC and OCO who have been using this system longer through their respective TCU's. Additionally, the closure of international borders in late 2019 didn't help our efforts in advocating members shift to this platform to share information.

13. Consequently, the Secretariat has been working through its NCP and Profiling Group to raise more awareness on the use of the APAN system in particular and has slowly seen an improvement in the information that is now shared through APAN in particular. While the closure of international borders impacted the rate of shared information, this has increased gradually since the reopening of borders in August 2022 but more so since PIDC hosted its second ever NCP and Profiling Group Workshop in February 2023. The regional workshop appears to be the catalyst in the increasing rate of information that is being shared across the APAN system and WhatsApp. Table 2 indicates the increase in Total users from 21 – 42 between 2021 to the current date.

**Table 2: Summary of APAN Access and Users**

PIDC National Contact Points			
Year: January – December 2021 Total Users: 21		Year: January 2022 – Current Date Total Users: 42	
<b>Active</b>	<b>Inactive</b>	<b>Active</b>	<b>Inactive</b>
8	13	38	4

14. The Secretariat continues to coordinate the collection and circulation of intelligence reports across the membership and the subsequent analysis of country reports to develop monthly immigration intelligence bulletins and alerts specifically targeting members and partner agencies in the Asia/Pacific region.

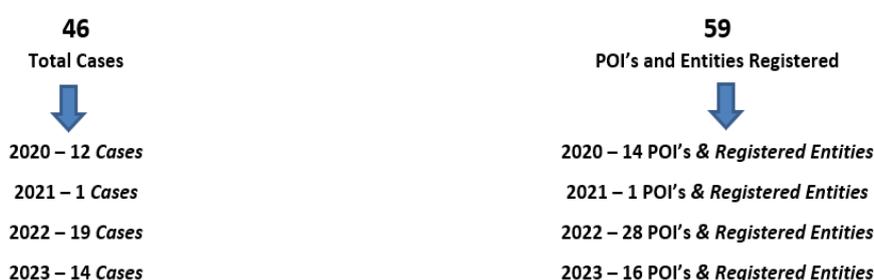
**Table 3: Summary of Intelligence Products: 2018 – 2023**

PIDC Intelligence Products	2018-2019	2020-2021	2022-2023
PIDC Intelligence Bulletin	16	10	4
PIDC Alerts	32	6	17
Partner’s Intelligence	2	4	34
Request for Information Template <i>(Started in September 2020. Separated RFI from Alert)</i>	3	13	3

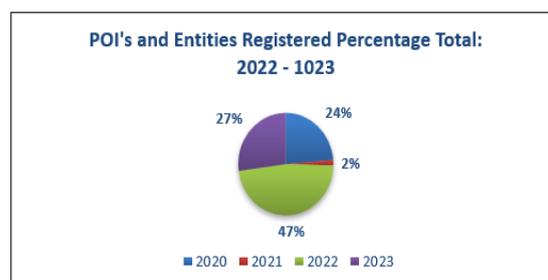
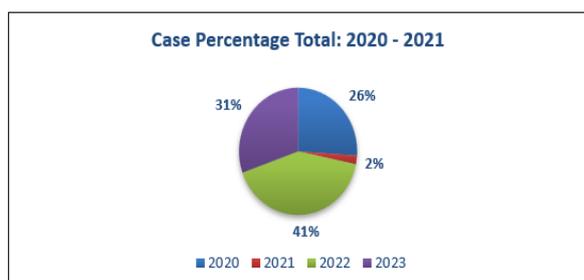
15. The monthly immigration intelligence bulletin alerts members on an ongoing basis on trends of irregular people movement throughout the Pacific. Member’s monthly reports are fundamental to the development of these intelligence products. Generally, there was a slow-down in recorded irregular people movement incidences across the region when COVID-19 stopped international travel between late 2019 – August 2022. This is reflected in the reports shared through the intelligence reports and alerts provided through the Secretariat as outlined in table 3 and the WhatsApp Figure 1 analytics. However, quite encouraging is the increase in information sharing since February 2023, which is forecasted to further increase in the absence of any global pandemic.

