

Ad Hoc Group Progress Report: October 2017

Report summarises activities undertaken since the previous Ad Hoc Group Senior Officials' Meeting (November 2016). It indicates the status of recommendations from the Bali Process Ministerial Conferences and follow-up Ad Hoc Group Senior Officials' meetings to implement the Bali Process Strategy.

	Action/Recommendation	Who	Status/Details
Law enforcement cooperation and capacity building			
1.1	Develop a capacity building program with the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCLEC) to strengthen border management and law enforcement cooperation.	RSO	<p>1) Meeting of Regional Training Centres of Excellence held in Bali 6-8 October 2015. The meeting agreed to the development of a centralised, regional catalogue of training programs available to Bali Process members, including JCLEC courses.</p> <p>2) The 2nd Meeting of National Training Directors was held at JCLEC on 18-20 July 2017, attended by more than 20 Bali Process states as well as international organisations. The meeting theme, <i>Enhancing Cross Border Cooperation through Training</i>, supported further building the cooperative relationships between States and organisations to exchange information about training and utilise common training resources.</p> <p>3) The 3rd Meeting of National Training Directors is tentatively planned for July 2018.</p> <p>4) The Regional Catalogue of Training and Capacity Building Courses website is under development, and due for completion in late 2017. The Catalogue will support Bali Process member states with a simple website/tool to enable them to search and identify relevant training materials and capacity building activities to better counter people smuggling, trafficking in persons and related transnational crime. Bali Process member States, international organisations and regional training institutions will be invited to list relevant training courses and training</p>

			materials in the Catalogue. Contributors retain full ownership of all training listed in the Catalogue, the Catalogue functions as a directory so that contributors can be contacted for further information.
1.2	Promote and expand the use of the Bali Process policy guides criminalising people smuggling and trafficking in persons, and identifying and protecting victims.	TIPs Working Group	Expanding and promoting the use of the guides is an ongoing action item in the TIPs WG forward work plan. Since November 2016, the TIPs WG has continued to deliver presentations and training on the guides in a range of locations, supported by the RSO. The guides on identifying and protecting victims have been translated into 14 languages. The guides on criminalising smuggling and trafficking have been translated into 4 languages - the TIPs WG will work to increase this to 14 languages in 2017-18.
1.3	Conduct Periods of Action under a Working Group on Disruption of Criminal Syndicates involved in People Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons	AHG members	<p>The inaugural activity of the Working Group, a Joint Period of Action (JPA), ran from 28 September- 28 October 2015. Law enforcement and immigration agencies from eight countries took part in separate but coordinated law enforcement operations against people smuggling and trafficking in persons networks. A second Joint Period of Action took place over six months (May to November 2016) involving 10 countries. Parallel efforts led to over 30 arrests as well as the disruption of networks in Malaysia, the Maldives, Philippines, Thailand, and the USA.</p> <p>The third Joint Period of Action ran from March to August 2017. Law enforcement and immigration agencies from ten countries – Australia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Maldives, New Zealand, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and the USA – carried out nine joint operations aimed at dismantling people smuggling and trafficking in persons networks in the Asia-Pacific region. Criminal networks involved in the online commercial sexual exploitation of children were also targeted.</p>

