



REGIONAL SUPPORT OFFICE

BALI PROCESS

The Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime

RSO NEWSLETTER

Edition Three

Message from the Co-Managers

We were pleased to present the Regional Support Office's (RSO) bi-annual progress report to members at the Seventh Ad-Hoc Group (AHG) Senior Officials' Meeting in Sydney from 4 to 5 March 2013.

In particular, participants noted that the operationalization of the Regional Cooperation Framework (RCF) through the establishment of the RSO was a key milestone which had resulted from the strong support of members seeking to advance effective cooperation in the face of shared challenges. Sustaining and strengthening the RSO and its work program was recognised as paramount to the effective implementation of the RCF.

Participants noted with appreciation that the substantive work plan of the RSO was well underway, including the development of a roster of legal, policy and operational experts.

The RSO is considering options for implementation of additional approved activities to ensure that the office acts as a long-term and practical resource for Bali Process members. Regional engagement and ownership by Bali Process members will be critical to the success of the RSO in this endeavour.

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Ways forward from the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the Bali Process

On 2-3 April, the RSO attended the Senior Officials' Meeting and the 5th Regional Ministerial Conference of the Bali Process, hosted by Indonesia and Australia in Bali, Indonesia.

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Ministers welcomed the establishment of the RSO by the Ad-Hoc Group and noted that the projects, implemented by IOM and UNHCR under the auspices of the RSO, were already achieving results. The RSO-project on assisted voluntary returns has to date supported the voluntary return of 169 irregular migrants, asylum seekers and refugees (see page 3 for more information on the project).

Ministers urged members to strengthen the implementation of the RCF, “including through participation in the [...] RSO” and encouraged member states “to second officials to work in the RSO on a project basis and welcomed the participation of Afghanistan” as the first government to second an official to the RSO (see page 2 for more information and how to engage with the RSO).

Ministers directed the RSO to jointly with the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCLEC) “develop a program of cooperation and training which would bring together law enforcement and immigration management experts”.

The RSO was further tasked to develop policy guides in consultation with interested member states. These guides “could be used by States [...] to promote a consistent understanding of international legal obligations and assist in developing effective domestic legislation” (see page 3 for more information on the policy guides).

For the Co-Chair’s Statement [click here](#).

RSO supports the Regional Roundtable on Irregular Maritime Movements



The Government of Indonesia and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) convened a Regional Roundtable on Irregular Movements by Sea in the Asia-Pacific from 18 to 20 March 2013 in Jakarta under the auspices of the RSO. This initiative, funded by the US Government, is one of the four [foundation projects](#) implemented by the RSO. Participants included delegates from Bali Process Ad Hoc Group Members, UNHCR, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and government and NGO experts from other regions including the Caribbean, the Gulf of Aden and the Mediterranean.



The Roundtable identified a range of issues, including specific proposals that require further consideration and elaboration under the Regional Cooperation Framework, including:

- The designation of focal points at national and regional level linked to the network of RSO focal points;
- The development of guidelines and a simpler reference guide of applicable legal standards;
- Strengthening regional cooperation in prosecuting smugglers and traffickers;
- Better harmonization and consistency of protection responses including identification of needs; and
- A better mapping of post-disembarkation options to ensure host States are properly supported in the medium and longer term.

At the Fifth Ministerial Conference, Ministers recommended “that members give priority to building on the regional roundtable [...] and further explore practical ways in which affected States could strengthen cooperation in managing irregular maritime movements including through the development of a protection-sensitive regional approach.”

To access all background documents and presentations (including Co-Chairs Statement), [click here](#).

Please also find the [RSO information sheet on the Regional roundtable on irregular movements by sea](#) on the RSO website.

RSO Roster of Experts

The *RSO Roster of Experts* objective is to serve as a tool for capacity building of interested Bali Process members by making available legal, policy and operational expertise. The scope of expertise for the Roster covers refugee protection and international migration; including human trafficking and smuggling, border management and other components of migration management.

The roster comprises of experts nominated by Bali Process members and observers who are officials from governments, international organizations and civil society including NGOs. A call for expert nominations was disseminated to all Bali Process members and observers on 22 February 2013. Calls for experts are envisaged on an annual basis.

The RSO was pleased to secure funding from the Governments of Australia and Japan for the online Roster of Experts system on the Bali Process website. The RSO has already received several expert nominations.

For more information on the *RSO Roster of Experts*, [click here](#).

Update on RSO Foundation Projects

The RSO's engagement with Bali Process members continues through the four foundation projects covering key migration and refugee protection issues. Progress is well advanced, and members are encouraged to participate.

Enhancing Collection, Use and Sharing of Data

Overview: *This project, implemented by IOM, promotes improved information management between States and international organizations by enhancing data collection, supporting further analysis and reporting, and facilitating information sharing and dialogue. It is funded by the Australian Government.*

Consultants have developed the project methodology and structure, and an E-Questionnaire will be forwarded to Bali Process members shortly regarding regular migration, irregular migration, asylum and civil registration. The project completion date has been extended to October 2013.

Voluntary Return Support and Reintegration Assistance

Overview: *This pilot project aims to raise awareness of voluntary repatriation opportunities for irregular migrants and enhancing government capacity to facilitate voluntary returns. This project is implemented by IOM and funded by the Australian Government.*

As of 25 April 2013, the project has supported the voluntary return of 169 irregular migrants, asylum seekers and refugees to their country of origin, with an additional 68 persons awaiting approval for return. In the case of asylum seekers and refugees, return has been facilitated in line with UNHCR's established principles and procedures. The project is implemented by IOM under the auspices of the RSO and funded by the Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship.

