

Information Note¹

Event: The ninth meeting of the Pacific Island Forum (PIF) Working Group on Counter-Terrorism (WGCT) (4 June 2013), and Forum Regional Security Committee (FRSC) Meeting (5-6 June 2013)

Organizer(s): Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) in coordination with the Government of New Zealand for the WGCT meeting; and PIFS for the FRSC Meeting

Date and Venue: 4-6 June 2013; Suva, Fiji

Participants: **PIF Member Countries:**

Australia, Cook Islands², Kiribati, New Zealand, Niue³, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI), Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu.

Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Nauru, Palau, and Tuvalu participated in FRSC Meeting only.

(Fiji was suspended from the Forum in 2009).

International and (sub) regional organisations and entities:

UN Office of Drugs and Crime/Terrorism Prevention Branch (UNODC/TPB), UNSCR 1540 Committee Expert, Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG), Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police (PICP), Pacific Islands Law Officers network (PILON), Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Pacific Centre, Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference (PIDC), Secretariat of the Pacific Community, the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) and the Ministerial Contact Group on Fiji participated in FRSC Meeting only.

Objectives for the 1540 Committee expert participation

- Make a statement on implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). Raise awareness of the resolution in order to promote its full and effective in the region, and explore possibility of cooperation among/between participating states;

¹ For information –not an official report. The views expressed here do not necessarily represent those of the 1540 Committee or of the organizers or participants in the event.

² Not a member of the United Nations

³ *ibid*

- Conduct bilateral consultations with the participating States to discuss and clarify specific assistance requests, encourage the submission of first national reports (Solomon Islands, and Timor-Leste), additional information, national implementation action plans and designate or update points of contact both in capitals and their Missions to the UN in New York, to facilitate implementing resolution 1540 (2004).
- Identify and develop areas for assistance and capacity building, as well as continuing to build on previous dialogues with PIF countries and relevant international and regional organisations, in particular the PIFS.

Background

- The PIF WGCT is a main forum for counter-terrorism and non-proliferation policy discussions in the Pacific and co-chaired by New Zealand and the PIF Secretariat. Its meeting takes place prior to the annual PIF FRSC Meeting.
- UNODA organized a Workshop on Implementing Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) for Pacific Island States from 29 April to 1 May 2009 in Vanuatu. UNODC/TPB held Sub-regional Workshops on Counter-Terrorism in 2007-2009, prior to the WGCT Meeting. The 1540 experts participated in those workshops and contributed to assist regional States implementing their obligations under resolution 1540 (2004).
- On 7 May 2013, Andie Fong Toy, Deputy Secretary General, PIF, extended an invitation to H.E. Ambassador Kim Sook, Chair of 1540 Committee, to nominate a member of the 1540 Committee group of experts to participate in the FRSC meeting as an observer. On 10 May 2013, HE. Ambassador Jim McLay, Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the UN, invited H.E. Ambassador Kim Sook, Chair of 1540 Committee, to nominate a 1540 Committee expert to attend the WGCT meeting.

Highlights

The PIF WGCT discussed and coordinated domestic and regional counter-terrorism activities. It tracked the Pacific region's progress in implementing the international legal regimes against terrorism and terrorist financing, and identified technical assistance available to Forum Members. The PIF FRSC discussed significant security and law enforcement issues affecting the Pacific region. The participation of the 1540 Committee expert continues to contribute to the 1540 Committee and experts' ongoing dialogues and cooperation with States and organizations in the region on effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

Additional comments

For further information, please contact the 1540 Committee experts by e-mail at 1540experts@un.org.