16. However, during the COVID-19 period, there was an increase in members using the PIDC Request for Information (RFI) system. While this was a new product that had de-conflicted our alert’s products from RFI’s, members appear to be receptive to the new RFI template which was reflected in the increased use of RFI’s during the COVID-19 period.

**Figure 1: PIDC WhatsApp Profiling Group Statistics**



Metrics: Analytic Report



17. Communication on WhatsApp dropped significantly during the COVID-19 period but has been gradually increasing significantly since February 2023. It is forecasted to increase significantly as the NCP and Profiling Group members become more accustomed to the protocols of sharing information on WhatsApp and APAN.

#### **(d) Regional Law Enforcement Collaboration Table Top Exercise Two 2023**

18. To strengthen regional law enforcement cooperation, the Australia Pacific Security College in partnership with the Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO), Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police (PICP), Pacific Immigration Development Community (PIDC) and the Pacific Transnational Crimes Network (PTCN) is organising a table top exercise over three 'half-days' to enhance information sharing and collaboration between agencies and officers at both the national and regional level. Held in the second week of June 2023, the event will be organised to support the regional law enforcement information sharing networks to be coordinated simultaneously in-country exercises proposed to be held in Palau, Papua New Guinea and Tonga.

#### **Background**

19. In 2021, APSC worked with OCO, PIDC and PICP to advance the regional Declaration of Partnership (DoP) delivering a multi-agency tabletop exercise (Exercise One) with Fiji, Samoa and the Solomon Islands law enforcement agencies (report attached as Annex One). The successful exercise resulted in participants learning significant lessons and agreeing to several national recommendations that included the need for more trainings and multi-agency tabletop exercises.

15. Based in part on the successful outcomes of Exercise One, participants at the subsequent 2022 Pacific Regional Law Enforcement Conference (PRLEC) called for commitment to *“regular regional multi-agency tabletop exercises to strengthen appropriate mechanisms for coordination and provide tangible commitment to improve multi-agency operational coordination.”*

#### **Objectives**

20. This activity looks to build upon the learnings from Exercise One and provide a second multi-agency regional tabletop training to:

- a. strengthen Customs, Immigration and Police leadership and collaboration at the national and regional level;
- b. explore existing/ possible multi-agency responses to criminal/ security threats as prioritised in the Boe Declaration focusing on TNOC, cybercrime and technology enabled crime while also touching on money laundering and fisheries crime;
- c. highlight the importance of data collection, analysis, information sharing, and sustained engagement between regulatory and law enforcement institutions and officials; and
- d. provide participating PICTs with realistic and pragmatic national recommendations to enhance law enforcement collaboration and information sharing practices.

#### **Exercise Focus**

21. The exercise will focus on TNOC, cyber-crime and cyber-enabled crime. The exercise will touch on dimensions of fisheries crime, money laundering and national security. The learning focus will be on strengthening leadership, institutional collaboration, information sharing and using national and regional law enforcement networks.

#### **Outputs**

22. The outputs of the exercise will include the following:

- (i) Exercise Report – The APSC will draft an exercise report to capture the key learnings with national recommendations for each participating country developed by participants on how to strengthen collaboration and information sharing.

- (ii) *Video and social media articles* - The APSC will provide videos and social media articles to communicate key law enforcement messages and also highlight issues raised during the exercise.
- (iii) *Exercise materials* – Materials will be provided to participants and made available to participating countries should they wish to duplicate for national trainings.

### **Exercise Methodology**

23. Similar to Exercise One, APSC will coordinate the event remotely with three national facilitators managing the in-country exercises in Palau, Papua New Guinea, and Tonga with a regional law enforcement hub at the PTCCC in Samoa (TBC by PTCN). Prior to the exercise, introductory training will be provided on simple analytical intelligence tools that participants can use to organise and analyse information.

