

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

Seventh Ministerial Conference Second Government and Business Forum

**Bali, Indonesia
7 August 2018**

Co-Chairs' Statement

1. The seventh Ministerial Conference and second Government and Business Forum of the Bali Process were held in Bali, Indonesia, on 7 August 2018. The meetings reviewed developments in the Bali Process region, progress toward implementing the *2016 Bali Declaration* and the *2017 Perth Forum Work Plan*, and agreed priorities to enhance efforts to address irregular migration, people smuggling and trafficking in persons.

Ministerial Conference

2. Ministers and their representatives (herein referred to as 'Ministers') acknowledged the regional and global challenges of forced displacement and irregular migration. They recognised that irregular migration poses social, economic and security concerns for affected countries. They condemned the loss of life and exploitation of persons by people smugglers and human traffickers. They acknowledged that responses must be comprehensive and integrated, while responding to the specific circumstances faced by individual countries.

3. To underscore their will to tackle these challenges, Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to implementing the *2016 Bali Declaration*. This emphasised the need to address people smuggling and trafficking in persons and related exploitation; counter criminal networks; address the root causes of irregular movement of people; strengthen protection and assistance issues; improve cooperation on returns and reintegration; promote safe, orderly and regular migration pathways, including opportunities for labour migration; and engage with the private sector and civil society.

4. Building on the *2016 Bali Declaration*, Ministers adopted a *Declaration of the Seventh Ministerial Conference* (Attachment A). This commended the activities of Bali Process working groups, other engagement mechanisms and the Regional Support Office. It welcomed the *Government and Business Forum's* recommendations to build cooperation between government and business. It supported strengthening links with civil society and other international consultative processes addressing migration. It endorsed engagement on significant displacement and irregular migration situations in the region.

5. Ministers reviewed progress in Bali Process cooperation and capacity building since the Sixth Ministerial Conference. They commended the *Working Group on the Disruption of People Smuggling and Trafficking Networks* on strengthening criminal justice responses. They recognised the initiatives of the Regional Support Office to facilitate capacity building, information sharing and best practices, pooling technical resources, and developing policy guides, reference materials and training programs.

6. Ministers commended the inaugural *Consultation Mechanism* meeting in October 2017 to explore the perspectives of members affected by the unprecedented displacement of persons. They supported *Good Offices outreach* by the senior official Co-Chairs, and the activities of the *Task Force on Planning and Preparedness* to build capacity at an operational level.

7. Ministers emphasised the need for timely and constructive engagement on significant displacement and irregular migration in the region. They confirmed the role of the Bali Process as a forum for policy dialogue, information sharing and practical cooperation, rather than as a political mechanism.

8. Ministers endorsed key outcomes from the Senior Officials' Meeting on 6 August 2018, the priorities set out in the *Strategy for Cooperation*, and the Regional Support Office *Strategic Plan* and *Work Plan*, within the following thematic areas:

- . law enforcement cooperation – including through the *Working Group on Trafficking in Persons* and the *Working Group on the Disruption of People Smuggling and Trafficking Networks*, policy guides and training;
- . stakeholder engagement – especially with the private sector through the *Government and Business Forum*, with civil society on trafficking in persons, and with other international consultative processes;
- . information sharing – including through working groups and other engagement mechanisms, and information campaigns to reduce irregular migration;
- . border management – focusing on training and capacity building activities;
- . irregular migration – including engagement through the *Consultation Mechanism*, *Good Offices outreach* and the *Task Force on Planning and Preparedness*;
- . victim protection and migrant management – focusing on increasing awareness, piloting toolkits and training;
- . returns and reintegration – focusing on cooperation through the *Technical Experts Group on Returns and Reintegration*; and the *Assisted Voluntary Returns and Reintegration* project;
- . coordination and support – through the Regional Support Office to build capacity and enhance information sharing across Bali Process areas of focus.

9. On membership, ministers agreed that the International Labour Organization should become a member of the Bali Process. On other participants, ministers welcomed scope for observers to attend Bali Process meetings, including from relevant regional consultative processes on migration.

Government and Business Forum

10. Ministers and business leaders acknowledged that trafficking in persons, forced labour, modern slavery and the worst forms of child labour were crimes that permeated all economic sectors and affected every country. They noted estimates that over 40 million persons were victims of slavery globally in 2017. They recognised the critical role of the private sector, and the need for concerted action by government and business to develop effective strategies to address these crimes and promote good practices.

11. Ministers and business leaders commended the establishment of the *Government and Business Forum* and its objective to contribute to the eradication of trafficking in persons, forced labour, modern slavery and the worst forms of child labour in the Bali Process region. They supported the Forum's efforts to strengthen collaboration between government and business, and in so doing, complement global efforts to eradicate these crimes. They confirmed that the Forum would be an additional track of the Bali Process.

12. Ministers and business leaders recalled the outcomes from the inaugural *Government and Business Forum* meeting in August 2017. They acknowledged that the adoption of a Work Plan with key priorities for action being ethical employment, transparency of supply chains, and safeguards and redress mechanisms. They commended the efforts of business to take forward these priorities, to lead by example, and to use their influence to enhance collaboration with government and catalyse action.

13. Ministers were encouraged by the positive and innovative examples of good practice being undertaken by business. They endorsed the 'AAA' recommendations presented to the Forum (Attachment B) –

- acknowledge – increase business and government understanding of the challenges associated with these crimes, and engender 'buy-in' to address them;
- act – encourage business to ensure ethical business practices and governments to strengthen policy and legislative frameworks and implementation;
- advance – to develop a governance framework for the Forum to ensure its sustainability and effectiveness.

14. Business leaders committed to implement the key recommendations, to improve supply chain transparency, implement ethical and transparent recruitment practices, and strengthen internal codes of conduct, contractual terms, procedures and policies on safeguards and redress mechanisms. They undertook to deepen understanding within their own organisations and supply chains, and conduct risk assessments and manage risk. They agreed to promote the business case for taking action. They recognised the action that governments were taking to improve legislation and enforcement.

15. Ministers expressed appreciation for the work of participating businesses, and the business co-chairs and secretariat, for leading action in the Bali Process region. They recognised the diverse backgrounds of Bali Process members, and that action needs to be tailored to individual country and industry contexts and capacities. They noted that commitments are made on a voluntary basis. They valued that business and government each bring different perspectives and approaches, and can learn much from one another.

Participation and Support

16. Attending the meeting were representatives from Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Fiji, France (New Caledonia), Hong Kong SAR, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Japan, Lao PDR, Macau SAR, Maldives, Myanmar, Mongolia, Nauru, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Syria, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor

Leste, Tonga, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, and Vietnam, as well as IOM, UNHCR, UNODC, ILO, and EU.

Also attending were representative from the following observers-Canada, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Marshall Islands, the Netherlands, Russia, UK, Spain, Federated States of Micronesia, South Africa, as well as ICRC, IFRC and the Asia Dialogue on Forced Migration.

17. Appreciation was expressed to Indonesia for hosting the meetings; the business co-chairs, Walk Free Foundation and Emtek for their contribution to the *Government and Business Forum*; and for technical contributions by IOM, UNHCR and UNODC across the range of Bali Process activities; and for administrative support provided by IOM.