



OUTCOME STATEMENT: FOURTH RSO CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE

27-28 JANUARY 2026



FOREWORD

The movement of people across borders continues to shape regional stability, labour markets, and community resilience across the Asia Pacific. As migration patterns become more complex, governments face the dual challenge of facilitating safe and orderly mobility while responding to evolving risks linked to irregular migration, people smuggling, trafficking in persons, and related transnational crime.

No single government or institution can respond effectively in isolation, particularly as migration dynamics, criminal methodologies, and geopolitical pressures continue to evolve.

The unique convening power of the Bali Process, which brings together 45 Member States, 4 Member Organisations and 27 Observer States and Organisations, reaching across the Asia Pacific to Europe, Africa and North America, provides a critical multilateral platform where governments are able to strengthen cross-border connections, build shared understanding and trust, and engage in open dialogue.

As the practical and technical arm of the Bali Process, the Regional Support Office of the Bali Process (RSO) acts as a connector and enabler for Bali Process members in supporting capacity development and progressing efforts relating to migration management, governance and refugee protection.

The Constructive Dialogue—as the RSO’s flagship annual event—is a key dialogue for the region in facilitating exchange across governments at a senior policy level, alongside practical and actionable knowledge exchange with thematic experts and representatives from civil society through workshops and networking opportunities.

This year’s theme of ‘Migration Security and Protection: Collaborative Approaches for Resilient Systems’ invited reflection on system-wide enhancements that support the effectiveness of migration management, while also improving the experience and protection of individuals navigating migration systems. On-the-ground challenges and priorities identified by frontline officers at the Fourth RSO Border Forum, the RSO’s flagship capacity building activity for all Bali Process members, were presented to senior officials to inform discussions.



A Tour de Table bringing together regional dialogues and coordination mechanisms that address migration governance provided a first step in enhancing inter-regional exchange of good practice, which the RSO plans to take forward through the establishment of a Common Pathways Forum.

At the Constructive Dialogue, delegates were encouraged to reflect not only on progress and promising practices, but also on identified gaps within national systems and regional mechanisms, and to consider where collective action, coordination, or targeted support could strengthen resilience across the region.

These conversations provide the starting point for progress and enhancements to ways of working at national and regional levels, that can protect and save lives and strengthen regional security and migration governance and oversight. Thank you to all whose work feeds into these efforts. As Co Managers of the RSO, we extend our gratitude to all participants for the strong engagement shown and commend the clear commitment to strengthening connections and mutual understanding. The RSO stands ready as ever to support Bali Process members in taking forward future shared efforts.



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David Scott
RSO Co-Manager (Australia)



A blue ink signature of Fuad Adriansyah, written in a cursive style.

Fuad Adriansyah
RSO Co-Manager (Indonesia)

MIGRATION SECURITY AND PROTECTION: COLLABORATIVE APPROACHES FOR RESILIENT SYSTEMS

The Fourth Constructive Dialogue was structured through a combination of plenary sessions, panel discussions, and parallel workshops, designed to balance strategic reflection with practical exchange, and provide peer-to-peer learning. Member State-led updates and exchanges of promising practice were structured around three interrelated priorities for the Bali Process region:

Countering transnational crime linked to irregular migration and trafficking in persons, with discussions highlighting the expanding reach of organised criminal networks and the need for more coordinated and integrated responses to increasingly agile and well-resourced operations.

Reducing vulnerabilities across labour mobility and migration-management systems, recognising that safe and orderly movement across borders is a shared reality for governments, and that strengthening legal pathways, worker protections, and sustainable return and reintegration mechanisms is central to reducing risk.

Strengthening joint action through cross-border cooperation and regional mechanisms, including through trusted information-sharing networks, shared protocols across borders, and more systematic engagement with civil society and private-sector actors.

A series of workshops allowed delegates the opportunity to explore areas of interest in thematic depth and to meet regional experts and actors. Thematic issues covered include the role of Artificial Intelligence, tracing illicit financial flows, rethinking migration information programmes, exchanging information across borders, reducing system vulnerabilities in labour mobility, and provided an opportunity for delegates to collectively discuss the IOM and UNHCR Route-Based Approach for Asia and the Pacific.

Frontline perspectives on operational challenges and opportunities for stronger cross-border cooperation identified at the Fourth RSO Border Forum—the RSO’s annual capacity building activity—were integrated into senior-level discussions, helping to ground policy dialogue in operational realities.

By sequencing the Border Forum ahead of the Constructive Dialogue, the RSO creates an annual opportunity to connect operational experience with policy decision-making. Frontline challenges, priorities and suggestions can be reflected to those in policy roles who are able to influence and direct ways of working and prioritisation of efforts.

A Tour de Table brought together The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (Budapest Process Secretariat), The COMMIT Process, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), The Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees (IGC), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) participated alongside Bali Process Senior Official Co Chairs.

KEY INSIGHTS FROM THE FOURTH CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE

1

Aligning efforts for impact: strengthening information sharing and regional mechanisms

Information sharing remains a cornerstone of effective regional cooperation, and principles of multilateral cooperation more important than ever. Delegates discussed progress and ongoing challenges in strengthening trusted, timely, and actionable information exchange at a regional level to enable more effective responses to emerging threats.

