

Strategic Plan for the Regional Support Office of the Bali Process 2018-2020

Purpose

This Strategic Plan will guide the activities of the Regional Support Office of the Bali Process (RSO) for the 2018-2020 period, including the development of the Annual Work Plans. The Strategic Plan reaffirms the RSO's mission to operationalise the Regional Cooperation Framework (RCF):

to reduce irregular migration in the Asia-Pacific region and support and strengthen practical cooperation on countering people smuggling, trafficking in persons and related transnational crime, including migration and border management and refugee protection.

Since its establishment in 2002, the Bali Process has effectively raised regional awareness on the consequences of people smuggling, trafficking in persons and related transnational crime. Chaired by Australia and Indonesia, it currently brings together 48 Member States and international organisations, as well as a number of observer countries and international agencies. It is a forum for policy dialogue, information sharing and practical cooperation, to address the challenges reflected in the RCF.

The RSO was created in 2012 to act as a focal point to:

- (i) Facilitate information sharing on trafficking in persons, people smuggling and related transnational crime, as well as migration and border management and refugee protection;
- (ii) Support capacity building and exchange of best practices;
- (iii) Encourage pooling together of common technical resources; and
- (iv) Offer logistical, administrative, coordination and operational support for joint pilot projects.¹

Vision for the RSO - 2018 to 2020

The RSO supports the RCF by partnering with Bali Process Member States to foster collaboration on practical activities that have a greater impact. The RSO will be the focal point for coordination, engagement, capacity building, and sharing best practice for countering people smuggling, trafficking in persons and related transnational crime.

¹ See RSO Terms of Reference in "Bali Process Steering Group note on the operationalization of the regional cooperation framework in the Asia Pacific region", 12 October 2011

RSO Strategic Direction and long-term goals

1. Increasing cooperation and strengthening capability of Member States in countering people smuggling, trafficking in persons and related transnational crime, including current and emerging issues.
2. Encourage unified regional action on refugee protection and international migration, including human trafficking, smuggling and border management, through information sharing including the exchange of best practice and matching expertise between Bali Process Member States.
3. Enhance regional states' capacity to cooperate on returns.
4. Enhance the region's capacity to collaborate on large-scale irregular movements at sea.
5. Bolster regional states' capacity to transfer personal information securely.
6. Build and strengthen partnerships with existing regional organisations such as ASEAN, COMMIT and SAARC to ensure better alignment and minimise duplication of effort.
7. Build Member States confidence in the RSO's usefulness as a regional coordination point on irregular migration issues by providing logistical, administrative, coordination and operational support to Bali Process working groups and encourage greater understanding and awareness among Bali Process Member States to access RSO services.

RSO activities and functions

Based upon its experience and strengths the RSO will focus its efforts and resources on issues where the Bali Process is gaining momentum or identified as current priorities. To achieve the above goals, the RSO will:

Support and collaborate with the Bali Process Co-Chairs and working groups to address and support policy and operational developments.

The RSO, as part of its governance, operates under the direction of the Co-Chairs to ensure it is aligned and able to fully support Bali Process Member States. To achieve this, the RSO implements activities as directed by Co-Chairs and collaborates with Bali Process working groups as appropriate.

Support and provide capacity building, strengthen information sharing and joint projects.

- Measures consist of the development of practical tools and policy guides for capacity building, meetings of national experts and officials, infrastructure and support for operating Bali Process joint projects, and supporting the exchange of information, data and best practices;
- Strengthening engagement by facilitating secondment opportunities at the RSO for Member States, establishing communities of practice, coordinating table-top exercises, developing regionally agreed training curricula, carrying out regionally agreed gap analysis, information campaigns, flexible research capacity and coordination of capacity building activities.
- In partnership with Member States jointly develop and deliver capacity building activities.

Enter into partnerships with regional and international organisations and forums.

- Widespread regional and international collaboration and capacity building requires partnerships with key stakeholders across the region. This will entail entering into agreements on sharing information, support to operations, and planning on program and capacity development.

Apply results based management by setting goals for collaboration and capacity building activities, and monitoring and evaluating performance.

- Operating through “results based management” means including setting goals on the impact of collaboration/capacity building.

Consultation with the Bali Process and its members.

- The RSO will continue to host consultations on Member States’ needs and priorities in order to maximize benefits from developments in the Bali Process. Evaluation and review of this support will be done on a continuous basis.

RSO Mandate and reporting

The RSO will consult with the Bali Process Co-Chairs and the Steering Group in development of the Strategic plan. This Strategic Plan will inform the development of the RSO Annual Work Plans. The RSO will submit an annual report to the Bali Process Co-Chairs at the Ad-Hoc Group meeting on the implementation of the Strategic Plan and the Annual Work Plan.