Pilot study on information exchange and data analysis on irregular migration by sea

Overview: *Further consideration of the scope of this project by the RSO will occur after the Regional Roundtable on Irregular Migration by Sea.*

Mapping and analyzing the protection situation of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) in South East Asia. This project is implemented by UNHCR in cooperation

with Mahidol University, Thailand. Researchers have mapped and analyzed the protection situation and treatment, including best practices and gaps, for UASC arriving irregularly in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. A Regional Consultation was held on 14-15 February 2013 in Bangkok, led by Mahidol University. A set of Guidelines is currently being developed under the project with the aim of promoting a baseline of treatment of UASC in line with minimum international and regional standards and best practices.

RSO tasked with development of policy guides to support UNTOC implementation

At the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the Bali Process, Ministers agreed that policy guides be developed to assist policy makers and practitioners to criminalise people smuggling and trafficking. Ministers directed that the RSO, in consultation with interested members, develop guides which could be used by States across a range of domestic agencies to promote a consistent understanding of international legal obligations and assist in developing effective domestic legislation.

RSO to explore opportunities for regional training cooperation

At the 5th Ministerial Meeting, the RSO was tasked to link the Bali Process with the law enforcement training expertise of existing regional centres of excellence. Ministers directed the RSO to work with JCLEC to develop a program of cooperation and training which would bring together law enforcement and immigration management experts to build capacity and strengthen the capabilities of member States. As a first step, the RSO is undertaking a mapping of regional capacity building institutions in the form of a comprehensive catalogue.

The *RSO Catalogue of Regional Capacity Building Institutions* will include concise information on law enforcement and other institutions involved in capacity building training activities in geographic and thematic areas of relevance for the Bali Process. It is a tool aimed to contribute to the development of a Regional Capacity Building Program and to support Bali Process members. For more information, [click here](#).

To express your institution's interest in inclusion in the Catalogue, simply complete and return the [RSO Catalogue Questionnaire](#) to the RSO by email info@rso.baliprocess.net or fax +66 2 676 7337 with the subject reference "RSO Catalogue".

Bali Process members encouraged to nominate RSO National Focal Points

To facilitate direct communication and engagement with members, the RSO has encouraged members to nominate RSO National Focal Points.

The network of Focal Points comprises of national officials from Bali Process member government departments or ministries relevant to the scope of the Bali Process, with a senior level of authority and decision-making capacity.

These officials have the role of facilitating information sharing, coordination and joint planning on RSO matters at a national level among key departments, as well as sharing information on immigration policies, procedures and practices, and are primary recipients of information on RSO initiatives and events.

To nominate, Bali Process members can complete and return the RSO National Focal Points Nomination Form to be found [here](#).

Engage with the RSO - Technical officer secondments

The RSO welcomes the secondment of Mohammed Yasin Stanikzai, Director of Document Examination Lab (Kabul International Airport), Afghanistan Ministry of Interior, by the Government of Afghanistan to the RSO. For two months, starting in March 2013, Mr. Stanikzai contributes to the drafting of a manual and a checklist for document examination to be used by Afghan border officials.

For more information on ways to engage with the RSO, [click here](#).

RSO expresses gratitude to Thai and US Government for their recent contributions and support

The RSO would like to thank the US Government for the funding and support of the Regional Roundtable on Irregular Movements by Sea in the Asia-Pacific, convened in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 18 to 20 March 2013.

The RSO conveys gratitude to the Thai Government for the recent financial contribution to support the RSO's activities. Bali Process member states expressed their appreciation for Thai and US Government support at the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the Bali Process in April 2013.

For more information on ways to engage with the RSO, [click here](#).

RSO Engagement with Civil Society

The RSO acknowledges the role that civil society can play in supporting Bali Process member states to address irregular migration issues. It welcomes open communication and also supports greater cooperation with civil society actors as part of policy, legislative and operational initiatives where this is requested by member states.

For further information on the RSO's engagement with civil society, please refer to the RSO Information Sheet: [Engagement with Civil Society](#)

RSO Engagement with Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs)

RCPs bring together representatives of states, international organizations and, in some cases, non-governmental organizations for informal and non-binding dialogue and information exchange on migration and refugee protection-related issues of common interest and concern. The value of exchanging information and good practices between RCPs has been recognized through the Global Meetings of Chairs and Secretariats of RCPs.

The RSO's engagement with RCPs has specific and mutual benefits for both Bali Process member states and RCPs from other regions.

For further information on the RSO's engagement with civil society, please refer to the RSO Information Sheet: [Engagement with Regional Consultative Process on Migration](#)

UNODC Voluntary Reporting System on Migrant Smuggling and Related Conduct (VRS-MSRC) in support of the Bali Process

The Voluntary Reporting System on Migrant Smuggling and Related Conduct (VRS-MSRC) is an internet-based, secure IT solution to collect, share and facilitate the analysis of information on migrant smuggling, irregular migration and other related conduct. As a tool for state authorities, the VRS-MSRC will securely provide participating countries with up-to-date information. The VRS-MSRC is based on the principle of mutual information sharing: only states that provide data will have access to the information provided by other states. The VRS-MSRC will be launched by mid 2013.

For more information on the Voluntary Reporting System on Migrant Smuggling and Related Conduct, [click here](#).

State authorities, which wish to join the VRS-MSRC, should contact the VRS-MSRC team at vrs@unodc.org.

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