

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

Ad Hoc Group Senior Officials' Meeting Sydney, Australia, 27 June 2018

Co-Chairs' Statement

1. The 13th Ad Hoc Group Senior Officials' Meeting (AHG SOM) of the Bali Process was held in Sydney on 27 June 2018. The meeting reviewed progress of AHG activities and achievements since the Sixth Bali Process Ministerial Conference (23 March 2016, Bali) and the 12th AHG SOM (31 October 2017, Kuala Lumpur). It considered issues and priorities for the Seventh Bali Process Ministerial Conference (6-7 August 2018, Bali).

Key Themes

2. The meeting welcomed progress toward implementing the 2016 Bali Declaration through active participation in the Bali Process work program by members and other stakeholders. This work program was being driven through the Bali Process working groups and other engagement mechanisms, and the activities of the co-chairs and the Regional Support Office (RSO).

3. The meeting acknowledged the significant challenges of irregular migration globally and regionally. It noted with concern the situation involving displaced persons in the region and the risk of irregular maritime movement. It supported the early sustainable and voluntary return of displaced persons. It underlined that the transnational nature of irregular migration requires a comprehensive regional approach.

- . The UNHCR noted the significant challenges that irregular movements bring to countries, and to the region, the need for predictable search and rescue, disembarkation, and reception measures to respond to such movements in a victim-centred and protection-sensitive manner, and how access to livelihoods and justice and expanded migration pathways can prevent the smuggling and trafficking of refugees and others vulnerable to exploitation.
- . The IOM emphasised the importance of continuing to collect data on irregular migration to inform collaborative approaches that address these challenges, highlighted the importance of working with immigration authorities to combat fraudulent use of travel documents, and noted the collaborative role for the private sector in eradicating forced labour and related exploitation from supply chains.

4. The meeting welcomed 'good offices' outreach by the co-chairs to affected countries in May 2018. It appreciated the commitment expressed by these countries to work actively within the Bali Process. It supported proposed visits by the RSO to discuss specific areas of assistance and cooperation.

5. The meeting commended the objective of the Bali Process Government and Business Forum to take action to eradicate human trafficking, forced labour, modern slavery and the worst forms of child labour across the Bali Process region. It considered draft recommendations to strengthen collaboration between government and business. It recommended confirmation of the Forum as an additional permanent track of the Bali Process.

6. The meeting supported Bali Process efforts to strengthen member state collaboration with civil society on trafficking in persons, and in other areas, including returns and reintegration. It recognised the benefits of practical cooperation and sharing of information, intelligence and best practices. It supported increasing Bali Process links with other regional and international consultative processes addressing migration.

Proceedings

7. On law enforcement cooperation and capacity building, the meeting:

- commended the Working Group on Disruption of Criminal Networks Involved in People Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons for strong law enforcement outcomes achieved, and its planning for the fourth Joint Period of Action from June to November 2018;
- commended the activities of the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons under its 2017-19 forward work plan, including training on the *Following the Money* policy guide, and holding a Government and Civil Society Roundtable in May 2018;
- welcomed the promotion and ongoing translation into multiple languages of Bali Process policy guides on criminalising people smuggling and trafficking in persons, and identifying and protecting victims, and the development and promotion of a regional catalogue of training and capacity building courses;
- noted capacity building with the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCLEC) to strengthen border management and law enforcement cooperation; and training on the Regional Strategic Roadmap tool, to enhance policy responses and legislative measures to combat trafficking in persons.

8. On information and intelligence sharing, the meeting:

- commended the IOM-run Bangladesh-Australia information campaign pilot, aimed at reducing irregular migration by sea, including through a mobile app 'Bidesh Jai' (Going Abroad), and supported further developing similar activities;
- welcomed effective engagement with the private sector and civil society to prevent trafficking in persons and modern slavery and to protect and assist victims;
- welcomed the delivery of training materials and a pilot workshop on the *Bali Process handbook on addressing irregular migration through effective information campaigns*, and the development of a framework to assist and promote intelligence and cross-border information sharing among members;
- welcomed the release of the enhanced UNODC voluntary reporting system on migrant smuggling and related conduct (VRS-MSRC) in May 2018.