24. Information will be provided to participants in stages gradually increasing the complexity of the case and the demand for collaboration. The scenario will build from the initial information being provided domestically as BAU until a decision is made to either begin a formal investigation, contact partner law enforcement agencies (national or regional) or call in the national TCUs. The emphasis will be on following current procedures to identify where possible gaps may exist.

### **Participants**

25. Palau, Papua New Guinea, and Tonga have been selected collectively by the regional law enforcement Secretariats. National Customs, Immigration, Police and TCU agencies will participate in the exercise with ICT, FIU and fisheries officials also invited to attend (approximately 12 officers at the most). In addition, the APSC will invite FFA and the Pacific Fusion Centre to participate as Observers given the information and resources, they can potentially bring to support the DoP.

### **Commitments**

26. The APSC will support the activity by:
- a. coordinating the design and delivery of the exercise with input from law enforcement partners;
  - b. funding where required the engagement of national facilitators;
  - c. funding where required a venue with internet access and catering in each participating PICT; and
  - d. funding travel, accommodation and meals for: (i) one officer from each law enforcement Secretariat to travel to a participating PICT to support the activity; (ii) one officer from each participating PICT to travel to the PTCCC in Apia observe operations (TBC by PTCN); and (iii) one officer from the APSC to travel to support the delivery of the exercise in each participating PICT.
27. The OCO, PICP and PIDC are requested to:
- a. seek agreement from participating PICTs to support the delivery of the exercise;
  - b. provide input to designing the exercise to ensure it reflects the priorities of their members; and
  - c. provide additional resources as they are able to support their members' participation.
28. The participating national law enforcement agencies will be requested to ensure:
- a. appropriate personnel are selected to consistently participate in the event to ensure agencies can best benefit from the exercise scenarios and the networking opportunities; and
  - b. that national recommendations proposed by participants are given appropriate consideration.

### **Next Steps**

29. The APSC will engage Mr Haddon Wright to design the exercise given his experience from Exercise One and will be looking to work with the regional law enforcement Secretariats to develop the materials and coordinate logistics. The APSC has dedicated resources to ensure the activity can be undertaken with minimal resources required in terms of workload required from partner organisations. Regular meetings will be arranged by APSC to ensure the exercise activities are progressed in a timely manner.

#### **Proposed Recommendations**

The Board is invited to:

- (i) **Endorse** PNG, Tonga and Palau to participate in the second joint law enforcement regional table top exercise
- (ii) **Task** the Secretariat to seek agreement from the participating countries to support the delivery of the exercise;
- (iii) **Task** the Secretariat in consultation with the ISWG to provide input to designing the exercise to ensure it reflects the priorities of PIDC members; and
- (iv) **Task** the Secretariat to provide additional resources to support members' participation.

## **Annex 1: Revised ISWG Terms of Reference**

### **ISWG Terms of Reference**

#### **Information Sharing Working Group (ISWG) Terms of Reference - Revised February 2023**

##### **Background**

There are significant risks in the Pacific regarding migration and crossing borders, particularly as there is limited regulation and transnational organised crime is increasing in prevalence. PIDC (as well as other regional forums, including the Pacific Islands Forum) have long discussed the impact of immigration agencies being unaware of cross-border movements and how this is affecting the ability for the region to combat transnational crime. Lawful and secure sharing of information for immigration, border protection, law enforcement and public safety is critical for managing increasing risks in the region.

##### **Purpose**

The purpose of the Information Sharing Working Group is to deliver a work programme which enhances PIDC members' information sharing capacity and co-operation.

