



The Bali Process

on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime

**REGIONAL SUPPORT OFFICE OF THE BALI PROCESS
ROUNDTABLE ON
MIGRATION AND TRANSNATIONAL CRIME
BANGKOK, THAILAND 24 SEPTEMBER, 2014**

OUTCOME STATEMENT

1. A *Roundtable on Migration and Transnational Crime* was hosted by the Regional Support Office of the Bali Process in Bangkok, Thailand on 24 September, 2014. The Roundtable was co-chaired by the Governments of Sri Lanka and New Zealand and was attended by representatives from Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, New Zealand, Myanmar, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, U.A.E., and USA. Experts from ASEANAPOL, Canada, and INTERPOL also participated in the Roundtable.
2. The Roundtable commenced with panel discussions that allowed delegates to explore the challenges governments face in disrupting people smuggling and trafficking networks. Within this frame, participants considered existing law enforcement mechanisms that have been effective in responding to these challenges.
3. In working sessions delegates considered complimentary regional and multilateral forums which also focussed on countering smuggling and trafficking in persons. Delegates considered activities for inclusion in the forward work plan of the *Working Group on the Disruption of People Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons Networks* (Working Group). It was recommended that the first meeting of the Working Group should be held in the first quarter of 2015.
4. Delegates agreed that improving information and communication processes would enhance regional law enforcement and national security agencies' ability to better target people smuggling and trafficking syndicates. Delegates also acknowledged the benefits of forums which supported collaboration, enhanced coordination and collective commitment.

Proceedings

5. The Indonesian and Australian Co-Managers of the Regional Support Office Bebeb A.K.N. Djundjuna and Lisa Crawford opened the meeting with an address that underlined the benefits of sharing regional experiences to combat people smuggling and human trafficking networks more effectively. The RSO welcomed the opportunity to work closely with the Working Group.
6. The co-chairs, Kapila Waidyaratne, *Additional Solicitor General, Attorney General's Department and Head of the Trafficking and Smuggling Unit, Sri Lankan Government*, and Steve Stuart, *General Manager, Compliance, Risk and Intelligence (CRIS), Immigration New Zealand* underscored their respective governments' commitment to improving the means through which States engage to combat smuggling and trafficking within the Asia-Pacific region.

Panel Session 1: Challenges in disrupting people smuggling and trafficking in persons criminal networks

7. Karen McMahon, *Liaison Officer, Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA)*, Pol. Col. Voravat Amornvivat, *Deputy Commander, Investigation Division, Immigration Bureau, Royal Thai Police*, and Rear Admiral Rohana Perera, *Sri Lanka Navy*, presented the first panel discussion on challenges in disrupting people smuggling and trafficking networks.
8. In this session, delegates shared case studies and insights into their governments' assessments of people smuggling and trafficking networks. It was noted that access to timely and reliable information was a key to disrupting networks. Delegates also noted the benefits of a centralised mechanism through which information could be shared consistent with national sovereignty, privacy and legal obligations. Supporting the facilitation of information exchanges on syndicates, hierarchies, modus-operandi, financial networks and methodologies was considered an important area for further consideration. Information exchanges could also include effective practices, trends, tools, and case studies.

Panel Session 2: Law enforcement mechanisms and responses to disrupt people smuggling and trafficking in persons criminal networks

9. Assistant Commissioner of Police, Mohamad Anil Shah Bin Abdullah, *Director for Police Services, ASEANAPOL Secretariat*, Steve Mewburn, *Commander, Special References, Australian Federal Police*, Steve Harvey, *International Law Enforcement Expert, United Kingdom*, and Glyn Lewis, *Director, Specialized Crime & Analysis, INTERPOL* presented on existing law enforcement mechanisms to disrupt people smuggling and trafficking in persons networks.
10. Delegates underscored the importance of cross-border joint investigations as an effective means through which States could proactively collaborate to combat people smuggling and human trafficking. Panelists noted the importance of focusing efforts on disrupting financial networks used by criminals involved in people smuggling and trafficking in persons. It was agreed that the benefits of coordination and cooperation, including the possibility of joint investigations,

warranted further discussion and that jurisdictional limitations should be considered as part of this discussion.

11. Participants suggested that effective information sharing could provide early warnings regarding push/pull factors that could be exploited by criminal networks but enable governments to respond to potential threats. Joint working groups were seen to play an important role in tackling transnational criminal networks. It is noted that regional mechanisms were most effective when they are flexible and adaptive.

Working Session 1: Mapping exercise of existing regional and multilateral initiatives

12. Mapping exercises of existing regional forums were conducted to ensure that the *Working Group*' activities are complementary to other initiatives. The mapping activity highlighted priority areas and delegates recommended a comprehensive mapping exercise be undertaken and then presented at the first Working Group meeting. The RSO was invited to take this activity forward as a means of ensuring that the Working Group was addressing matters of priority to the membership and not duplicating the work of existing forums.

Working Session 2: Development of a forward work programme

13. It was agreed that the forward work plan for the *Working Group* should attempt to create a regional map of criminal trafficking in persons and people smuggling networks. The first meeting of the Working Group could include a table top exercise designed to underline the benefits of regional cooperation, highlight the importance of joint action and identify mechanisms to share information.

Recommendations

1. Delegates considered that the work program of the *Working Group* should be forward leaning, practical in nature and focused on strengthening the effectiveness of existing mechanisms. The forward work program should focus on:
 - i. assessments of syndicates, hierarchies, modus operandi, financial networks and methodologies used by people smuggling and trafficking criminal networks
 - ii. operational responses to future trends including identifying push and pull factors which may impact the region
 - iii. consider opportunities for enhancing coordinated activities to combat people smuggling and human trafficking networks while respecting jurisdictional limitations as well as national sovereignty and privacy legislation
 - iv. sharing current effective practices, tips, tools, and information on capacity building and awareness raising activities
 - v. understanding the work of other regional forums to ensure that discussions and outcomes are complementary to other initiatives
 - vi. mechanisms which support regional information exchanges

2. These activities could be supported through table top exercises, panel discussions, case studies, and scenario driven activities focused on improving action to combat people smuggling and trafficking in persons.
3. The Working Group was tasked to explore central mechanisms through which timely and reliable information could be shared. Recommendations need to be underpinned by principles respecting national sovereignty, privacy, and legal obligations. The RSO was tasked to consider tools to support this work.
4. The RSO was tasked to undertake a comprehensive mapping exercise of existing regional operational forums to ensure that the *Working Group's* activities are complementary to other initiatives.
5. The first meeting of the *Working Group* is to be held in the first quarter of 2015.