

PIDC comments on the Global Compact

13. The PIDC input is provided in two parts being first, a series of general comments on the Global Compact, followed by specific statements made on the four thematic areas to be discussed under Agenda Item 4 of the Regional Preparatory Meeting. These four thematic areas include:

- a) legal and orderly labour migration as a contribution towards all dimensions of sustainable development, including decent work, labour mobility, recognition of skills and qualifications and other relevant measures;
- b) addressing the drivers of migration, including adverse effects of climate change, natural disasters and human-made crises, through protection and assistance, sustainable development, poverty eradication, and conflict prevention and resolution;
- c) smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and contemporary forms of slavery, and issues of appropriate identification and protection and assistance to migrants and trafficking victims;
- d) regional cooperation and governance with regard to migration in all its dimensions, including at borders and during transit, entry, return, readmission, integration and reintegration.

General Comments

14. PIDC notes that the Global Compact seeks to develop non-binding guiding principles and voluntary guidelines, consistent with international law, on the treatment of migrants in vulnerable situations.

15. In echoing calls by Pacific Islands Forum Leaders to maximise use of scarce resources and avoid duplication, PIDC supports the alignment of the Global Compact with existing international multi-lateral arrangements including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and be informed by the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development adopted in October 2013.

16. PIDC notes that a significant number of its membership is made up of small island states with special vulnerabilities and challenges related to geographical isolation such as significant distance to markets, high cost of transport, limited land masses and limited natural resources. As such, while PIDC would envisage the Global Compact providing strong and innovative direction for safe, orderly and regular migration, PIDC would also seek to ensure that Global Compact measures are appropriate and do not introduce obligations, in terms of commitments and reporting, and that are too onerous for small island states.

17. Where commitments are introduced that require significant resources and investment, PIDC would like to see flexibility provided to the more vulnerable states for the implementation of the Global Compact with a transition period appropriate to national circumstances and available resources provided, and a support mechanism established to assist small island states in developing the necessary processes and structures to meet any new obligations. Where support mechanisms are established, PIDC would seek assurances that processes for accessing resources are simplified, consistent and relevant to the circumstances of PICTs.

Pacific Island countries

18. PIDC notes that once the Global Compact has been endorsed, it envisages given its regional mandate that one of its major priorities will be providing and facilitating the provision of assistance, through development partners and partner organisations such as the Bali Process, UNODC, IOM and UNHCR, to support Members in meeting their Global Compact commitments. As such, PIDC will explore seeking adequate recognition as a potential implementing agency of Global Compact measures.

19. PIDC supports the development of comprehensive immigration policies. PIDC for several years has provided support to its Members seeking to modernise and streamline national immigration policies, legislative frameworks and standard operating procedures. PIDC also notes that IOM and the EU-ACP Migration Action Plan has also undertaken similar work in the region. PIDC would welcome technical assistance and resource support being made available to support current efforts for the development of migration policies for small island states.

20. PIDC supports a rights based approach noting that this approach is aligned with its objectives and values. PIDC notes that national context should be considered noting that migrants should enjoy the same fundamental rights and treatment as domestic citizens and as provided by the law.

21. PIDC supports efforts to eliminate Trafficking in Human Beings (THB). One of the key PIDC priorities is supporting national and regional efforts to combat transnational crime. PIDC currently maintains the only regional Pacific Islands Immigration Information and Intelligence Network that allows PICTs to share Alerts on travelling persons of interest in addition to a monthly intelligence bulletin on case studies, trends and persons of interest provided by Members to the PIDC Secretariat.

21. Information and data collection in the Pacific Islands can be challenging due to resource constraints and in some instances the absence of electronic border management systems. As such enhancing Members' information and data collection processes for both enforcement and statistical purposes is a significant work priority for PIDC. The organisation has an established research programme to increase the

available knowledge base on PICTs with regular surveys and analysis undertaken of immigration issues such as information collection and sharing practices, irregular migration and capacity development needs. Research for 2017/2018 is being undertaken on: (a) immigration links to labour mobility; (b) cost benefit analysis of shifting the primary line from immigration agencies to Customs in small island states; and (c) suitable electronic Border Management Systems that can be utilised by small island states.

22. PIDC is also seeking to build the capacity of Members to collect, store, analyse and share data. In 2016 PIDC established a Working Group to strengthen regional information sharing and is scheduled to develop for Members' endorsement in 2018 a regional Memorandum of Understanding to form the legal basis for information sharing amongst its Membership. To support Members' national efforts to collect data, PIDC has scheduled a regional workshop in 2018 to develop agreed immigration standardised data sets for regional analysis and also to develop simple pragmatic database solutions to support collection and analysis of data in specific priority immigration areas.

Thematic Comments

Thank you for this opportunity to ~~share~~ provide our comments.

1. Legal and orderly labour migration as a contribution towards all dimensions of sustainable development, including decent work, labour mobility, recognition of skills and qualifications and other relevant measures

23. The PIDC seeks to support Members in meeting their international obligations and advancing regionally endorsed immigration activities that are aligned to decisions of the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders. While the initial focus of PIDC when first established was to support Members maintain secure borders, this mandate has now been widened to also support economic growth-related aspects of migration such as labour mobility. With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, PIDC is now looking to explore providing support to Members seeking to implement activities that support SDG commitments linked to international migration and the protection of migrants.

24. PIDC notes that the PICTs stand to benefit significantly from labour migration not only as sending countries of unskilled and skilled labour but also as receiving countries for skilled labour in the tourism and education sectors. PIDC in October 2017 hosted a regional workshop with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat to explore the links between immigration agencies and labour mobility in the region and as a result will shortly complete the development of immigration agency best practices for the management and facilitation of incoming migrant workers. It is planned that these best practices will be adapted by Members at the national level according to domestic circumstances with the support of the PIDC Secretariat.