



BALI PROCESS WORKING GROUP ON THE DISRUPTION OF PEOPLE SMUGGLING AND TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS NETWORKS

BANGKOK, THAILAND

12 OCTOBER 2022

SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING CO-CHAIRS' STATEMENT

1. The Governments of Vietnam and New Zealand co-chaired the 2022 Annual Meeting under the Bali Process Working Group on the Disruption of People Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons Networks (Disruption Working Group, DWG) on 12 October 2022. The meeting was conducted in a hybrid format in Bangkok, Thailand with participants joining in virtually.
2. The purpose of the annual meeting was to bring together participating countries and international organisations to reflect on the priorities and activities in the previous years and consider the Forward Work Plan to discuss what the DWG can focus on in the next 12-24 months.
3. Several participating countries—Australia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United States of America and Vietnam attended the meeting. Representatives from the Bali Process Regional Support Office, the International Organization for Migration, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime also attended.
4. The co-chairs are pleased to note these activities which have been conducted this year:
 - a) **Table-top exercise on people smuggling and trafficking in persons investigations:** working together with the Taskforce for Planning and Preparedness (TFPP), the table-top exercise provided an opportunity for participants to engage with a fictitious and hypothetical movement of irregular migrants. This in-person activity took place in Bangkok, Thailand on 10-11 October 2022.

The activity completes two action items in the Forward Work Plan:

- Simulation-based exercises on people smuggling and trafficking in persons investigations
 - Collaboration with the Task Force on Planning and Preparedness
- b) **Presentations by subject matter experts:** two subject matter experts presented at the Annual Meeting:



- Dr. Marieke Jasperse, Senior Advisor- Trafficking in Persons, Immigration New Zealand presented on trauma-informed approaches to investigating trafficking in Persons cases
- Ms. Parveen Khunkhun, Royal Canadian Mounted Police presented on Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) collection

These presentations completed another action item in the Forward Work Plan:

- Providing presentations on trends, policies and tools
5. The co-chairs note that participating countries and international organisations are keen to participate in a Joint 12-month Period of Action, allowing tangible outcomes from larger and longer-term investigations to be progressed and reported on. Participants provided a suggestion for this activity - investigating the links between trafficking in persons and online scams. The topic will be finalised in 2023, in consultation with members. The co-chairs look forward to facilitating the Joint Period of Action in the coming months.
6. Other suggestions for future priorities and activities included:
- a) Training on trauma-informed approaches to addressing people smuggling and trafficking in persons, including returns and reintegration considerations.
 - b) Workshops on improving collection and sharing of standardised or anonymised data.
 - c) Training on ethical use of data, biometrics and personal information.
7. The Co-Chairs thank the participating countries and international organisations for their ongoing commitment and support for the Disruption Working Group. We encourage you to get in touch with us if you would like to lead or support any of the suggested activities.

Yours sincerely,

Vietnam Co-Chair
Bali Process Disruption Working Group

New Zealand Co-Chair
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