9. On border management, the meeting:

- welcomed RSO-provided training for frontline border officials, and that the RSO will continue border induction training, and noted assistance to the Pacific Immigration Development Community with border induction training;
- supported exploring the scope to expand biometric data sharing arrangements, and holding a Workshop on Biometrics for Identity Integrity in Immigration;
- noted the RSO review of pilot immigration liaison officer training will feed into an updated draft training curriculum and program to counter trafficking and smuggling in the airport environment.

10. On cooperation on returns and reintegration, the meeting:

- . welcomed progress made by the meeting of the Technical Experts Group on Returns and Reintegration (TEGRR, April 2018, Manila), which exchanged views on best practices and agreed to the development of a policy guide on returns and reintegration to provide a consistent understanding among members;
- . welcomed support to develop a policy guide on returns and reintegration, to be implemented by the TEGRR, with further meetings to be held in the next 12 months to progress the project;
- . welcomed that the IOM-run Assisted Voluntary Returns and Reintegration (AVRR) project has facilitated the return of migrants to their country of origin from member states, and supported continuation of the program.

11. On protection and asylum management, the meeting:

- . welcomed RSO and UNHCR efforts to develop a Civil Registration and Vital Statistics toolkit to enable members to assess how they manage humanitarian and protection needs;
- . commended the training at CIFAL-Jeju in the Republic of Korea aimed at enhancing a victim centred approach on trafficking in persons;
- . noted the usefulness of Quick Reference Guides on interviewing victims of trafficking in persons, which are promoted by the RSO and used in training.

12. On member engagement and outreach, the meeting:

- . commended the third meeting of the Task Force on Planning and Preparedness (TFPP, March 2018, Bangkok) focusing on National Plans of Action to improve coordination and responses to irregular maritime migration crises, and the operational support provided by the TFPP for the Consultation Mechanism;
- . welcomed the development of updates, and member engagement on the *Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration* and the *Global Compact on Refugees*, which seek to address displacement and promote well-managed migration;
- . commended efforts of the Working Groups on Trafficking in Persons, and on the Disruption of People Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons Networks for their efforts to engage more closely with ASEAN, including through an Initial Consultation in May 2018 with representatives of the ASEAN SOMTC and its Working Group on Trafficking in Persons;
- . encouraged Bali Process engagement with other regional consultative forums on migration, including the Budapest Process, the Colombo Process, and the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, and strengthening partnerships with other regional organisations, including ASEAN;
- . encouraged members to consider seconding officials to work in the RSO on specific projects.

13. On the Bali Process Government and Business Forum, the meeting:

- . acknowledged the extensive consultation and work undertaken by the business co-chairs to develop draft recommendations for government and business;

- . welcomed the Forum's draft recommendations to strengthen collaboration between government and business.

14. On the Bali Process Strategy for Cooperation, and the RSO's Strategic Plan and Work Plan, the meeting:

- . reviewed implementation of the Strategy for Cooperation, and acknowledged ongoing priorities;
- . commended the RSO's management and active program of work, consistent with its 2018-2020 Strategic Plan and 2018-2020 Forward Work Plan.

The Way Forward

15. Following discussion on the planned Seventh Bali Process Ministerial Conference, and consideration of priorities, participants agreed to recommend that the co-chairs:

- . prepare draft agendas for the Bali Process full SOM (6 August) and Ministerial Conference including the joint meeting with the Government and Business Forum (7 August);
- . work with the business leads of the Government and Business Forum to refine the draft recommendations for government and business;
- . put forward the draft ministerial declaration/communique for consideration at the full SOM and Ministerial Conference.

Participation and support

16. The meeting was attended by representatives of: Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Maldives, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates, the United States of America and Vietnam, as well as the UNHCR, IOM and UNODC, and RSO. The Walk Free Foundation and the Asia Dialogue on Forced Migration both presented and attended as observers. Canada attended as an observer.

17. Appreciation was expressed to Australia, for hosting the meeting, and for the technical contributions made by IOM, UNHCR and UNODC across the range of Bali Process activities, and for administrative and logistical support provided by IOM.