

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

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)*

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.