



The Bali Process

on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime

Working Group on Disruption of Criminal Networks Involved in People Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons

FORWARD WORK PLAN 2025-2027

The Bali Process Working Group on the Disruption of Criminal Networks involved in People Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons (Disruption Working Group, DWG) is a network of officials involved in aspects of national security, law enforcement, and border control with active roles in targeting transnational people smugglers and traffickers within the Bali Process interested countries.

The DWG provides a forum for interested Bali Process Ad Hoc Group member states to share information and best practices to dismantle transnational criminal networks involved in people smuggling and trafficking in persons in the region.

The Forward Work Plan 2025-2027 articulates key priorities and activities for the Disruption Working Group over the next two years. It is intended to be a 'living' document that can be amended to reflect new and emerging Working Group priorities. Delivering the Forward Work Plan will progress key objectives under the Disruption Working Group's Terms of Reference:

- Discuss the role of transnational networks in people smuggling and trafficking in persons
- Foster a better understanding of the routes, modus operandi, hierarchies, and criminal activities of transnational people smugglers and traffickers and their cross-border movements (e.g. by examining past and/or ongoing investigations)
- Suggest strategies to strengthen national and regional law enforcement efforts and discuss avenues for improved information sharing amongst law enforcement, security, and border agencies
- Promote effective and coordinated approaches in the investigation and prosecution of people smuggling and trafficking in persons crimes
- Identify ways to strengthen the operational capacities of participating agencies to disrupt the transnational crimes of people smuggling and trafficking in persons
- Build trust and confidence among law enforcement, security, and border agencies to ensure information and intelligence is appropriately managed and protected



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- Share examples of best practice in tackling transnational crime (e.g. extradition, seizing assets, and mutual legal assistance)
- Recognise existing operational level multilateral law enforcement forums and working groups focussing on people smuggling and trafficking in persons and ensure activities of this Working Group complement strategies and activities undertaken in those forums wherever possible
- Propose relevant initiatives related to combating regional transnational networks involved in people smuggling and trafficking and related crime for consideration in the forward work plan of the Regional Support Office (RSO) to the Bali Process
- Consider other issues determined by the Working Group as relevant to fulfilling its role.

Co-chairs of the Disruption Working Group will work closely with other working group co-chairs to align planning and avoid duplication of Bali Process member efforts.

Planned activities over 2025-2027

a) Combined table-top exercise in collaboration with other Bali Process Working Groups (Combined TTX)

To further on the success of the 2022 tabletop exercise the DWG will organize an expanded event that sees all Working Groups cooperating together over a multi-day period, to a wider audience capable of reaching farther into the Region. This event is planned for mid-2025.

Objectives

The TTX aims to:

1. Improve understanding of states' individual and coordinated responses to irregular migration situations involving trafficked and smuggled individuals.
2. Enhance cooperation and coordination among Bali Process member countries and relevant international organizations.
3. Identify challenges and gaps in current response mechanisms and explore strategies for improvement.
4. Enhance cooperation and coordination among Bali Process Working Groups

This will include several days of cooperation based around a scenario that would involve the expertise of all Working Groups and lead to a capacity lift across member states and organisations. The scenario will likely take the form of a mixed migration event by land and sea, a people smuggling venture by sea or trafficking in persons across land borders to an organised criminal hub or centre.



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Working groups will lead the day's activities based on the given scenario and how it evolves through the week. They will for example, organize a key-note speaker(s) for the day and supplement with small work group activities or panel discussions.

N.B. The DWG does not propose a *simulation exercise* where groups work through different physical locations like ports, crime scenes or hostels with role players. Rather, a tabletop exercise involves discussion-based sessions where member states meet to discuss their roles relating the scenario (before, during or after), their responses to the particular situation.

The tabletop exercise should not be seen as an operationally focused event. One of the strengths from 2022's TTX was the mix of policy, legal and operational leaders that attended and contributed.

b) Joint Period of Action (JPOA) in 2026

The Joint Period of Action (JPOA) is the centrepiece of the Disruption Working Group. The purpose is to enable interested members to carry out co-ordinated law enforcement operations against criminal networks involved in people smuggling and/or trafficking in persons over the designated time period.

To further on the success of the 2023-2024 JPOA, the DWG co-chairs will organize another JPOA in 2026.

The outcomes for the joint investigation are:

- Gathering evidence and prosecuting those engaged in people smuggling and trafficking in persons
- Developing a more detailed intelligence picture of criminal syndicates and their modus operandi
- Awareness-raising of issues relating to people smuggling and trafficking in persons and related crimes among law enforcement officials

The most recent JPOA was completed over a duration of 12 months, to allow for tangible outcomes from larger and longer-term investigations to be progressed and reported on. We will review the duration of the next JPOA, with input from members to determine the most efficient time frames for the activity.