2

Meeting the challenge posed by transnational crime groups: strengthening coordinated and integrated responses

Organised crime groups are characterised by polycriminality—engaging in multiple, overlapping crime types at once including trafficking in persons and people smuggling, fraud, money laundering, and drug smuggling—which provides them with diversified revenue streams, operational resilience, and the agility to shift tactics and activities in response to opportunity, risk, and profit. Delegates underlined the critical need to strengthen coordinated and integrated responses to match the reach and agility shown by criminal networks and effectively disrupt their operations.

3

Promoting pathways that support safe and legal labour mobility: enhancing protection for people on the move

The safe and orderly movement of people across borders in search of work opportunities and livelihoods is a reality that every government has to manage. Expanding legal labour mobility requires concrete action: streamlining visa and work permit processes, strengthening bilateral labour agreements, enforcing migrant worker protections, and establishing clear, accessible reintegration support for those returning home. Together, these measures create safer migration pathways and more durable outcomes for people on the move.

4

Preparing for emerging priorities and challenges: collective efforts in the face of new pressures

Delegates reaffirmed their commitment to advancing the objectives of the [Bali Process 2023 Adelaide Strategy for Cooperation](#) and to strengthening practical collaboration through regional mechanisms and partnerships. Delegates highlighted the need for migration frameworks to keep pace of evolving realities and promote shared responsibility—noting the diverse demographic, economic, environmental and human pressures the region faces.

ALIGNING EFFORTS FOR IMPACT: STRENGTHENING INFORMATION SHARING AND REGIONAL MECHANISMS

Information sharing remains a cornerstone of effective regional cooperation, and principles of multilateral cooperation are more important than ever. Delegates discussed progress and ongoing challenges in strengthening trusted, timely, and actionable information exchange to enable more effective responses to emerging threats.



SPOTLIGHT ON MEMBER AND OBSERVER STATES AND ORGANISATIONS PROMISING PRACTICES AND SOLUTIONS



THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA highlighted success achieved through bilateral law enforcement cooperation with Viet Nam, including joint operations, information sharing, identity verification, and joint border control efforts, which have achieved tangible results in curbing illegal cross-border activities and strengthening cross-border law enforcement cooperation. China expressed support for the establishment of joint law enforcement cooperation mechanisms with other countries, including in Southeast Asia, and reaffirmed its readiness, within the framework of the Bali Process, to expand communication, strengthen dialogue, and deepen practical cooperation with immigration and law enforcement authorities based on mutual trust, professional solidarity, and shared responsibility.



THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA updated on its bilateral cooperation framework model, which begins with direct engagement between law enforcement agencies to identify challenges, establish reliable contact points, and coordinate practical outcomes, including joint investigations, analysis, and evaluation. Indonesia highlighted that one effective practice for accelerating information exchange is the placement of law enforcement liaison officers in diplomatic missions abroad, and highlighted benefits gained from participation in informal communities such as the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing (FANC) in Bangkok and the Indonesia Foreign Law Enforcement Community (IFLEC) in Indonesia.



NEW ZEALAND highlighted that aviation routes remain the primary entry point into New Zealand and a known pathway for trafficking in persons and people smuggling. New Zealand noted the important role played by its Irregular Migration Liaison Officer network, which places officers in Thailand, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and Malaysia, in supporting regional cooperation and information sharing and capacity development across the Bali Process.

SPOTLIGHT ON MEMBER AND OBSERVER STATES AND ORGANISATIONS PROMISING PRACTICES AND SOLUTIONS



TIMOR LESTE provided an update on its ascension to ASEAN in October 2025, marking a significant milestone for the country and the region, and strengthening engagement and exchange as part of the ASEAN framework. Timor-Leste is aligning national laws, policies, and institutional frameworks with existing ASEAN frameworks across political and security cooperation, economic integration, and socio-cultural collaboration, and strengthening national coordination mechanisms to support whole-of-government engagement.



THE BALI PROCESS WORKING GROUP ON THE DISRUPTION OF CRIMINAL NETWORKS INVOLVED IN PEOPLE SMUGGLING AND TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, co-chaired by the governments of New Zealand and Viet Nam, focuses on practical operational cooperation to disrupt and dismantle criminal networks involved in people smuggling and trafficking in persons. A tabletop exercise held in June 2025 brought together members across the region to test whole-of-government responses to complex multi country migration scenarios.



The **REGIONAL SUPPORT OFFICE OF THE BALI PROCESS** shared a review of frontline challenges and opportunities identified at the Fourth Border Forum—the RSO’s annual capacity building event. Frontline officers attending the Border Forum pointed to enhancing formalised information sharing arrangements, routine meetings, and structured networks as being critical to sustain and enhance cooperation over time.



INTERPOL presented headline figures from its latest global operation—Operation Liberterra III—INTERPOL’s largest coordinated operation to date targeting human smuggling and related crimes. Operational Coordination Units enabled direct access to INTERPOL databases, rapid intelligence sharing, and the effective use of INTERPOL notices across participating countries. The operation was conducted in close collaboration with national law enforcement agencies, international organisations, and non-governmental partners. The RSO provided capacity building and operational support to the Asia-Pacific operation which was headquartered in Vientiane, Laos, and facilitated participation by Bali Process Member States.



ASEAN AUSTRALIA COUNTER TRAFFICKING highlighted the essential roles of civil society and the private sector in countering trafficking in the region and noted that effective responses depend on inclusive public policy approaches that engage stakeholders across sectors and borders.



