

**THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS OF
THE BALI PROCESS ON PEOPLE SMUGGLING,
TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS AND RELATED
TRANSNATIONAL CRIME**

BALI, INDONESIA, 12-13 NOVEMBER 2012

CO-CHAIRS' STATEMENT

1. The Co-Chairs of the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime (Bali Process) hosted a commemorative conference and a forum on advancing regional cooperation on trafficking in persons, to mark the 10th anniversary of the Bali Process in Bali, Indonesia, on 12 and 13 November 2012. The two-day event was attended by Bali Process members and observers and the Chairs of other Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs) on Migration: the Colombo Process; Inter-governmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees (IGC); Inter-governmental Authority on Development Regional Consultative Process on Migration (IGAD-RCP); Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA); and South American Conference on Migration (SACM).
2. Participants welcomed the opportunity to highlight the achievements of the past 10 years and to focus on ways to move the Bali Process forward including on possible future approaches to address people smuggling, trafficking in persons and related transnational crimes.
3. Participants welcomed the achievements of the Bali Process since its launch in 2002, noting it had become the pre-eminent regional forum for cooperation in developing regional responses to irregular migration in the Asia-Pacific. The Bali Process had successfully enhanced border security enforcement cooperation and increased members' capacities, including in the area of airport security; visa and document integrity; measures to counter trafficking in persons and victim support; legislation to criminalise people smuggling and trafficking in persons; and humanitarian and other protection needs.
4. Participants acknowledged the recent efforts of the Bali Process to address irregular migration under a Regional Cooperation Framework (RCF). Participants also supported the progress of the Bali Process and welcomed the recent establishment of the Regional Support Office (RSO) in Bangkok to implement the RCF. The RSO is already promoting greater information sharing and practical cooperation on refugee protection and international migration, trafficking in persons and people smuggling, border management and other components of migration management in the Asia Pacific.
5. The Co-Chairs encouraged members to continue to move the Bali Process forward, beyond information sharing to broader cooperative and practical approaches to managing irregular migration and combating people smuggling and trafficking in persons syndicates. The RCF provides the foundation for

furthering cooperation and sharing the burden among origin, transit and destination countries.

6. Members were congratulated for the spirit of partnership which had sustained the Bali Process over the last 10 years. Strengthening these partnerships would be vital to deepening cooperation over the next decade. To effectively manage challenges, Bali Process members need to continue to work together.
7. Participants acknowledged that the task of addressing the irregular movement of people, including its root causes, remained challenging and complex. People smuggling syndicates have proven to be adaptable to changing migration policies and continue to exploit vulnerable people, enticing them to move irregularly often in a dangerous manner. Participants noted the continuing work under the RCF towards consistent assessment processes for asylum seekers including, where appropriate and possible, through harmonised arrangements or the establishment of regional assessment arrangements including centres, taking into account any existing sub-regional arrangements.
8. The participants acknowledged the importance of raising public awareness of the role of the Bali Process in combating people smuggling and trafficking in persons by promoting broader public engagement including through the media.
9. Participants stressed that no one country could combat trafficking ventures alone because of the often-transnational nature of trafficking in persons. Participants also recalled that recent Bali Process workshops had recognised that the need to protect victims of trafficking was paramount. It was acknowledged that there were good opportunities for Bali Process members to work together and to continue to explore opportunities to achieve more effective and coordinated responses to prevent trafficking in persons, investigate and prosecute perpetrators, and protect and assist victims of trafficking. Members also agreed that international and regional cooperation was critical in the criminal justice response to trafficking, and that the Bali Process was an important forum for strengthening this cooperation.
10. The participants welcomed the potential for the Bali Process to cooperate with existing law enforcement capacity building mechanisms such as the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation in advancing shared elements of our forward agendas.
11. The Chairs of other RCPs on Migration informed participants that the irregular movement of people is a global challenge with which governments around the world have to grapple. Some RCPs reported emerging trends involving labour trafficking. These RCPs are working to enhance dialogue to ensure that overseas employment schemes do not allow for exploitation. Participants recognised that raising the profile of trafficking in persons issues at the regional level could help bolster national-level efforts. It is important for the Bali Process to keep pace with regional trafficking trends. Members agreed to strengthen dialogue and information exchanges on trafficking in persons issues including through the use of the Bali Process website secure portal

which was launched by Co-Chairs during the commemorative events. Members also agreed to explore further the issue of labour trafficking, including the extent to which it affects Bali Process members. Members further acknowledged the value in increasing engagement with experts from civil society and the private sector in Bali Process workshops where appropriate to ensure the Bali Process remains a responsive forum for policy dialogue.

12. While it is important to continue to share information, members recognised that the Bali Process still needs to broaden its responses to irregular movement, including people smuggling and trafficking in persons. The RSO provides a mechanism to do this. The RSO co-managers noted that RSO foundation projects were underway and encouraged members to participate in the work of the RSO. Members welcomed advice that the Standard Operating Procedures for the *Voluntary Return Support and Reintegration Assistance for Bali Process Member States* had been agreed and that the first irregular migrants, asylum seekers and refugees to receive assistance under the project had returned to their country of origin.
13. Participants noted that planning for the *Data Collection Project* to enhance immigration data collection and sharing was well advanced, with an agreed methodology, structure and consultants selected. Participants also welcomed the information that the mapping of arrangements for the protection and treatment of unaccompanied and separated children who arrive irregularly in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand is currently being progressed by the UNHCR and that planning was underway for the pilot study on information exchange and data analysis on irregular migration by sea and the *Regional Roundtable on Irregular Movements by Sea*.
14. Members noted that the RSO is also working to implement other activities as agreed by the Ad Hoc Group including assistance to interested members on the design and implementation of public awareness campaigns on the dangers of people smuggling and trafficking in persons; the development of a roster of migration management experts; and the provision of technical training to support countries' efforts on prevention, law enforcement, victim protection and inter-agency cooperation in addressing trafficking in persons and technical training on refugee protection and migration management.
15. Members noted that it is important to continue capacity building activities to strengthen border integrity and law enforcement cooperative measures as a core component of Bali Process work. These activities would seek to complement the work of the RSO. Members agreed to explore opportunities to develop biometric capability for more consistent identification and registration of irregular movement and to strengthen information and intelligence sharing, including by building on the Regional Immigration Liaison Officer Network, consolidating the secure website and implementing e-learning tools, and establishing UNODC's Voluntary Reporting System on Migrant Smuggling and Related Conduct in support of the Bali Process. Members were encouraged to explore possible links with other law

enforcement training institutions in the region which might mutually reinforce the work of the RSO.

16. IOM outlined the important role RCPs played in agenda setting, consensus building and in contributing to changes in law, policy and practice. Members welcomed the participation of the other RCPs and agreed to strengthen dialogue, including through the holding of events on issues of shared interest, continued exchange of information and ideas through the biennial heads of RCPs meeting, and by inviting RCPs to participate in Bali Process events and activities as appropriate.
17. Co-Chairs reaffirmed the Bali Process principle of inclusiveness and the importance of all Bali Process members having the opportunity to participate in Bali Process activities.
18. Finally, the participants acknowledged with gratitude the host Government of Indonesia for the excellent arrangements that were made for the commemorative events and the people of Bali for their generous hospitality.

Bali, 13 November 2012