##### **Mandate**

The group is not a decision-making body and recommendations about new initiatives and technology will be passed to the PIDC Board for formal approval. The scope of the work programme could include but is not limited to:

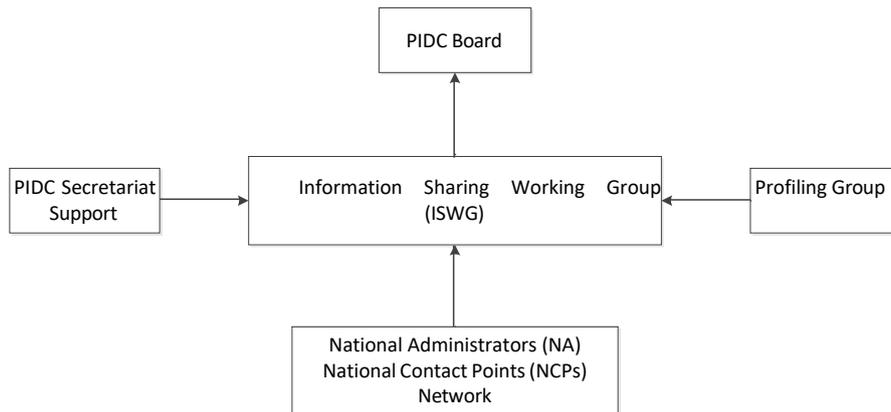
- operationalising the Memorandum of Arrangement between members of PIDC concerning cooperation and capacity building and the disclosure of information for immigration, border protection, law enforcement and public safety purposes;
- assessing and improving the individual and collective capacity of PIDC Members to collect, analyse and share information;
- assessing the suitability of platforms for secure sharing of information in the region;
- developing initiatives to strengthen PIDC information sharing;
- providing advice to the PIDC Board on best information sharing practices and guidance for PIDC implementation;
- implementing PIDC Board approved information sharing initiatives;
- co-operating with regional organisations and institutions to enhance regional information sharing;
- tasking intelligence reporting to the PIDC Secretariat; and
- reviewing the effectiveness of PIDC information sharing.

##### **Status**

The ISWG is a standing PIDC working group. It will report to the PIDC Board on its activities and outcomes at each Board Meeting and to the members at the Regular Annual Meeting.

##### **Governance and Reporting Lines**

The ISWG reports to the PIDC Board. The National Contact Points and National Administrator network and the Profiling Group report into the ISWG.



### **Membership**

Membership consists of permanent members Australia, New Zealand, Fiji (air transit hub), and French Polynesia (sea transit hub). Sub-regional representatives for Polynesia, Melanesia, Micronesia and Small Island States are elected to the ISWG every two years. Current regional representatives include Samoa (Polynesia), Vanuatu (Melanesia), Palau (Micronesia) and Tuvalu (Small Island States). Sub-regional representatives are expected to consult their sub-regional member countries and represent their interests at the ISWG. A representative of the Profiling Group and National Contact Points will also attend face to face meetings to report on their activities. An invitation should be extended to representatives from the Oceania Customs Organisation, the Pacific Island Chiefs of Police and the Forum Fisheries Agency to attend meetings and provide updates or relevant expertise to ISWG on an as needs basis.

### **Chair**

The Secretariat will remain as the chair of the ISWG until RAM 2025. The PIDC Board will then consider whether to move to a rotating chair option between ISWG members

### **Secretariat**

The PIDC Secretariat will provide secretariat support to members of the ISWG including organising meetings, travel and minutes. The PIDC Secretariat will also provide technical analysis or other reports when required. PIDC will fund ISWG meetings and associated costs for members except New Zealand and Australia.

### **Frequency of Meeting**

Three meetings will be held each year coinciding with PIDC Committee and Board meetings. Meetings may be held in person or virtually. More regular teleconferences/videoconferences may be held to progress work programme items.

### **Annual Work Plan**

The ISWG will work with the Secretariat to submit an annual work plan and ISWG budget for PIDC Board endorsement at the Regular Annual Meeting.

## **Annex 2: National Contact Point and Profiling Group Workshop**

### **NATIONAL CONTACT POINT AND PROFILING GROUP WORKSHOP**

#### **Objectives**

The National Contact Point & Profiling Group workshop brought together senior officers from across the region to draw on their experiences and strengthen regional efforts in sharing targeted information. It is important that PIDC Members look to: (a) share information about these identified threats; and (b) develop a set of indicators/profiles of high-risk travellers to assist front line officers in recognising these potential threats.