ACTIONABLE RECOMMENDATIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS

CONTEXT	ACTIONABLE RECOMMENDATION AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS
<p>A review of frontline challenges and opportunities identified at the FOURTH BORDER FORUM—the RSO’s annual capacity building activity—pointed to enhancing formalised information sharing arrangements, routine meetings, and structured networks as being critical to sustain and enhance cooperation over time. Delegates sought the establishment of structured networks, endorsed at a senior policy level, that can support and maintain connections across peers.</p>	<p>The refresh of the <u>RSO Regional Information, Liaison and Outreach Network (RILON) Initiative</u> aims to strengthen coordination and information sharing around priority thematic issues, supported by senior policy-level endorsement. A first RILON response group will bring together Bali Process Members Australia, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Thailand and Timor Leste around the issue of maritime people smuggling. Bali Process Members are invited to engage with future opportunities to input into and shape this initiative.</p>
<p>Findings from the BALI PROCESS DISRUPTION WORKING GROUP tabletop exercise reflected consistent themes, including the growing need for stronger cyber investigation capability, the importance of structured and timely intelligence exchange, and the continued value of building trusted cooperative partnerships across the region.</p>	<p>Delegates called for enhancements to regional systems that will enable structured and timely intelligence exchange, that can enhance partnership working and build resilience in ways of working for cross-border counterparts.</p>
<p>THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA expressed its readiness to continue to expand communication channels and enhance dialogue and synergistic cooperation with all other countries. THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA updated on its bilateral cooperation framework model, which begins with direct engagement between law enforcement agencies to identify challenges, establish reliable contact points, and coordinate practical outcomes, including joint investigations, analysis, and evaluation.</p>	<p>Members may consider opportunities to develop bilateral law enforcement and immigration cooperation frameworks to strengthen mutual understanding and support establishment of shared objectives.</p>
<p>THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA highlighted that one effective practice for accelerating information exchange is the placement of law enforcement liaison officers in diplomatic missions abroad. NEW ZEALAND noted the important role played by its Irregular Migration Liaison Officer network, which places officers in Thailand, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and Malaysia. The secondment of officers from SRI LANKA’S Department of Immigration and Emigration to the RSO office, funded by the Government of New Zealand, has supported effective regional collaboration and capability development through regular meetings established with Thailand law enforcement agencies, Airline and Immigration Liaison Officers based in Bangkok, and other regional actors.</p>	<p>Members may consider enhancing networks of law enforcement and operational officers in diplomatic missions abroad. The RSO Secondment Programme provides an opportunity to place officers in Bangkok, Thailand and strengthen access to Liaison Officer Networks.</p>

MEETING THE CHALLENGE POSED BY TRANSNATIONAL CRIME GROUPS: STRENGTHENING COORDINATED AND INTEGRATED RESPONSES

A key focus of the Dialogue was the rapid evolution of technology-enabled people smuggling and trafficking in persons, including trafficking into forced criminality linked to cyber-scam centre operations.

Cyber-scam centres have grown into a multi-billion dollar industry run by organised criminal groups, that deceive and coerce hundreds of thousands of individuals into criminal activity each year and defrauds hundreds of thousands more. These operations are perceived as a low risk and highly profitable model of organised crime. With the rise of poly-criminality as a priority challenge for law enforcement—and funds generated from one crime type enabling others so that clear links are seen between trafficking in persons operations, financial fraud, cybercrime, drug and wildlife trafficking—the importance of cohesive, agile and integrated responses are more important than ever.

Delegates noted that strengthening engagement with the private sector, particularly technology companies and financial institutions in a strategic and systemic way, should be a key area of focus going forwards.



SPOTLIGHT ON MEMBER AND OBSERVER STATES AND ORGANISATIONS PROMISING PRACTICES AND SOLUTIONS



THE BALI PROCESS WORKING GROUP ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS Annual Meeting (co-chaired by Australia and the Republic of Indonesia) and the **TECHNICAL EXPERTS GROUP ON RETURNS AND REINTEGRATION** (co-chaired by Australia and the Republic of the Philippines), brought together more than 100 delegates from 36 countries and organisations in Manila, the Philippines in December 2025. Both meetings held a focus on responses to trafficking for forced criminality into cyber scam centres in Southeast Asia and displacement issues across the Bali Process region. The Philippine government hosted a full-day programme for delegates to share ways of working and good practices developed in the Philippines in caring for and protecting migrant workers, and to provide access to on-the-ground realities within the Philippines.



AUSTRALIA highlighted efforts to tackle people smuggling and organised immigration crime, including efforts to address the use of artificial intelligence in immigration fraud, and to address migrant worker exploitation and modern slavery. New criminal offences against employers, enhanced mobility provisions for certain employer-sponsored visa holders, and visa pilots to strengthen reporting protections have been established to encourage reporting of criminal actors participating in activities relating to people smuggling or trafficking in persons—to support identification of victims and evidence collection that can enhance success and reach of investigations and prosecutions.



FIJI updated on the Declaration of Partnership on Regional Security, which focuses on shared security through Pacific-led solutions and aims to jointly strengthen efforts to prevent and disrupt transnational organised crime groups taking advantage of the Pacific's extensive maritime boundaries, differences in governance, and varying law enforcement capacities. The Declaration provides a practical framework to guide Pacific Island Nations' approach to national and regional security, with border management, migration governance, and enforcement integrated into an intelligence and risk-based national security architecture, supported by strong interagency coordination.