			Joint efforts contributed to 72 persons being convicted of human trafficking and people smuggling offences. It also led to the identification of 23 new suspects, 10 arrests, and nine new investigations being launched.
1.4	Hold annual meetings of the Trafficking in Persons Working Group to review progress and agree new regional priorities to combat TIP.	TIPs Working Group	The third annual working group meeting was held on 25 May 2017 in Bali. The Working Group agreed to a new 2017-19 Forward Work Plan, which will be submitted to the AHG SOM in October 2017. The next meeting of the working group will be held in early 2018.
1.5	Develop a policy guide and related training on 'Following the Money' in human trafficking cases	TIPs WG	A drafting committee was established to develop the guide and training module, with representatives from Indonesia, Australia, Bangladesh, Thailand, the Philippines and the UNODC. It met four times between September 2016 and May 2017. In May 2017, 91 participants from 37 Bali Process member countries attended a consultation workshop to finalise the guide and training module. The materials were endorsed by the TIPs WG on 27 May 2017. Following AHG SOM consideration, they will be translated into regional languages, printed and distributed, and used in training workshops in interested Bali Process countries.
1.6	Develop a Regional Strategic Roadmap for the Development and Implementation of Comprehensive Anti-trafficking Policies in Asia and Pacific	RSO	The Regional Strategic Roadmap (RSR) is a tool which allows Bali Process member countries to enhance their policy responses and legislative measures to combat trafficking in persons. The RSR equips Bali Process countries with a knowledge resource to inform the development and revision of counter-trafficking strategies and policies, drawing on comprehensive examples from the region. Members can contribute their national laws and policies to the website. A training workshop will be held in January 2018, to support hands on use of the RSR Portal as a self-assessment toolkit and a mechanism for better information sharing and promotion of best practices.

			The RSR can be accessed at www.baliprocess-rso-roadmap.net
Information and intelligence sharing			
2.1	Encourage members to sign up to and use the voluntary reporting system on migrant smuggling and related conduct (VRS-MSRC)	UNODC & members	The UNODC Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific launched the Voluntary Reporting System on Migrant Smuggling and Related Conduct (VRS-MSRC) in July 2013. Authorities from <u>23 states</u> and territories have confirmed their VRS-MSRC participation to date. UNODC is providing ongoing capacity building to members to improve data collection and reporting into the system. The system is also being redesigned to increase functionality and user-friendliness.
2.2	Reinvigoration of the Regional Immigration Liaison Officer Networks (RILON) as part of the Bali process Information and Intelligence Sharing Framework	RSO as coordination point	<p>RILON continues to be a strong Bali Process centred platform for relationship building and information sharing. Recently due to competing priorities and forums, meetings have stagnated. The last RILON meeting was held in May 2016 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.</p> <p>The RSO is currently developing a Bali Process Information and Intelligence Sharing Framework (the Framework) and has identified RILON as a critical platform to launch and operationalise this Framework. As such, the RSO will be working towards reinvigorating RILON once the Framework is established.</p>
2.3	Conduct pilot, joint information campaign	Bangladesh, Australia, IOM	<p>Australia continues to progress the implementation of a pilot, joint information campaign with Bangladesh. IOM Bangladesh is contracted to deliver the information campaign which aims to reduce irregular migration by sea from Bangladesh to Australia. IOM has delivered the following campaign outputs during the period June 2016 – June 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted consultation and awareness raising sessions on regular migration and the dangers of irregular migration to target audiences including 7,121 students in 135 schools, 1,744 community and religious leaders at 64 Union level meetings and

			<p>149 community and religious leaders at four District level meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organised 224 street theatre performances to a combined audience of more than 100,000 people in four districts (Cox’s Bazar, Narayanganj, Narsingdi and Sirajganj). Each performance was followed by a discussion session with the audience about the risks of irregular migration and the benefits of migrating through regular, lawful channels. Managed the development of a mobile game application (app), titled ‘Bidesh Jai’ (Translates as ‘Going abroad’). The game app aims to raise awareness and change the behaviour of people who are at risk of choosing irregular migration pathways. The app will be available to download in the near future and will be actively promoted over a three-month period through social media and field activation work to maximise uptake by target audiences.
2.4	Promote effective engagement with the private sector and civil society to prevent TIP and protect and assist victims, including support for the Bali Process Government and Business Forum.	TIP WG	<p>Dialogue with the private sector and civil society was initiated in the 2nd TIPs WG meeting on 18 May 2016. Since the November 2016 AHG SOM, the WG has engaged civil society actors to participate in training opportunities on identification and protection of victims of human trafficking.</p> <p>At the 3rd TIPs WG meeting in May 2017, members agreed to share best practice to prevent human trafficking in the supply chains of goods and services. The working group also agreed to conduct activities in 2017-18 to promote the development of partnerships between the public and private sector in Bali Process member countries to use money trails to detect and investigate trafficking in persons.</p>