Consequently, the purpose of the workshop is to:

- a) Build capacity of PIDC Members to meet information needs of organisation and stakeholders;
- b) Build capacity of National Contact Point (NCPs) to effectively collect, store, analyse and share Immigration information as required under the PIDC MoU;
- c) Collect data and undertake initial analysis for PIDC Irregular Migration Report;
- d) Strengthen the PIDC regional profiling group/network of practitioners for PIDC;
- e) Identifying latest profiling trends and indicators in border control activities and operations;
- f) Identifying information and intelligence sources to be used to develop national and regional profiles; and
- g) Developing an agreed set of recommendations on possible ways to strengthen the PIDC NCP's and Profiling Group for Members to consider at the 2023 Regular Annual Meeting in June.

It is envisaged that this training will encourage Members to share information and to introduce/strengthen profiling processes in addition to identifying competent and trained staff to undertake this important work. Where further technical assistance will be required, Members will be advised to engage with the PIDC Secretariat to identify the possible provision of further technical support.

#### **WORKSHOP OUTCOMES**

Activities through the PIDC typically arise from ideas generated at workshops, which are presented in the form of an Outcomes Summary – a document formulated by workshop participants and agreed upon for publication on the PIDC website.

The Outcomes Summary represents a tentative plan for future action (e.g. further workshops and other collaborative projects) and in-principle agreement to the high-level concepts discussed throughout a workshop.

All plans for future action, such as workshops, projects and other activities, must be endorsed by the PIDC Board. Although the Outcomes Summary does not represent a firm commitment to future action, it does represent in-principle agreement to progress the ideas contained in the Outcomes Summary.

#### **Outcomes as agreed upon by PIDC Members**

The PIDC workshop participants:

- o **Thanked** PIDC for supporting and coordinating this regional workshop on National Contact Points and Profiling Group participants
- o **Acknowledged** the value of PIDC's intelligence network and in particular the role and responsibilities of National Contact Points (NCP) and Profiling Group Contacts (PGC) to address

- irregular migration, people smuggling and human trafficking in terms of data and information collection and exchange as well as sharing of experiences.
- **Agreed** that NCPs and Profilers play a central role in driving the sharing of information throughout the PIDC intelligence network to address People Smuggling, Human Trafficking and Irregular Migration issues.
  - **Encouraged** National Contact Points and Profiling Group Contacts to be proactive in engaging with all contact points in dialogue to address irregular people movement to better identify current cases and in anticipation of possible cases in the future.
  - **Noted** the importance of language in immigration profiling work at ports of entry.
  - **Recognised** the value of having specialist intelligence structures at the national level and **encouraged** the ISWG, with the Secretariat, to identify options of supporting members develop national intelligence structures and capacities across the membership that are tailor made to members respective jurisdictions.
  - **Noted** that strong legal frameworks are an important element in countries' responses to irregular migration. Legal frameworks must criminalise people smuggling and trafficking in persons, but must also make provision for protection of asylum seekers, refugee, smuggled migrants and victims of trafficking in line with relevant international human rights instruments, and the People Smuggling and Trafficking Protocols to the UN Convention on Transnational Organised Crime.
  - The Workshop **acknowledged** the increase in irregular people movement into the region as a key challenge for PIDC Members and **acknowledged** the need to promote dialogue between countries in the region to protect their shared borders against irregular travellers.
  - **Encouraged** participants at this workshop to take back to their national jurisdictions recommendations on information sharing to progress information sharing processes and systems addressing people smuggling, human trafficking and irregular migration.