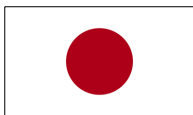


THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA established the Indonesia Anti Scam Centre under the Financial Services Authority in 2024. The centre has received more than 432,000 fraud and scam related complaints since its establishment, accounting to total losses of around 9.1 trillion Indonesian Rupiah or approximately 550 million United States dollars. Reports can be submitted through multiple channels, including online platforms, partner banks, hotlines, and WhatsApp, to promote rapid and coordinated responses. Cooperation with private sector and technology providers has been key. The launch of the Global Anti Scam Alliance Indonesia Chapter in July 2025 has provided a further platform for government agencies, industry stakeholders, and international partners to share threat intelligence and coordinate responses.



INDIA reaffirmed its commitment to combatting financial crime relating to trafficking in persons. India embeds asset recovery as a core component of criminal investigations and its anti money laundering framework empowers authorities to trace, freeze, seize, and confiscate proceeds of trafficking, including additional value generated from the use of those proceeds. Indian law allows both conviction based and non-conviction based confiscation, followed by restitution of assets to victims domestically and across borders.

SPOTLIGHT ON MEMBER AND OBSERVER STATES AND ORGANISATIONS PROMISING PRACTICES AND SOLUTIONS



JAPAN noted that trafficking in persons generates significant criminal proceeds that fund broader organised crime activities. Tracing illicit funds and criminal assets provides an effective approach to prevent further crimes. Japan's Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds requires financial institutions and other business operators to verify customer transactions, maintain records, and report suspicious transactions. Japan's Financial Intelligence Center analyses these reports and shares information with investigative agencies, leading to investigations that can support case outcomes.



SRI LANKA outlined progress made in implementing a coordinated whole-of-government approach to strengthen its approach to trafficking in persons. Sri Lanka has initiated its approach at the grassroots level, using existing local governance structures to strengthen local ownership and sustainable action from the ground up, including through the implementation of a 'Train the Trainer' program rolled out to 237 immigration and law enforcement officers to enhance early risk identification, community engagement, victim identification and referral, and coordination with law enforcement and protection services.



THAILAND noted that combating trafficking in persons and online scams has been placed onto the national agenda, with Thailand intensifying efforts since early 2025 to combat online scams and trafficking in persons for forced criminality, in cooperation with foreign embassies, consular officials, the International Organization for Migration, and civil society organisations. Since early 2025, Thailand has assisted in the repatriation of over 11,000 people from more than 40 countries from scam centres in Myawaddy, Myanmar. Strengthened actions at a policy level including enhancements to cybercrime and anti-fraud legislation, accession to the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime, establishment of the Anti-Scam Center War Room by the Royal Thai Police, and the launch of consular guidelines to support vulnerable migrants and potential trafficking in persons victims.



TONGA has implemented a national action plan to strengthen response to trafficking in persons and has improved coordination among key agencies such as the police, customs, labour, and foreign affairs. These efforts have contributed to improved identification of trafficking in persons victims and led to Tonga's first trafficking in persons prosecution in more than a decade. Upgrades to border management information systems have enhanced real time monitoring, risk profiling, and detection of irregular migration and trafficking indicators.



The UNITED STATES OF AMERICA highlighted its success in efforts to gather and utilise victim testimony to target wider criminal networks and high-level criminals driving the transnational organised crime industry. Trafficking survivors are a key source of information on scam compounds, online financial scams, and other crimes perpetrated by scam center operators. But if victims are afraid to seek assistance due to fear of punishment for unlawful acts committed as a direct result of being trafficked, or if processes to screen, interview (using trauma-informed techniques), and identify trafficking victims are lacking, the valuable information they can provide—to law enforcement and to inform prevention and awareness raising initiatives—goes uncollected.

SPOTLIGHT ON MEMBER AND OBSERVER STATES AND ORGANISATIONS PROMISING PRACTICES AND SOLUTIONS



The **UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME** highlighted its October 2025 report on the nexus between cybercrime and corruption. The report highlights corruption not as a peripheral risk, but a systemic enabler of transnational organised crime and a central mechanism through which trafficking in persons is embedded within cyber enabled criminal activity. Information and communication technology has reshaped organised crime, allowing offenders to operate anonymously and across borders, while generating significant revenue that relies on corruption to function with impunity.



