



Pacific Immigration Development Community

27th PIDC Regular Annual Meeting

17 - 19 June: Nukualofa, Kingdom of Tonga

Agenda Item 6(i): Secretariat Report

Proposed Recommendations

Members are invited to **endorse** the Secretariat Report

Purpose

This report provides an update of major events and activities undertaken by the Secretariat since July 2024 to implement the 2024-25 Annual Work Plan.

Background

2. The 2023/24 Financial Year has been a busy period given the various activities the Secretariat was approved to deliver under its Annual Work Plan and Budget. However, the Secretariat has steadily worked towards the successful delivery of its Annual Work Plan and this report presents an activity update on the Annual Work Plan meeting its 2024/25 activity objectives and outcomes.

Summary of the 2024/2025 Activities

3. Since July 2024, the Secretariat has steadily been progressively working towards the implementation of its 2024/25 Annual Work Plan and this report presents a progress report on its activity update including progress on the Annual Work Plan outcomes.

4. The major focus of the Secretariat's tasks for this new financial year has been the contractual arrangements of PIDC's external and internal audit, governance reviews, Staff Performance Assessments, Progressing the development of the PIDC-USP Masters in Border Security Course, INZ-PIDC Funding Renewal Discussions and Agreement, Progressing PIDCS legislation review and modernisation programme, Member agencies website development programme, progressing the development of members and PIDC's new Strategic Plan, partnership initiatives like the development of the Pilot phase of the PIDC Regional Information Sharing Platform (RISP) with IOM, Progress of the PIDC-IOM Regional research project and capacity building partnership initiatives.

5. Despite delayed funding and funding limitation for a period of around 5-6 months since the beginning of this financial year in July 2024 with a consequent delayed congested work schedule from quarter 1 & 2 to be delivered between quarter 3 & 4, competing priorities, staffing reduction, the Secretariat has been able to progressively advance a number of activities as directed by Members and tracking to complete scheduled budgeted activities for this financial year including new partnership initiatives.

6. Some major achievements to date include:

- PIDC securing new funding support from PNG Immigration and Citizenship Services Authority for a period of 4 years supporting PIDC's ongoing capacity building initiatives and programme
- Ongoing Policy and Legislation Review support programme provided to Solomon Islands, Samoa and Niue to progress the review of their respective legislations
- Successful development of Solomon Islands new website and on target for official government launching in July 2025
- Increasing visibility of PIDC activities through quarterly Newsletter publications and PIDC Annual Report 2023-24
- Progress in the development of the PIDC Regional Information Sharing Platform with the 10 pilot PIDC member countries.
- Recruitment of researchers for Joint PIDC-IOM Research project through the IOM Development Fund.
- Active engagement with regional law enforcement secretariats under the Partnership Agreement on ongoing discussions on the MDA Talanoa Forum.
- Completion of Nauru and Marshall Islands Training Curriculums and discussions with FSM initiated
- More direct engagements with PIFS governance process and recognition of PIDC and partner law enforcement agencies in Forum Committee on Regional Security
- Approval and Launch of PIDC-USP Masters Course with enrolment offered from semester 1, 2025
- Boards endorsement of PIDC policy documents including (i)PIDC Scholarship Policy, (ii) PIDC Partnership Engagement Policy and (iii) PIDC Social Media Policy.
- PIDC Strategi Plan 2025 development on track for launching in 2026 and completion of member strategic plan development support for this financial period completed
- PIDC Audit Report for 2023/2024 completed and approved.
- Completion of external and internal audit tender process to finalise new auditing service providers
- Capacity building and partnership initiatives support with biggest PIDC membership attendance of the 7th Border Management Identity Conference in Thailand attended with Immigration Directors and managers from 14 PIDC members (Australia, Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, Nauru, NZ, Palau, RMI, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu).
- PIDC/IOM RISP & NCP workshop attended by 35 representatives from 20 member countries.
- PIDC – IOM Joint Research initiated with consultations with Solomon Islands completed.
- The Declaration of Partnership continued to bring together the Heads of FFA, OCO, PIDC and PICP in their ongoing coordination meetings. These meetings continue to support and strengthen information sharing amongst the border security agencies, with regards to activities undertaken by other regional partners with PIFS recognising this partnership in their forum programmes
- PIDC was consulted in consultations on the third phase of discussions on deepening regionalism and the regional architecture to support the 2050 Strategy. PIDC continues to actively participate in PIFS regional initiatives.

- Partnership with IOM continued on significant projects supporting the membership this year including the PIDC Reporting and Information Sharing Platform (RISP) and National Contact Point (NCP) Workshops held in Brisbane in April, 2025. UNODC was also a partner in this regional workshop initiative.
- PIDC participation at regional and global events advocating PIDC members interest and raising PIDC's profile including the Bali Process regional Border Forum as well as the 7th Border Management and Identify Conference, the ANDEX conference for the first time in Malaysia, JHOPS and the World Border Security Congress in Spain.
- Collaboration continues with IOM, UNHCR, UNODC and other UN agencies as well as Hakili Matagi on important regional projects for the members.
- Advocacy efforts targeted at increasing the visibility of the organised has included the implementation of the PIDC communications action plan, such as the creation and establishment of online platforms (Facebook, LinkedIn, Website) and the Newsletter now produced on a quarterly basis.
- Key documents development and reviews have been completed as directed by the Board members through PIDC's Regular Annual Meeting, including the following: (i) PIDC Name change meeting Samoan governance requirements; (ii) PIDC Engagement Policy; (c) PIDC Scholarship Bond Policy and (d) Registration of PIDC Logo to meet copy rights requirements