

**BALI PROCESS ON PEOPLE SMUGGLING, TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS  
AND RELATED TRANSNATIONAL CRIME**

**SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING**

**BALI, INDONESIA, 22 MARCH 2016**

**CO-CHAIRS' STATEMENT**

1. The Co-Chairs of the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime (Bali Process) hosted a Senior Officials' Meeting in Bali on 22 March 2016. The Meeting was attended by representatives of Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Fiji, France (New Caledonia), Hong Kong SAR, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Lao PDR, Macau SAR, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Syrian Arab Republic, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Canada, European Commission, Finland, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Russian Federation, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, the United Kingdom, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Labour Organization (ILO), INTERPOL and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) attended the meeting as observers.
2. The Meeting assessed the activities and achievements of the Bali Process since the Fifth Bali Process Ministerial Conference held in Bali on 1 April 2013, and made recommendations for consideration at the subsequent Sixth Bali Process Ministerial Conference on 23 March 2016.

**Proceedings**

3. The Co-Chairs recalled the outcomes from the Senior Officials' Meeting in Bali on 1 April 2013 and the Co-Chairs' Statement from the Fifth Ministerial Conference; updated the Meeting on the implementation of Ministers' directions and priorities agreed at the Fifth Ministerial Conference; and reported on the outcomes of the Tenth AHG Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) (2 February 2016, Bangkok). The Co-Chairs noted that the Tenth AHG SOM emphasised the need to strengthen efforts to address the root causes of irregular migration, including through

integrated approaches to development and migration; respect for human rights; and sustainable, inclusive economic growth; and ongoing dialogue among affected countries and international organisations.

4. Participants affirmed the continuing concerns regarding human trafficking, particularly labour trafficking, in the Asia-Pacific region, and its links with related transnational crime. The Meeting welcomed the establishment of the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons, as directed by the Fifth Ministerial Conference and the implementation of its forward work plan through the convening of *Regional Symposium on Trafficking for the Purposes of Labour Exploitation* in Bangkok (25-26 March 2015).
5. Participants commended the Regional Support Office (RSO) and participating members for their work in producing the Bali Process Policy Guides on *Criminalizing Migrant Smuggling* and *Criminalizing Trafficking in Persons*, as directed by the Fifth Ministerial Conference. The Meeting also welcomed the subsequent Policy Guides on *Identification of Victims of Trafficking* and *Protection of Victims of Trafficking*, and the further work being undertaken to promote the use of the policy guides, including training for officials and translation of the guides into key regional languages.
6. Participants welcomed progress of the partnership between the RSO and the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCLEC) and its planned activities including a catalogue of training and capacity building courses, and regular meetings of regional training centres of excellence and National Training Directors.
7. The Meeting welcomed the outcomes of the *Jakarta Declaration Roundtable Meeting on Addressing the Root Causes of Irregular Movement of Persons* (28-29 November 2015, Jakarta), including better integration of migration and development into the national planning framework.
8. Participants reaffirmed the importance to international asylum systems of the return of persons found not to be owed international protection, and welcomed the recommendations of the *Bali Process Roundtable on Returns and Reintegration* (Manila, 3-4 December 2015), including establishing a Technical Experts Group to exchange best practices with respect to returns and reintegration, and development of model readmission agreements for use by interested member states.

#### *The way forward*

9. Participants welcomed the convening of the two *Special Meetings on Irregular Migration in the Indian Ocean* (29 May and 4 December 2015),

and took note of the proposed action plan for the five affected countries. Members welcomed inputs from the *Track II Dialogue on Forced Migration*, and supported the recommendation to review the regional response to last year's irregular migration events in the Andaman Sea, and share the lessons among Bali Process members. This would also identify recommendations to improve national and regional contingency planning and preparedness.

10. Participants also endorsed the proposal to have a mechanism of the Bali Process consultation mechanism, to enable the Co-Chairs to consult and convene meetings with affected and interested members in response to current regional issues or future emergency situations.
11. The Meeting agreed on the proposed agenda of the Sixth Bali Process Ministerial Conference, focusing on current challenges, trends and responses in irregular migration in the region. The Meeting also agreed to submit the draft Bali Declaration on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime to be considered and adopted by the Ministerial Conference. The Declaration reflects Bali Process' concerns and commitment towards addressing irregular migration of persons under the principle of burden sharing and collective responsibility. Members agreed on the draft text to be recommended to Ministers for consideration.
12. The Meeting agreed on priority activities to take forward, including those recommended by the Tenth AHG Senior Officials' Meeting (2 February 2016, Bangkok) (ANNEX).