ACTIONABLE RECOMMENDATIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS

CONTEXT	ACTIONABLE RECOMMENDATION AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS
Identifying the larger actors and players in transnational organised crime is key to strengthening deterrence and perception of risk relating to online scam centre operations. AUSTRALIA encouraged Bali Process members to collectively prioritise identification of trafficking in persons victim and to strengthen protection for civil society actors, to in turn facilitate evidence collection and enhance understanding of criminal network activities.	Migrant workers may be reluctant to report exploitation due to concerns about visa status. Providing protections that encourage reporting—both for potential trafficking in persons victims and civil society actors—can support more robust evidence collection and enhance success and reach of investigations and prosecutions.
The UNITED STATES OF AMERICA noted the importance of facilitating victim participation in cross-border investigations with their consent and cautioned against punishing victims for unlawful acts committed as a direct result of being trafficked. The United States noted that criminalization can increase the risk of re-victimisation, and can hamper access to critical evidence.	Increasing and improving policies and processes to screen and identify trafficking victims generates critical information to deter and dismantle scam center operations. Implementing the non-punishment principle encourages cooperation with law enforcement efforts and reduces re-victimisation. Enhancing the participation of victims in investigations and prosecutions occurring outside their home countries, once they are repatriated, provides a critical area for improving processes.
In December 2025, THAILAND and the UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME (UNODC) hosted the International Conference on the Global Partnership against Online Scams—a ministerial-level meeting which led to the 2025 Bangkok Joint Statement .	The 2025 Bangkok Joint Statement by the Global Partnership against Online Scams provides a framework for further efforts to advance cross-border cooperation and action against key themes of 1) Political commitment and governance, 2) Law enforcement, investigation and prosecution, 3) Victim Protection, 4) Public awareness and prevention of online scams and 5) Partnerships within and across borders.
Pacific Island States noted the challenge that comes with vast maritime domains and a central role in regional mobility, and reaffirmed migration security and migrant protection as mutually reinforcing priorities that require regional cooperation. FIJI and TONGA reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening Pacific partnerships to enhance intelligence based border management and maritime surveillance and that support protection-sensitive security responses.	Fiji and Tonga called for continued international support in intelligence sharing and joint training and capability development activities with bilateral and regional partners.
SRI LANKA convened its first District-level Anti Trafficking Forum in December 2025, bringing together more than 150 district and divisional officials to address local vulnerabilities, referral pathways, and disaster related risks.	Members may consider Sri Lanka’s coordinated whole-of-government approach to build awareness, capacity, and importantly, ownership of the response to trafficking in persons as a promising model for establishing mechanisms to strengthen responses at a national level.

ACTIONABLE RECOMMENDATIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS

CONTEXT	ACTIONABLE RECOMMENDATION AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS
<p>Disrupting illicit financial flows through strong anti-money laundering measures is essential. JAPAN noted that organised crime groups use methods such as money mule accounts and false identities, and that their segmented structures mean that arresting individual offenders cannot address the root problem. THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA noted that its law enforcement agencies have established local cyber units to conduct data analytics, digital forensics, and AI assisted investigations, strengthening enforcement capacity. INDIA highlighted specific legislation targeting fugitive economic offenders, enabling confiscation of assets when offenders evade prosecution by leaving the country.</p>	<p>Members are encouraged to review activities and prioritisation of efforts that can enhance cooperation between governments and the private sector, particularly technology companies and financial institutions. Enhancing cooperation will provide strategic and systemic benefits to investigations and prosecutions of key actors.</p>
<p>UNODC analysis shows that corruption facilitates every stage of the trafficking chain, including recruitment, transportation, exploitation, profit laundering, and obstruction of justice, with bribery, abuse of power, and collusion enabling these networks to operate across jurisdictions. Victims may be particularly reluctant to seek help where authorities are compromised.</p>	<p>Delegates noted that corruption remains a challenging but critical aspect for Governments to collectively acknowledge and address, and noted the importance of continued, open dialogue and shared practical efforts.</p>



PROMOTING PATHWAYS THAT SUPPORT SAFE AND LEGAL LABOUR MOBILITY: ENHANCING PROTECTION FOR PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Delegates reaffirmed the importance of grounding migration management and law enforcement responses in protection-led, victim-centred approaches. The safe and orderly movement of people across borders in search of work opportunities and livelihoods is a reality that every government has to manage.

Countries may need to consider the movement of people from a protection angle, and the access to services and rights granted to irregular migrants. Countries will also have care for their nationals—and their safety and wellbeing as they move in search of opportunities, and when they return home from working abroad.

Early intervention measures including expanding legal labor mobility, providing appropriate reception arrangements, and post-arrival follow up are essential elements of effective migration management. In contrast, system weaknesses can increase the risks of irregular migration and trafficking, including situations involving victims of trafficking and migrants emerging from exploitation or forced criminality.

Support for sustainable and effective returns and reintegration—including through access to social support, and livelihoods and skills development—is a key protection consideration especially for vulnerable workers, and should be understood as an integral part of the migration cycle.

Coordinated action between countries of origin and destination, guided by ongoing policy reflection and a shared way forward, is critical to reduce system vulnerabilities and create safer migration pathways and more durable outcomes for people on the move.



SPOTLIGHT ON MEMBER AND OBSERVER STATES AND ORGANISATIONS PROMISING PRACTICES AND SOLUTIONS



BANGLADESH emphasised labour mobility as a source of shared gains for both countries of origin and destination. Bangladesh continues to pursue international cooperation through bilateral and regional agreements, including memoranda of understanding with countries such as Greece, Italy, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with ongoing discussions with other European partners. Efforts to strengthen migration governance through practical measures include the development of standard operating procedures for return and reintegration in cooperation with partners in the United Kingdom and the European Union, and the formulation of a National Reintegration Policy. At the national level, initiatives to improve migrant protection outcomes include skills development programmes, pre-departure briefings, and skills verification and certification.



THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA highlighted that protection of migrants is a national priority reflected in Indonesia's national development plan, including through its migrant worker protection law and the establishment of a dedicated ministry adopting a comprehensive approach covering pre-departure, employment abroad and returns and reintegration. The launch of a Migrant Worker Protection System database facilitates government-supervised recruitment, by integrating and validating migrant worker data and reducing the role of brokers. The system also supports returnees and enhances access to post-return services. The [Safe Travel app](#), developed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, provides information for Indonesian citizens who are planning to travel overseas or are living abroad, and includes an emergency feature to connect citizens to their nearest embassy or consulate.