2.5	Develop training materials and pilot workshop on the use of the <i>Bali Process Handbook on Addressing Irregular Migration through Effective Information Campaigns</i>	RSO (NZ funded)	Dialogue has begun with IOM and Indonesia. Currently coordinating a Technical Experts' Group to direct the project. To be delivered by second quarter 2018.
2.6	Develop a framework and associated guidelines and toolkit to assist Bali Process members share information and intelligence.	RSO (Canada funded)	Research has begun on existing information and intelligence sharing by members. Project to be delivered by 31 March 2018.
Border Management			
3.1	Immigration Liaison Officer (IMMLO) training	RSO	The RSO developed a pilot modular 5 day training program that was delivered at JCLEC, Indonesia in November 2016, to participants from 7 member States. The program was delivered by the RSO with support from the UK Border Agency. Feedback from the pilot training is being incorporated into the updated training curriculum and program, which will then be provided to Member States to review.
3.2	Technical Experts Working Group on Irregular Movements	TEWG	This forum has not convened since October 2014. Priorities originating from this TEWG have been achieved or are ongoing as a separate activity. It is expected that this forum will remain dormant until new priorities are identified by Member States.
3.3	Explore opportunities to expand existing bilateral and multi-country biometric data-sharing arrangements among Bali Process members	RSO, IOM	The Regional Biometric Data Exchange Solution (RBDES) Workshop was held on 23-24 February 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand. The workshop provided an overview of RBDES, training in system use and the overarching policy and privacy considerations of the Solution. Following this workshop, the RSO and IOM are engaging Member States to develop bilateral and multi-lateral agreements to use RBDES. During this process the RSO has identified several key areas in which the RBDES Policy Framework would benefit from greater flexibility, and which has thus far

			<p>hindered engagement. The Policy Framework was endorsed in March 2016 after a consultation period within which technical advice and guidance came from Bali Process Members and experts. The RSO is seeking authorisation to: 1) begin piloting the RBDES with interested members, and 2) form an interim Oversight Committee until such time as a full committee can be established according to the Policy Framework.</p> <p>Additionally, the AHG Workshop on Biometrics for Identity Integrity in Immigration, which last convened in 2012, will also be revitalised. This workshop will provide a platform to discuss emerging biometric technologies, potential risks and increase collaboration through regional data exchange. The timing of this workshop will be determined after interest has been gauged at the AHG SOM, with Australia leading this proposal.</p>
3.4	Quick Reference Guide for Frontline Officers – Assessing Travellers and Documents	RSO	<p>AHG Workshop on Immigration Border Operations Analysis, held in Bangkok from 26-28 May 2014, endorsed the production and distribution of quick reference guide. Following informal consultation with interested member states, a compact and user-friendly Quick Reference Guide was developed to assist frontline officers to assess travellers and travel documents. The Guide has been translated from English into Khmer, Tetum and Vietnamese, with further translations expected. The RSO will continue to print and provide to member countries on request.</p>
3.5	Curriculum on Standardized Induction Training for Frontline Border Officials	RSO	<p>Roundtable on Capacity Enhancement for Frontline Border Officials was held in Bangkok from 12-13 November 2014, providing feedback on existing induction training. In May 2015, the <i>Bali Process Curriculum on Standardized Induction Training for Frontline Border Officials</i> was finalised, with the support of the Technical Review Committee and made available to all member countries. The RSO is currently exploring with the Pacific Immigration Development Community (formerly the Pacific Immigration Directors Conference) how to best support Bali Process</p>

