



REGIONAL SUPPORT OFFICE

BALI PROCESS

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

RSO's ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

Civil society and migration

Civil society actors involved in migration and refugee protection-related issues have various functions, goals, capacity and geographical coverage. They include non-governmental organizations, migrant and diaspora associations, community groups, faith-based organizations, professional associations and foundations, trade unions, etc.

Civil society actors are engaged in issues of relevance to the Bali Process in numerous ways. Some organizations provide services and assistance to migrants, asylum seekers, refugees, stateless persons and victims of trafficking. Others advocate on specific migration and refugee protection-related issues or principles, operate as think tanks or contribute to policy formulation and implementation upon invitation by governments.

The engagement of civil society actors in national migration and refugee protection agendas and initiatives varies across the region. In some countries, they have a formal and well-defined role; in others their role is less structured and more informal, or limited.

The RSO, Bali Process and Civil Society

The Bali Process is a non-binding and state-driven process. During the 10th Anniversary of the Bali Process, members acknowledged the importance of engaging with experts from civil society where appropriate to ensure the Bali Process remains a responsive forum for policy dialogue.

The primary purpose of the RSO is to support Bali Process member states to address irregular migration issues by promoting practical bilateral and sub-regional arrangements and initiatives that operationalize the Regional Cooperation Framework.

The RSO acknowledges the role that civil society can play in supporting these activities. It welcomes open and direct communication directly and also supports greater

synergy and cooperation with civil society actors as part of policy, legislative and operational initiatives where this is requested by member states.

In April 2013, at the Fifth *Ministerial Conference* of the *Bali Process* in Bali, Indonesia, Ministers urged that a future Working Group on trafficking in persons seek the expertise and experiences of a range of community, industry and private sector groups in implementing activities.

Why the RSO engages with civil society

The RSO is committed to:

- being transparent about its activities through open communication and dialogue
- fostering a culture of listening and mutual learning by encouraging civil society to bring to its attention relevant issues and to share information, knowledge, expertise and identified best practice.
- respond effectively to requests from Bali Process member states, through facilitating operational partnerships and/or other practical contributions .

How the RSO engages with civil society

The RSO engages with civil society in various ways, by:

- welcoming dialogue and information-exchange on an ad hoc or a systematic way through arranging open forums for discussion;
- disseminating information on RSO initiatives, events and relevant issues to civil society
- promoting information sharing and exchange of good practices through the RSO website at <http://www.baliprocess.net/regional-support-office>
- supporting ad hoc, targeted and regular dialogue and consultation between Civil Society and member governments upon request from Bali Process states.

Contact the RSO for more information

Telephone: +66 (0) 2343 9477

Email: info@rso.baliprocess.net