"You cannot protect what you cannot see." **THE MALDIVES** highlighted that for many years, it had lacked accurate visibility over its migrant worker population, both documented and undocumented. This data gap constrained effective governance and created conditions in which exploitation could occur. The Maldives has implemented a response guided by principles of transparency, inclusion, and accountability, rather than enforcement alone. A national programme was introduced to register migrant workers regardless of documentation status, with the aim of bringing individuals into a formal system where identities could be verified. Through reforms implemented between 2019 - 2026, data on more than 200,000 migrant workers has been collected, providing a comprehensive picture of the migrant population for the first time.



SPOTLIGHT ON MEMBER AND OBSERVER STATES AND ORGANISATIONS PROMISING PRACTICES AND SOLUTIONS



NEPAL noted key practices established in support of robust labour migration governance, including government-to-government agreements, embassy mobilisation, promotion of ethical recruitment, and awareness-raising initiatives. Nepal has made efforts to expand labour destinations beyond traditional markets, including into Europe, to support the diversification of destination countries. This has in turn supported skills development for migrant workers, and resulted in broader economic benefits, including increase to remittances and contributions to national development indicators.



The **PHILIPPINES** highlighted a protection-oriented approach across the migration cycle, with protection viewed as a continuum spanning recruitment, employment, and return, and with a focus on prevention, enforcement, and reintegration as interconnected elements. Efforts to strengthen end-to-end protection pipelines include early detection of digital risks, coordinated responses to trafficking in persons into forced criminality in cyber-scam centres, and inter-agency cooperation involving law enforcement, cybercrime investigation units, and overseas workers' offices.



ACTIONABLE RECOMMENDATIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS

CONTEXT	ACTIONABLE RECOMMENDATION AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS
<p>BANGLADESH noted persistent challenges in supporting safe and legal labour mobility, including high recruitment costs, data gaps, and limitations in cooperation between States.</p>	<p>Bangladesh identified the need to open more legal migration pathways, promote migrants' rights, strengthen partnerships, and enhance data sharing as key elements of the way forward in enhancing labour migration protection, and uptake of legal routes.</p>
<p>As the 2026 Chair of ASEAN, the PHILIPPINES is placing a strong emphasis on fair, ethical, and sustainable recruitment, with reintegration presented as a core protection measure.</p>	<p>ASEAN members are encouraged to engage with ongoing efforts to advance regional cooperation, including the development of an ASEAN reintegration self-assessment checklist, intended to support data-driven planning, service access and monitoring, and which can inform future regional reflection on fair and sustainable reintegration.</p>
<p>THE MALDIVES highlighted the use of technology to support migration governance, including systems to operationalise data across agencies and enable preliminary human trafficking screening. Reforms aimed at addressing exploitation and enhancing protection and rights include measures allowing migrant workers to change employers in cases such as prolonged non-payment of wages.</p>	<p>The Maldives promoted a focus for enforcement activities to be directed at illegal employment practices and exploitation, rather than affected workers who may have visa or right-to-stay issues, as an effective approach in enhancing migration management and data collection.</p>
<p>NEPAL acknowledged challenges faced as a source country with high outward labour migration, including internal workforce depletion, resource constraints, reintegration issues, and health-related concerns.</p>	<p>Nepal called for continued cooperation between countries of origin and destination across labour migration pathways, with well-managed and safe labour migration pathways able to provide benefits for all stakeholders.</p>
<p>The BALI PROCESS TECHNICAL EXPERTS GROUP ON RETURNS AND REINTEGRATION noted that operational-level system vulnerabilities are known to hamper migration management and governance—and include challenges such as data collection and integration, language and translation, and service delivery.</p>	<p>Members were encouraged to strengthen approaches to gathering evidence to understand what works in practice, and build broader support for effective migration management approaches and investments.</p>

PREPARING FOR EMERGING PRIORITIES AND CHALLENGES: COLLECTIVE EFFORTS IN THE FACE OF NEW PRESSURES

Delegates reaffirmed their commitment to advancing the objectives of the Bali Process 2023 Adelaide Strategy for Cooperation and to strengthening practical collaboration through regional mechanisms and partnerships.

Participation in the Fourth RSO Constructive Dialogue by a number of regional dialogues and platforms provided an opportunity to spotlight multilateral dialogue and cooperation, and opportunities for cross-regional efforts and learning. At a time when multilateralism is under strain, migration dialogues were recognised as being more important than ever—facilitating cooperation, trust building and practice sharing among governments.

Discussions recognised that the real challenge lies in translating commitments into effective and timely responses—and the need to collectively close the gap between the growing urgency of transnational challenges and the capacity of regional mechanisms to respond.

Delegates highlighted the need for migration frameworks to keep pace of evolving realities and promote shared responsibility—noting the diverse demographic, economic, environmental and human pressures the region faces.



SPOTLIGHT ON MEMBER AND OBSERVER STATES AND ORGANISATIONS PROMISING PRACTICES AND SOLUTIONS



Bali Process Co Chairs reflected on the value of Bali Process networks in fostering cross border collaboration on transnational crime, irregular movement and border management. Through Bali Process Working Groups and the activity of the RSO as a dedicated office providing practical and technical support to Members, Members are supported to share best practices to inform policy development, legislative frameworks, border operations and enhance use of technology. Members also gain access to research and analytical tools to understand emerging threats, including on online scam centres and trafficking for forced criminality, supporting governments to adapt responses accordingly. Renewed efforts to build partnerships and exchange expertise with other regional processes is a critical step in enhancing information sharing and practical cooperation.



