



CROP ICT Working Group Membership Criteria

Purpose

To resolve the issue of membership, a criteria has been developed that will enable the CROP ICT Working Group to make objective decisions on the merits of accepting an organisation as a member or observer on the CROP ICT Working Group.

Background/Context

2. The CROP ICT Working Group has two categories (i) Members¹; and (ii) Observers². It can also invite others as and when required dealing with a particular issue in ICT. The observer status *may* be given to appropriate groups, organisations and territories with some interest in ICT in the region either as a beneficiary or advocacy. In addition to the above two categories the following criteria is for any new membership.

3. According to the 2015 Review of the CROP Working Group Mechanisms Report, **Recommendation 3 (a)** specifically recommends that:

“Acknowledging the importance of retaining CROP ownership, leadership, oversight and control of CROP Working Groups (CWGs); the CROP label and to enhance effective and real time communication and transparency about CROP and its related mechanisms, it is recommended that CROP Executives consider and agree:

- a) that members of CWGs will be derived from participating CROP agencies and non-CROP participants to CWGs attend as ‘observers’ or as ‘representatives of partner agencies’; further agree that non-CROP agencies wishing to participate as observers in CWGs will apply for Observer Status through the Chairperson of the relevant CWG; and non-CROP agencies invited to participate in CWGs be recognised as ‘representatives of partner agencies’ on acceptance of the invitation; and also endorse the proposed ‘eligibility criteria’ for observers and representatives from non-CROP agencies to CWGs.”*

Why Criteria is Necessary?

4. To have a dynamic group of key ICT players that could advice and steer the work in the Regional ICT Initiative in a coordinated and informed manner.

Key Issues/Discussions

Proposed Criteria

5. Based on the above, the members of the CROP ICT Working Group will be those regional and international organisations that:

¹ **Members:** All CROP agencies except PASO with USP as Chair; PITA; ADB; World Bank; Australia; New Zealand; JICA, PIPSO; and Forum Troika and SIS.

² **Observers:** Vodafone and Digicel (Private sector players); Territories of the region; ITU; CSOs and others as considered appropriate by the Working Group.

- a) Are directly involved with the main facet of ICT development in the region;
 - b) Support the development of ICTs in Pacific Island Countries and Territories; and
 - c) Responsible for supporting the follow-up and delivery of the regional ICT priorities as set down by the annual meeting of Pacific Island Forum Leaders.
6. Other regional as well as international organisations that do not meet the above criteria will be invited to participate in relevant CROP ICT Working Group meetings and where appropriate, in taskforce where there is a need for a specialised contribution based on the priorities of Leaders as established under the Framework for Pacific Regionalism and the Pacific Regional ICT Strategic Action Plan.
7. Membership of CROP ICT Working Group may be retired where:
- a) An organisation ceases to exist; and/or
 - b) An organisation does not participate in any meeting of the CROP ICT Working Group scheduled in a year.
8. Regional and international agencies that wish to join CROP ICT Working Group and who meet the membership criteria outlined above will undertake the following application process:
- a) Submit an expression of interest to the CROP ICT Working Group Chair based on the their interest in being part of the Working Group and how they meet the membership criteria;
 - b) If deemed appropriate, the application will be discussed by the CROP ICT Working Group for a decision based on the approved criteria. The Working Group must make an unanimous decision on each application.
9. Members of the CROP ICT Working Group may invite observers to their meetings depending on the nature of business involved. Invited observers, at appropriate level of representation, will be from a key regional/international partner organisation working with member organisations of CROP ICT Working Group to implement regional programmes under the Framework for Pacific Regionalism and Pacific Regional ICT Strategic Action Plan.

CROP ICT Working Group
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