			members in that region with the development of basic border induction training that builds on the Curriculum. The RSO will engage with Bali Process member countries and international organisations to seek their support in development of basic border induction training available to all member countries.
3.6	Develop a training curriculum and deliver workshop(s) to assist Bali Process Member States in developing comprehensive approaches to irregular maritime movements	RSO / CIFAL / KOICA	<p>This project supports the work of the Taskforce on Planning and Preparedness and builds on the Table Top Exercise. Curriculum and training materials were developed by IOM and the RSO, with input from relevant experts. Consultations on these materials with international organisation and UN agency experts occurred in July 2017, followed by consultation with Bali Process member country experts in September 2017.</p> <p>The joint-pilot training workshop was delivered by the RSO and CIFAL-Jeju from 12-27 October in South Korea, with financial support from Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). The pilot-workshop provided training and support information sharing for participants from South and Southeast Asia States. A range of experts presented at the training, from international organisations, government agencies and academia. Evaluation of the pilot will inform further development of the curriculum and standard training materials.</p>
4. Cooperation on returns and reintegration			
4.1	Encourage countries of origin to undertake voluntary repatriation and/or the return of those found not to be in need of international	RSO/IOM	The AVRR Project was implemented by IOM under the auspices of the RSO. Since 1 July 2012, the project has facilitated over 900 migrants in returning to their countries of origin from Bali Process Member States, including 127 migrants between July 2016 and June 2017. ¹

¹ <https://thailand.iom.int/sites/default/files/Infosheets/IOM%20Infosheet%20-%20AVRR%20%28For%20Donors%29.pdf>

	protection. Consider expanding the AVRR project.		
4.2	Technical Experts Group on Returns and Reintegration	Australia & AHG members	The Bali Process Technical Experts Group on Returns and Reintegration (RRG) is a network of experts on returns and reintegration from Bali Process Ad Hoc Group member countries and organisations. The RRG is a mechanism through which Bali Process members may share information on returns and reintegration. Planning for the inaugural meeting of the RRG is underway.
5. Protection and asylum management			
5.1	Address humanitarian and protection needs in managing irregular movement	RSO	Development of a toolkit is underway to enable states to assess how they register births, deaths and marriages of asylum seekers, refugees, stateless persons and persons of undetermined nationality. The project seeks to expand registration and documentation coverage, and in turn, enhance the capacity of states to identify and provide protection to at-risk populations. The draft Toolkit will be tested with a Bali Process member(s) in order to evaluate its self-assessment methodology.
5.2	Develop best practice models on refugee protection, victims of trafficking in persons and international migration.	RSO/IOM	The RSO tasked UNHCR to develop a thematic brief on “ <i>Access to Asylum Procedures</i> ”. The aim of the brief is to provide Bali Process member countries with a better understanding of key concepts and practices in place to address refugee protection. The brief has not yet been completed.
5.3	Provide a series of training workshops on Enhancing a Victim Centred Approach: Identification, Assistance, and Protection of Trafficking Victims in the Asia-Pacific Region.	RSO & CIFAL- Jeju (South Korea)	Training sessions are held at CIFAL-Jeju training institute in South Korea, aimed at Enhancing a Victim Centred Approach: Identification, Assistance, and Protection of Trafficking Victims in the Asia-Pacific Region. A training workshop took place on 4-7 April 2017 and a further workshop is scheduled for 21-24 November 2017.