The **International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)** has coordinated migration dialogues since 1993, including the Rabat, Khartoum, Prague and Budapest Processes, facilitating cooperation, trust building and practice sharing among governments. ICMPD noted practical examples of support provided including:

- Development of the Migration Partnership Facility, which supports coherent approaches along migration routes through nearly seventy projects, including a project in Pakistan focused on strengthening border management and preventing irregular migration.
- Support provided to Iraq in empowering national institutions, strengthening leadership and ownership and contributing to sustainable migration systems.
- Migrant Resource Centres developed through the Budapest Process act as one stop shops providing information and support for legal and regular migration.



The **Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT Process)** has published its Subregion Plan of Action, or SPA-V, its ten-year strategic framework for 2025 to 2035. Areas of priority highlighted include promoting exchange of experience among Member States (Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam) in investigating and prosecuting trafficking in persons cases, community outreach and information activities and strengthening migrant labour recruitment systems.



A recent survey led by the **Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)** notes increasing diversification of trafficking in persons related crimes and growing convergence with financial and cyber-crimes. OSCE noted that its growing partnership with the RSO and the Bali Process has been key in supporting a cross-region response to the expansion of scam centres and forced criminality.



The **International Organization for Migration (IOM)** and the **United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR)** routes-based approach provides a framework to support governments in responding both to the needs of people on the move, and to support the responsibilities of immigration and border authorities in implementing State interests related to migration management and national security. IOM and UNHCR are working together to develop lawful and rights-based policy options to support States in responding to complex mixed movement challenges in a pragmatic and principled manner. These include concepts such as service hubs to address protection and information needs along routes.

SPOTLIGHT ON MEMBER AND OBSERVER STATES AND ORGANISATIONS PROMISING PRACTICES AND SOLUTIONS



Across **ASEAN**, the rise of cybercrime, money laundering, and technology-enabled trafficking has driven deeper cooperation under ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) and ASEAN ministerial processes. Recent milestones include declarations on combating cybercrime and online scams, actions addressing trafficking linked to the abuse of technology, and the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons. The ASEAN Treaty on Extradition, signed in November 2025, was noted as a particularly significant development, representing one of the region's rare legally binding agreements and providing, for the first time, a common framework for cross-border extradition.



ACTIONABLE RECOMMENDATIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS

CONTEXT	ACTIONABLE RECOMMENDATION AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS
<p>The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) emphasised that effective partnerships must be grounded in realistic expectations, take a holistic approach and be action oriented. More structured dialogue between processes could further help share experiences, operating models, and lessons learned.</p>	<p>Member States are calling for regional and multilateral organisations to collaborate more closely, and to strengthen alignment across regions to ensure that limited resources are used as efficiently as possible.</p> <p>Dialogues should be harnessed to generate action-oriented programming and advance shared migration agendas. This includes through greater collaboration and knowledge sharing across dialogues.</p> <p>States are calling for information provided to be more digestible, relevant, and responsive to rapidly changing dynamics, including through digital formats.</p>
<p>Through SPA-V, the COMMIT Process aims to strengthen implementation through closer coordination among member states, particularly in response to technology facilitated trafficking in persons.</p>	<p>The COMMIT Process will continue to build closer alignment with other regional frameworks including the Bali Process, to contribute to collective efforts to address trafficking in persons and migration related risks in an increasingly complex and digitalised regional environment.</p>
<p>The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) noted that migration dynamics, trafficking risks, and technology are seen to be increasingly interconnected across regions and evolving more rapidly than any one state can address alone.</p>	<p>Structured dialogue can support in aligning legal, operational, and policy responses to ensure that limited resources are used effectively, and that responses are proactive rather than reactive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples of where focus is needed include the growing use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) related evidence in prosecutions and the need for shared standards, safeguards, and cooperation. • Engaging the private sector, particularly technology companies and financial institutions in a strategic and systemic way is key.
<p>Australia has assumed the 2026 Chairship for The Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees with a thematic focus on navigating migration in a shifting landscape.</p>	<p>Australia will convene the IGC Annual Meeting in 2026 in Bangkok, Thailand, providing an opportunity to continue to strengthen inter-regional exchange of good practice with the Bali Process. Australia's chairship will focus on three pillars: fostering sustainable returns, building effective asylum systems, and building trust in migration systems, with an overarching emphasis on the transformative potential of digitisation and emerging technologies, including AI.</p>
<p>The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) shared updates against the development and operationalisation of a routes-based approach for the Asia Pacific region, and how the approach can strengthen shared solutions in mixed movement settings while supporting more collaborative, cross-regional sharing of knowledge and good practices.</p>	<p>The routes-based approach provides a whole-of-journey framework to address mixed needs of migrants and protection concerns at different points along migration routes. Members are invited to engage with the following focus areas for strengthening collaboration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improved data sharing to support evidence-based analysis, early warning and foresight • exchanges among Member States on trafficking in persons and people smuggling to support protection, prosecution, and partnerships • support provided along migration routes which can reduce incentives for onward movement • sharing good practices and tools through platforms such as the RSO Knowledge Hub

