

**SECOND MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE ON PLANNING AND PREPAREDNESS  
CONSULTATION MECHANISM TABLETOP EXERCISE ON IRREGULAR AND MIXED  
MARITIME MOVEMENTS  
BALI, INDONESIA 18 – 19 MAY 2017  
CO-CHAIRS' STATEMENT**

1. A meeting of Bali Process member state officials concerned with the management of irregular and mixed maritime migration movements was co-chaired by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia. The meeting was held in Bali, Indonesia on 18 and 19 May 2017.
2. The meeting followed on from the Sixth Bali Process Ministerial Conference (23 March 2016) establishing a Consultation Mechanism to encourage discussions on emergency irregular migration events. The 11<sup>th</sup> Bali Process Ad Hoc Group Senior Officials' Meeting (16 November 2016) established a Task Force on Planning and Preparedness (TFPP) to accelerate the impact of said discussions. The TFPP organised and oversaw the delivery of a Tabletop Exercise (TTX) on Irregular and Mixed Migration Movements, held on 18 and 19 May 2017 in Bali, Indonesia. The objective of the TTX was to encourage greater awareness, cooperation, and coordination.
3. The meeting brought together officials representing immigration, law enforcement, search and rescue, and other pertinent services from Bali Process members, along with experts from other relevant organisations involved in migration management. The meeting was attended by representatives from Australia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, and Thailand, along with representatives from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the Bali Process Regional Support Office (RSO). The Asia Dialogue on Forced Migration participated as observers, and apologies were received from the governments of Myanmar and Sri Lanka.
4. The meeting, organised around a realistic but fictitious and hypothetical scenario, explored the systems, sequencing, and sharing of resources responding to mixed maritime migration movements. Discussion focused on the importance of clarity, coordination, and cooperation in defining relevant needs, capacities, and appropriate responses. Delegates shared experiences, knowledge, tools and methodology towards building greater awareness and timely responses.
5. Delegates welcomed the opportunity to network, to deepen understanding of respective systems and collective opportunities for greater synergy, and to consider a range of enhanced approaches.

## Proceedings

6. Participants were encouraged to use the meeting as an opportunity to share information and best practice, including identifying opportunities to collaborate in order to strengthen the capability of search and rescue, law enforcement, and border management responses to irregular maritime migration circumstances throughout the region. The RSO was recognised as an important platform to facilitate an ongoing dialogue and sharing of resources in this regard.
7. Through the sessions, participants demonstrated how they could strengthen their own situational awareness and cooperation in reaching pragmatic solutions by proactively collecting and sharing information in order to identify and locate distressed refugees and migrants at sea; clarifying and harmonising operational responsibilities and capabilities during search and rescue, disembarkation, and reception; coordinating responses both within and among member states that address concerns over safety, security, health, and welfare; and, when possible, sharing costs and assets to ensure timely and life-saving responses.
8. The meeting was welcomed by participants as a useful initiative for strengthening collective irregular maritime migration capacities.
9. The participants discussed a range of actions that member states can take to improve responses to mixed migration movements, including: regional risk assessments and information mapping of mixed movements; ensuring common understanding of agreed responses and obligations across all relevant agencies, including standard operating procedures; sharing and building on existing national and regional search and rescue processes and contact lists, including channels of communication between Rescue Coordination Centres; considering opportunities to mainstream mixed migration situations into existing search and rescue exercises; observing actual or simulated disembarkation processes within or outside the region; and continuing to share experiences and best practices with each other.

## Outcomes

### Delegates:

- i. Recognised the value of strengthening cooperative relationships and inputs between domestic and regional institutions (e.g. ASEAN) in maximising timely awareness and appropriate responses to maritime mixed migration crisis situations, including by developing regular sharing of information on mixed migration flows. Delegates encouraged the RSO to continue to strengthen opportunities for greater dialogue, understanding, and collaboration between member states and organisations.
- ii. Agreed to a workshop to support the sharing and development of national plans of action to assist those member states in improving coordination and responses to sudden and large influxes of irregular migrants and refugees.
- iii. Agreed to a subsequent workshop to encourage predictable and functional responses in the event of mass maritime movements.

iv. Supported further implementation of the TFPP's roles as stated in its modalities by:

- overseeing the maintenance of registers of national contact points of operational officials, international organisations, and civil society groups involved in responding to irregular migrants and refugees;
- mapping and supporting the development of operating procedures at national and bilateral levels with a view to harmonising these arrangements at sub-regional and regional levels to ensure predictable and functional responses in the event of mass maritime movements; and
- tasking the RSO to conduct a stocktake of capabilities in the region to assist member states in planning for a large influx of irregular migrants and refugees.