



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies statement**

*Ministerial Conference of the*

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

***Bali, Indonesia, 7 August 2018***

Madam Chairs, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and our 191 member National Societies around the world, offer our deepest condolences to the people of Indonesia following the recent tragic events in Lombok.

It is my pleasure to deliver this statement on behalf of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and our 191 member National Societies around the world.

Respected Chairs,

Today's Ministerial Conference provides an important opportunity for Bali Process members to continue to strengthen cooperation with other stakeholders, such as ourselves, who are present at the local level in 39 countries throughout the Asia Pacific region and along migratory routes, to tackle the complex nature of trafficking and smuggling, and protect those at risk.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and our member National Societies are committed to collaborating with all relevant stakeholders in the Asia Pacific region to address the humanitarian needs of all migrants, irrespective of status, including those at risk of trafficking and exploitation. Indeed, many National Societies are already working with the support of or in cooperation with their Governments to meet the humanitarian needs of migrants along various stages of their migratory journey,

As demonstrated through the recently held Roundtable with governments and civil society, co-hosted by the Bali Process Trafficking in Persons Working Group, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Australian Red Cross, and involving the active participation of seven Red Cross or Red Crescent National Societies and the ICRC, the Movement is committed to engaging in humanitarian diplomacy, including National Societies as auxiliaries to their public authorities, in favour

of migrants at risk. We look forward to building upon the positive outcomes of the Roundtable, and greater collaboration between the IFRC and the Bali Process through the Regional Support Office, and relevant Technical and Working Groups.

For our part, the Red Cross Red Crescent Asia Pacific Migration Network facilitates the sharing of information and good practices, and acts to enhance regional cooperation between National Societies to better assist and protect the most vulnerable migrants, including those who have experienced trafficking or exploitation.

While migration can offer many benefits, we also see migrants exposed to negative humanitarian consequences brought about by legislative frameworks and current practices in the Asia Pacific region. We see migrants facing abuse, persecution and death.

The International of Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and member National Societies, guided by our Fundamental Principles, believe that all migrants - irrespective of their legal status - should be treated with dignity and have access to essential basic services at all stages of their migration journey.

In that respect, Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies have long carried out a range of context-specific activities for people at various stages of migration. These include providing prospective migrants with information about “safe migration”; organising social inclusion and cohesion activities in countries of destination; supporting authorities in ensuring access to healthcare for migrants; and - together with the International Committee of the Red Cross - National Societies endeavour to restore links between migrants and their families and address the plight of missing migrants.

Many of these activities are documented in the recently published IFRC guidance on [Addressing the humanitarian consequences of labour migration and human trafficking: The Role of Asia Pacific National Societies](#). For example, the **Australian Red Cross**’ specific programmes to support survivors of trafficking with the provision of material assistance and a dedicated caseworker, and the assistance - including psycho-social support - offered to returning migrants by several National Societies including the **Indonesian Red Cross**, the **Nepal Red Cross** and the **Philippine Red Cross**.

Respected Chairs,

The International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement calls upon Member States of the Bali Process to undertake measures to address and prevent the negative humanitarian consequences of current policies and practices in line with the principle of humanity. In this regard, measures aimed at addressing

irregular migration should conform with States' obligations under international law, including upholding the principle of *non-refoulement* and the right to seek asylum.

And, while recognising the right of States to regulate immigration to their territories, the Movement invites States to commit to reforming the practice of immigration detention:

- By avoiding immigration detention, unless as a matter of last resort: liberty should be the norm. If there are individual grounds for detention, alternatives to detention should be considered first; and
- By ending the detention of children, and family separation, for immigration-related reasons.

In addition, we believe that saving lives is an imperative. We welcome the reaffirmation made yesterday by Bali Process members of all the commitments made in the 2016 Declaration, including to “protect migrants and refugees”, as adopted during the Ministerial Conference of 2016.

We further call upon States to take necessary measures to:

- Ensure that any person, and especially any child, who is at risk of exploitation and/or who has experienced trafficking is safely and effectively identified, and referred appropriately and safely to humanitarian support and assistance.
- Recognise unaccompanied and separated children as amongst the most vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation. It is crucial that the best interest of the child—and particularly the needs of unaccompanied and separated children - are the primary consideration in all mainstream responses and programmes, and that appropriate safeguards and protection mechanisms are in place to keep children safe wherever they are .

Finally, as many migrants continue to be pushed to the margins of society and unable to enjoy their fundamental human rights, we ask that States do their utmost to guarantee that all migrants have effective access to essential services, irrespective of their legal status, and ensure that the provision of humanitarian assistance is never criminalized.

Ultimately it is only by working together that we can ensure the safety, well-being and dignity of all migrants, in particular those in the most vulnerable situations, who really need our support.

Thank you.

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