### ***Key findings***

The key findings of the Workshop are as follows:

1. The Workshop agreed on the need for PIDC Members to work together at the regional level to address people smuggling, human trafficking and irregular migration. Disparity between countries' approaches contributes to irregular movement, and uniformity of data collection and information sharing standards throughout the region would be a strong and effective approach to collectively addressing potential irregular migration in the Pacific.
2. In seeking to adopt consistent approaches to addressing irregular migration in the Pacific, the Workshop acknowledged the important role of building trust and sharing information in this process. The Workshop acknowledged that the PIDC National Contact Point and Profiling Group was the most suitable mechanism for communication to sharing information to addressing people smuggling, human trafficking and irregular migration issues in the Pacific.
3. The workshop recognised the value of information exchange as well as sharing of experiences amongst PIDC members; and that this plays a crucial role in Members ability to understand and put in place systems and process to share information in addressing issues around irregular people movement, people smuggling and human trafficking. The Workshop reaffirmed the need to strengthen the collection and sharing of information and intelligence at the national and regional level to better understand irregular migration trends throughout the region and to successfully combat people smuggling and trafficking networks.
4. The Workshop also noted the value of immigration specific data collection and initiatives such as the PIDC Annual Collection Plan and analysis of its survey. Participants agreed to

encourage active participation in the PIDC Annual Collection Plan process and to raise standards in national data collection.

5. The Workshop recognised the increase in irregular people movement into the region as a key challenge for PIDC Members and acknowledged that the Pacific was no longer just a transit destination and was growing to be a target destination country and that there was a need to promote dialogue between countries in the region to better understand the trends and indicators of irregular people movement as well as strategies that can be adopted to reduce irregular people movement.
6. Recognised the need to utilise resources and tools to drive information sharing amongst members through secure information sharing platforms like APAN.
7. The Workshop noted that strong legal frameworks are an important element in countries' responses to irregular migration. Legal frameworks must criminalise people smuggling and trafficking in persons, but must also make provision for protection of asylum seekers, refugees, smuggled migrants and victims of trafficking in line with relevant international human rights instruments, and the People Smuggling and Trafficking Protocols to the UN Convention on Transnational Organised Crime.
8. Recognised the strict requirements and procedures guiding deportation and the need for Members to strictly follow deportation procedures across the PIDC Membership.

### ***Future Work***

1. The PIDC through the ISWG will seek to annually host the National Contact Point and Profiling Group workshop to maintain the momentum of the PIDC Information sharing network and continue to strengthen trust and reliability to sharing of information.
2. PIDC will develop Standard Operating Procedures for National Contact Points and Profiling Group Contacts to guide and standardise information sharing across the PIDC Intelligence network.
3. PIDC will seek funding to support the resourcing of Profiling Group contact points with secure smart phones with security level clearance and protocols guiding its use and expiry process.
4. PIDC will hold ongoing online regional intelligence briefings for NCPs and Profiling Group contacts to share irregular people movement trends in the Pacific and in national jurisdictions and continually drive the value of sharing information across the Pacific
5. Task the Secretariat to indicate timelines in the PIDC Request for Information (RFIs) templates on two levels including:
  - (i) Urgent: timeline of 24hrs – 3 days
  - (ii) Standard: timeline of 4 plus days
6. PIDC will seek to support members through a collaborative process of utilising expertise across the membership to support interested Immigration agencies develop country specific intelligence products.
7. PIDC will seek to provide support to Members seeking assistance in the development of National Action Plans for People Smuggling and Human Trafficking.
8. PIDC through the Secretariat to identify options of increasing membership utilisation of the APAN platform for all NCPs and PGCs.
9. PIDC NCP's and PGC's to engage more actively in accessing and sharing information on the PIDC APAN Site

10. Task the Secretariat to circulate to all NCPs the PIDC reporting templates including RFI and Alerts and to also upload these templates onto APAN.
11. Task the Secretariat to work with PTCCC, NZTCU and OCO to identify areas that can be developed to improve and revamp the PIDC APAN Site.
12. PIDC through the Secretariat and ISWG will review the PIDC Annual Collection Plan for the purposes of simplifying the ACP survey questionnaire so that members can provide responses to the survey questions.
13. The PIDC through the Information Sharing Working Group will seek to identify options in supporting members develop intelligence capacities at the national level for its membership.
14. The PIDC through its Information Sharing Working Group will seek to pursue options to areas of increased cooperation and dialogue that will strengthen information and intelligence collection and sharing.