

REMARKS

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Speaking time: 3-4 minutes

Mr Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Introduction

It is an honor to be here with you today. IOM is proud to have been associated with the Bali Process since its inception in 2002. I have had the honour of attending every regularly scheduled biennial Bali consultation since October 2008 in my capacity as IOM Director General.

I would like to congratulate the co-chairs (H.E. Ms. Retno Marsudi, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Indonesia and H.E. Ms. Julie Bishop, Australia's Minister of Foreign Affairs) and all the Members for organizing this

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ministerial conference precisely at a time when the conclusion of negotiations to adopt a Global Compact for Migration is coming to fruition.

I would like to highlight three points, or “3Ss” for easy recall:

1. Significance (or relevance of the Bali Process in the region)
2. Synergies (fostered by the Bali Process and other initiatives/ mechanisms)
3. Successes (of the Bali Process)

I SIGNIFICANCE (Migration in the Asia-Pacific context)

The Bali Process continues to be relevant to the situation and needs of the region. This is because human mobility is still one of the defining features of the region. Asia Pacific is home to 82.5 million migrants; 77.2 million people born in the region are outside of their countries of origin. Remittances received in Asia Pacific were estimated at USD 247 billion in 2017; and seven of the world’s top ten remittance receiving countries are here.

Smuggling and trafficking in persons remain a challenge. IOM estimates that 62% of people living in situations of modern slavery are in the region, working in sectors including the sex industry, agriculture, construction, fishing and hospitality.

Asia Pacific is also particularly prone to natural disasters and the impacts of climate change; at least 80% of the world's sudden onset disaster-induced displacement occurs in the region.

Nevertheless, migration dialogues and cooperation has been increasing in the Asia Pacific region. The Bali Process is one of the long standing cooperation frameworks in the world, and is working to address these migration challenges through policy dialogues and practical cooperation. And the Bali Process does this in coordination with many others, which brings me to my second point:

II. SYNERGIES (among RCPs and ISCMs)

The Bali Process is only one of many initiatives and mechanisms that is bringing migration high in the international agenda.

Two decades ago, it was nearly unthinkable to have migration as part of any global agenda. Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs) such as the Bali Process, have paved the way. RCPs and other similar “Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms” (ISCMS) have increased the international community’s awareness and appreciation of the breadth and cross-cutting nature of migration and its many challenges. Many of these dialogues instigated cooperation while slowly expanding in scope and geographical coverage in order for migration governance to gain acceptance as a topic of consideration in international fora. A few of these come to mind:

- Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees (IGC) (1985)
- International Dialogue on Migration (IDM) (2001)
- Bern Initiative (2001)
- Geneva/Global Migration Group (GMG) (2006)

Synergies among these dialogues have sensitized governments and other sectors of the need to talk about migration beyond one’s own borders. By bringing in governments and other sectors into the discussion table,

ISCMS have contributed to successfully shaping global migration governance – which then leads me to my third and final point.

III. SUCCESSES – of the Bali Process

Mechanisms such as the Bali Process are essential to regional, inter-regional and global migration governance. It has contributed to shaping common approaches to combatting migrant smuggling, human trafficking and related transnational crime and advanced practical cooperation to help its Members address these challenges.

The maturity and standing of the Bali Process is evident in your successful initiatives just in the last couple of years, namely:

- Bringing in a broader set of partners by including the private sector and civil society in your discussions and activity implementation efforts;
- Setting up groups and bodies providing more venues for discussion and planning to counter human trafficking, forced labour and modern slavery, such as: a *Consultation Mechanism; Task Force on Planning*

and Preparedness; Technical Expert Group on Returns and Reintegration; and especially the Bali Process Government and Business Forum;

- Engaging with other dialogue fora: ASEAN, Colombo Process, Abu Dhabi Dialogue; as well as your active contribution to the Global Compact for Migration process.

Closing

I wish to end by remarks by assuring you of IOM's readiness to continue its support to the Bali Process and the other inter-state consultation mechanisms. As of now, out of the 32 active Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms, IOM:

- is an observer to 16 ISCMs;
- is technical secretariat to 11;
- manages secretariat support projects for 7; and
- administratively hosts 2 secretariats.

Migration remains to be very high on the agenda of every conceivable global and regional forum and in the midst of enhancing UN system-wide support through the UN

Migration Network. I can assure you that IOM is ready to continue and strengthen its support to the Bali Process.

I wish you much success with today's meeting and beyond. IOM will be right there with you to support in any way we can.