5.4	Quick reference guides (QRG) on interviewing techniques for persons with specific needs	RSO	The RSO, through the secondment of a Cambodian National Police official, developed a quick reference guide on interviewing victims of trafficking in persons, and a guide on interviewing child victims of trafficking. The guides outline some key sample questions, providing simple practical guidance to police/border officials/first responders to conduct interviews with potential victims of trafficking. The QRG on interviewing victims of trafficking in persons has been translated into Indonesian, Khmer, Sinhala, Tetum, Thai and Vietnamese. The seconded Cambodian police official provided training on the guides to police participants who had gathered from all 25 provinces, during a training of trainers' event in Phnom Penh.
6. Member Engagement and Outreach			
6.1	Conduct outreach with other Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs) and multilateral fora on irregular migration issues to identify opportunities for sharing expertise and lessons learned.		The Co-Chairs and IOM (as Bali Process Secretariat) attended the Sixth Global Meeting of RCPs in Geneva (13 October 2016) and updated other RCPs on Bali Process priorities. IOM will continue outreach and information-sharing with other RCPs. The RSO attended and presented on Bali Process related issues at a wide range of fora, including ASEAN Regional Forum on TIP, as well as regional meetings on immigration/border management in Asia and the Pacific and on countering migrant smuggling by sea and air.
6.2	Encourage States to second officials to work in the RSO on a project basis	Bali Process members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jordan 2015 Secondment – supporting Regional Mapping Project on anti-trafficking activities, Regional Training Coordination Mechanism (RCTM). - UNHCR Ongoing Secondments – including leading projects on thematic brief on Access to Asylum Procedures, Civil Registration Assessment Toolkit and Regional Strategic Roadmap for Anti-trafficking policies - Indonesia 2015 Secondment - supporting Regional Training Coordination Mechanism / RSO-JCLEC Partnership

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Afghanistan 2013 Secondment – included developing a document examination manual for Afghan border officials - Cambodia 2016 Secondment– leading the development of Quick Reference Guides on interviewing victims of trafficking in persons, and interviewing child victims of trafficking in persons, and delivering training on these guides - Timor-Leste 2016 Secondment – develop and deliver the training on Quick Reference Guide on Interviewing Victims of Trafficking and Quick Reference Guide for Frontline Border Officials in Timor-Leste - New Zealand Secondment in 2017 and ongoing - current secondment leading projects on information campaigns, information sharing and visa integrity - UNODC Late 2017 secondment planned with USA funding – leading project on regional sharing of information/intelligence related to trafficking in persons and people smuggling, particularly in maritime context - RSO remains open to secondments from other member States
6.3	Establish Consultation Mechanism on urgent irregular migration events	Affected/interested Bali Process members, led by Co-Chairs	<p>At the Sixth Ministerial Conference Ministers agreed to have a mechanism to authorise the Co-Chairs to consult and convene meetings to discuss urgent irregular migration issues. Participation is voluntary and non-binding. A Concept Note for Administrative Arrangements was endorsed at the 11th AHG SOM. The Arrangements will be subject to ongoing evaluation and may be updated in consultation with the AHG.</p> <p>The Consultation Mechanism was convened for the first time on 13 October 2017 in Jakarta, in response to the current large-scale movements of irregular migrants in Myanmar and Bangladesh. Following the meeting, the Co-Chairs will undertake follow-up actions.</p>

6.4	Taskforce on Planning and Preparedness (TFPP)	Affected/interested Bali Process members, RSO, IOM, UNHCR	<p>A key recommendation of the Andaman Sea Review, endorsed by the 11th AHG SOM in Colombo, was the creation of a Task Force on Planning and Preparedness (TFPP) to support the Co-Chairs' Consultation Mechanism. The TFPP comprises operational officials responsible at national level for dealing with trans-border large movements of migrants and refugees. The first meeting of the TFPP was held in Bangkok on 27 January 2017, and agreed on modalities of operation for the TFPP.</p> <p>The second meeting of the TFPP was held as a Table Top Exercise (TTX) in Bali 18-19 May 2017. The meeting explored responses to a hypothetical scenario involving mixed maritime movements. The TFPP will meet again in 2018 to take forward actions from the TTX, and other activities as directed by the Co-Chairs.</p>
6.5	RSO support to member States on request	RSO	<p>The RSO continues to provide support to member States on request. Support includes: supporting and delivering training on Bali Process Policy and Quick Reference Guides for interested States, including training in partnership with the Attorney-General's Department; on request translating and printing Bali Process Policy and Quick Reference Guides for distribution; and hosting State officials and supporting them in their responses to TIP and SOM. The RSO Report on Activities outlines further examples.</p>