Supporting the WMD Framework in the Pacific: Role of Embassies / HCs

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Outline

• Challenges
• Advantages
• Important Considerations
• Role of Non-Resident Embassies
• Champions
Challenges for Pacific Island Countries

- Location and Distance of PICs
- Limited or no Resident Missions in Geneva, The Hague, Vienna
- Limited Capacity of PIC Governments and Parliaments
- Competing Legislative Priorities
- Complex Nature of WMD Regimes
- Limited Assistance from WMD Stakeholders
Advantages of Pacific Island Countries

- Treaty of Rarotonga Framework
- Wide WMD Treaty Accession
- Support from WMD Community
  - United Nations
  - Regional Organizations
  - Bilateral
  - Civil Society
  - Individual Champions
Important Considerations

• Ensure there is an overall country-level Security Sector vision, priorities and roadmap...

• Enact appropriate enabling / supporting legislation and regulations.
  
  • Implementation of UNSC Resolutions
  • Strategic Trade Management Act
  • WMD National Authority (ies)
  • Inventory external assistance, avoid / minimize overlaps.
Role of Non-Resident Embassies / High Commissions

- Provide sample legislation, advice, support during missions to PIC capitals and thru PIC missions in Wellington.

- Link PIC Parliamentarians and stakeholders with WMD experts in their capitals and missions (Geneva, The Hague, Vienna).

- Help develop training and other capacity building programmes for legislators and legislative staff on WMDs.
Champions

- Interested PIC Legislators and other Stakeholders should become “Champions” for WMD action.

- Champions are passionate and committed advocates from Government & Civil Society, ensuring continuity.

- PIC Champions should link with and be supported by Global WMD and related networks.