Eighth Ministerial Conference, Adelaide, 10 February 2023

2023 Adelaide Strategy for Cooperation

At the 8th Bali Process Ministerial Conference on 10 February 2023, recalling and reaffirming the principles and direction set out in the 2016 and 2018 Ministerial Declarations and Co-Chairs Statements, and recognising enduring priorities from 2018 Strategy for Cooperation, as well as new priorities for cooperation, Ministers endorsed an updated 2023 Adelaide Strategy for Cooperation, designed to reinvigorate an agile, relevant, and responsive Bali Process beyond 20 years since its establishment.

This 2023 Adelaide Strategy for Cooperation includes activities conducted by Bali Process working groups, other engagement mechanisms, and the Regional Support Office (RSO), focused on eight areas of cooperation.

The eight areas of cooperation are:

      (1)   Law enforcement

      (2)   Stakeholder engagement

      (3)   Information sharing and public information campaigns

      (4)   Irregular Migration and Related Transnational Crime

      (5)   Border Management

      (6)   Victim Protection and Migration Management

      (7)   Returns and Reintegration

      (8)   Coordination and support

This list of activities under the eight areas of cooperation in this document is not intended to be exhaustive.

Ministers further call for collective efforts and support from Bali Process Member States, International Organizations, and Relevant Institutions on the implementation of the Strategy to combat people smuggling, trafficking in persons and related transnational crime.

2023 Adelaide Strategy for Cooperation

(1) Law enforcement

1. Promote and strengthen capacity to deliver coordinated, comprehensive approaches to detecting, preventing, investigating and prosecuting people smuggling, trafficking in persons, and related transnational crime, including the emerging online scam operations.
2. Strengthen law enforcement responses to technology-facilitated people smuggling, trafficking in persons and related transnational crime, including: building digital forensics capacity, such as investigation and evidence gathering, strengthening collaboration between specialised anti-trafficking and cyber-crime units; and furthering understanding of how to adapt existing policy and legislative frameworks.
3. Conduct capacity building to improve the capabilities of the officers of members' relevant national mechanism on the timely identification of, and assistance to, victims of trafficking in persons.
4. Pursue information-sharing, coordinated action and joint operations, and foster closer cooperation among members to disrupt and dismantle people smuggling and human trafficking networks.

(2) Stakeholder engagement

5. Strengthen collaboration with regional organisations, including ASEAN, and relevant consultation initiatives, to foster cooperation and policy dialogue, and enhance regional coordination on training and capacity building with relevant institutions, including the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation.
6. Through the Government and Business Forum (GABF), strengthen government engagement and collective efforts with the private sector to combat trafficking in persons for the purposes of forced labour, modern slavery, and the worst forms of child labour, including promotion of supply chain transparency, ethical recruitment and worker protection and redress.
7. Strengthen engagement with civil society and other relevant organisations to improve national and regional responses to people smuggling, trafficking in persons and related transnational crime, including to foster collaboration in supporting and protecting victims, and to help identify and prosecute perpetrators.
8. Strengthen engagement with technology platforms and related organisations, and encourage technological innovations and partnerships, to reduce trafficking risks in online spaces and strengthen communication among platforms, policymakers and law enforcement.

(3) Information sharing and public information campaigns

9. Support members to develop and implement effective public information campaigns, raise public awareness and promote digital literacy, including among youth, to reduce irregular migration and promote safe and legal migration.
10. Facilitate information-sharing and collaboration among policy and operational officials, including through thematic dialogues and workshops.

4) Irregular Migration and Related Transnational Crime

11. Engage on emergency irregular migration situations through the Consultation Mechanism and Senior official Co-Chairs' Good Offices outreach.

12. Conduct research, policy dialogue and practical cooperation within the Bali Process mandate on emerging issues, including trafficking into online scam operations, and enhance Members' understanding of the impact of natural and humanitarian disasters on irregular migration.
13. Continue activities to build preparedness to respond to irregular migration, including changing patterns and trends, such as multi-disciplinary table-top and planning exercises.
14. As part of efforts to combat people smuggling, trafficking in persons, and related transnational crimes, continue work with relevant mechanisms on anti-corruption initiatives.

(5) Border Management

15. Continue to update and develop guides, tools and training for operational and policy officers to promote effective frontline response to irregular migration, including resources and training on technology as a facilitator of, and tool to combat, people smuggling and trafficking in persons.
16. Continue to support the responsible use of biometrics for identity integrity in immigration, in cooperation and collaboration with national authorities/mechanisms, as appropriate.

(6) Victim Protection and Migration Management

17. Promote victim-centred approaches, and support comprehensive solutions, to the relevant management of people smuggling and trafficking in persons
18. Increase awareness of available assistance and support for persons in need of protection, in particular women and children.
19. Support the further implementation of Bali Process initiatives on civil registration and collection of vital statistics.

(7) Returns and Reintegration

20. Support Members to explore, develop, and strengthen policies and procedures on returns and reintegration, including in relation to access to services and livelihoods, the preparedness of labour markets, and, where relevant, the protection of vulnerable returnees, in order to improve sustainability and durability of returns.
21. Collaborate across Working Groups to better understand the relationship between returns, victim protection, and the investigation and prosecution of perpetrators of people smuggling, trafficking in persons, and related transnational crime.

(8). Coordination and support

22. Continue to harness the Regional Support Office (RSO) as a focal point to provide support to build member capacity across the Bali Process mandate and areas of focus.
23. Enhance internal and external communication, including launch of refreshed websites, RSO social media strategy, and online resources.
24. Strengthen consultation and collaboration across Working Groups on the inter-related issues of irregular migration, in order to streamline and enhance the effectiveness of the Bali Process.
25. Members to consider supporting the RSO through voluntary funding, or seconding officers to the RSO to undertake projects.