#### *Review of work since the Fifth Ministerial Conference*

13. The Meeting reviewed the activities undertaken to implement Bali Process objectives since the last meeting of Bali Process Senior Officials on 1 April 2013 and welcomed the report of activities implemented since the Fifth Bali Process Ministerial Conference.
14. Participants welcomed the RSO's continuing partnership with CIFAL-Jeju (Republic of Korea), providing training on Enhancing a Victim Centred Approach to Identification, Assistance, and Protection of Trafficking Victims in the Asia-Pacific Region, and in particular the engagement of non-government and government sectors.
15. The Meeting affirmed the importance of training of frontline officers in ensuring effective border management and preventing irregular migration and related transnational crimes, and recognised the collaborative efforts of countries, facilitated by the RSO, in developing a *Curriculum on*

*Induction Training for Frontline Border Officials* which includes topics relevant to individual states and their region.

16. The Meeting noted the significant efforts made by the Bali Process in increasing the focus on practical cooperation in addressing human trafficking and irregular migration challenges and further noted that operational mechanisms have now been established and embedded, including the RSO, the Working Groups, and targeted workshops and roundtables.
17. The Meeting noted the latest update to the *Bali Process Strategy for Cooperation* and forward work program (which were endorsed by the Eighth AHG SOM in August 2014), including planned activities to strengthen practical cooperation in areas such as immigration management, protection of refugees and other vulnerable groups, border integrity and legal capacity building, and law enforcement cooperation. The Strategy will continue to be reviewed and updated to reflect regional and sub-regional priorities and Ministers' directions.
18. Participants reaffirmed the value of information and communication strategies and campaigns in deterring people smuggling and human trafficking, and welcomed updates on regional information campaign initiatives, including the RSO Technical Training Working Group on Information Campaigns.
19. The Meeting welcomed the development of the Regional Biometric Data Exchange Solution (RBDES) and noted potential uses of the solution (such as identity verification, visa caseload management, and investigation and prosecution of suspected transnational offences) and encouraged members to utilise it.
20. The Meeting welcomed the recent *Joint Period of Action*, coordinated by the Bali Process Working Group on the Disruption of People Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons Networks (established at the Eighth AHG SOM in August 2014), and planned follow-up activities, including cross-border coordination and joint operations targeting specific criminal networks under a Second *Joint Period of Action*, and the joint meeting of the two Working Groups (planned for May 2016).
21. The Meeting welcomed the contribution of UNODC's Voluntary Reporting System for Migrant Smuggling and Related Conduct (VRS-MSRC) in strengthening the information base and data on people smuggling and irregular migration in the region, and helping to facilitate collaboration between member states.

22. The Meeting commended the RSO's continuing work in operationalizing the Regional Cooperation Framework and implementing practical regional cooperation and capacity building, including new initiatives such as the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Project, which will enhance the capacity of States to record and document vital events among key populations as part of the mainstream civil registration system. The Meeting encouraged members to continue supporting and actively participating in RSO activities.
23. The Meeting recognized the importance of strengthening engagement with the private sector in combating human trafficking and related exploitation.
24. The Meeting noted that protection-sensitive strategies refers to strategies to ensure the identification of those in need of international protection, while recognising the sovereign rights of member states to implement border controls.
25. The Co-Chairs acknowledged the support of the IOM in assisting invited members to participate in the SOM.
26. The Meeting expressed its appreciation to the Government of Indonesia for its generosity and hospitality in hosting the SOM.

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## PRIORITY ACTIVITIES

The meeting agreed on the following priority activities to take forward and these will be further reflected in the updated Bali Process Strategy for Cooperation:

- members strengthen efforts to help tackle the root causes of irregular migration, including through activities that promote good governance, inclusive economic growth, full respect for human rights and fundamental freedom, a sense security and belonging, basic services, and address the problems of statelessness (through measures such as civil registration);
- members develop activities to enhance the protection of refugees and displaced persons, including through training of border officials in responding to asylum claims, and exploring predictable disembarkation options;
- members continue to progress the Regional Biometric Data Exchange Solution (RBDES);
- the Bali Process establish a Technical Experts Group on best practices for returns and reintegration; and work through the RSO on developing model readmission agreements for potential use by member countries;
- members pursue continued regional cooperation on effective information communications strategies, to inform potential migrants of the risks of irregular migration;
- members increase cooperation on improving access to, and awareness of, safe and regular migration pathways, including information-sharing and coordination of labour migration policies, exploring opportunities for multilateral and multi-country labour mobility arrangements, and increased awareness among migrants and potential migrants of regular migration options;
- the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons provide ongoing support to members in capacity-building in:
  - identification and protection of victims of trafficking in persons,
  - developing effective anti-money laundering legislation and enhancing proceeds of crime laws;
- members participate in follow-up Joint Period of Action operations under the Working Group on Disruption of People Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons Networks;
- members develop activities to further enhance cooperation and information exchange with other relevant capacity-building and development programs, to maximize benefits to members and the region.