ACTIONABLE RECOMMENDATIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS

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<p>Viet Nam highlighted the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) as the first intergovernmental framework on international migration, providing a cooperative basis to strengthen migration governance at the global level. Viet Nam considers the adoption of the Global Compact a historic milestone in international migration governance.</p> <p>Following the adoption of the Global Compact, Viet Nam issued its National Implementation Plan in March 2020, becoming one of the first countries in the region to implement the Compact through a dedicated national framework. Over the past five years, Viet Nam has undertaken several key efforts to advance implementation.</p>	<p>Viet Nam highlighted good practices adopted that could benefit others in adoption of the Global Compact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A whole of government and whole of society approach, with ministries, agencies, and local authorities developing their own implementation plans and participating in regular exchanges to support implementation. • A strong emphasis on migration data collection and management to inform policy development and to assess migration trends, including risks related to irregular migration and trafficking in persons, including the development of a national migration database. • Progress in strengthening the legal and policy framework, including legislation related to the prevention and combat of trafficking in persons and the protection of Vietnamese workers abroad. • Public information and communication efforts to promote safe migration and raise awareness of migration risks, particularly among vulnerable groups. • Efforts to strengthen international cooperation on migration, including labour cooperation, return and readmission, and dialogue with partner countries.
<p>Migration frameworks must keep pace of evolving realities and promote shared responsibility. Fiji highlighted the need to be prepared for climate pressures on future migration trends.</p>	<p>Fiji called for Members to consider evolving realities and future pressures in migration management that may result from climate change, and for these to be captured through upcoming Bali Process Ministerial and Senior Official Meetings and RSO Work Plan development.</p>
<p>A challenge for Member States in taking forward action from multilateral dialogues stems from the desire to balance sovereignty, consensus, and non-interference with speed, enforcement, and collective responsibility. In reality, Member States face uneven capacity challenges, and coordination gaps across multiple pillars and bodies. Resourcing and capacity across government cannot match the speed at which criminal syndicates are able to pivot and adapt.</p>	<p>Progress in cooperation can be most effective when it reflects political realities, allows flexibility, and enables smaller groupings of willing and capable Member States to move forward on specific issues. This observation from the ASEAN Studies Centre may provide Members with a pathway to consider for progressing issues in a way that is most practicable and realistic at a given point in time.</p>



LOOKING AHEAD



The Fourth Constructive Dialogue reaffirmed that the challenges facing the region—from the expanding reach of transnational criminal networks and technology-enabled trafficking, to system vulnerabilities across labour mobility and migration management—are too complex and fast-moving for any single government to address alone. Collective action, grounded in mutual trust and shared responsibility, remains both the most effective and the most necessary response.

Across discussions, several cross-cutting themes emerged as central to strengthening regional resilience: the critical importance of timely and structured information sharing; the need for cohesive, integrated responses to increasingly agile criminal networks; and the value of protection-centred approaches that reduce vulnerabilities across the migration cycle. These themes reflect not only the priorities of Member States, but the shared challenges and opportunities that will shape the region's migration landscape in the years ahead.

This Outcome Statement is intended to support Members in capturing a regional snapshot of priorities, challenges and recommendations that emerged from discussions at the Fourth RSO Constructive Dialogue. The Outcome Statement provides an active reference document for Bali Process Members, Working Groups and the RSO in continued efforts in months ahead—and the RSO will draw on discussions captured here to support the development of the RSO 2026-2028 Work Plan.

The RSO, as the technical and practical arm of the Bali Process, is committed to supporting Member States to translate the insights and momentum generated through the Constructive Dialogue into practical outcomes. Whether through facilitation of regional networks and dialogues, enhancing knowledge through research products or policy briefs, or through capacity building support, the RSO is ready to work alongside Members to strengthen the connections, tools, and frameworks needed to drive meaningful progress. It is the knowledge, commitment, and action of Member States that will ultimately drive progress—and the RSO looks forward to continuing to work in close partnership with Members as this collective agenda moves forward.

PARTICIPATION AND SUPPORT

The RSO extends its sincere gratitude to all participants to the Fourth RSO Constructive Dialogue for their continued partnership and valuable contributions.

The Fourth Constructive Dialogue was attended by Bali Process Members and Observers Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, the People's Republic of China, Fiji, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Türkiye, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and Viet Nam, the International Labour Organization, the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations Refugee Agency, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees, INTERPOL and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development.

International partners and dialogues also in attendance included the ASEAN-Australia Counter Trafficking Program, European Commission, ASEANAPOL, the Coordinated Mekong Initiative Against Trafficking (COMMIT Process), Embode, EU CRIMARIO, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Coordinated Mekong Initiative Against Trafficking, the Regional Operational Centre in support of the Khartoum Process, and the Remedy Project.

Bali Process Working Groups represented included the Technical Experts Group on Returns and Reintegration, the Working Group on Disruption of Criminal Networks Involved in People Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons, and the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons.



GLOSSARY

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASEAN-ACT	ASEAN Australia Counter Trafficking
COMMIT Process	Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking
FANC	Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing
GCM	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
ICMPD	International Centre for Migration Policy Development
IFLEC	Indonesia Foreign Law Enforcement Community
IGC	The Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees
INTERPOL	The International Criminal Police Organization
IOM	The International Organization for Migration
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
RILON	Regional Information Liaison and Outreach Network
RSO	Regional Support Office of the Bali Process
SOMTC	ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime
SPA-V	Subregion Plan of Action
UNHCR	United Nations Refugee Agency
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



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