



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

**Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and
Related Transnational Crimes
Fourth Ministerial Conference
*Bali, 29-30 March 2011***

Address by Ms. Cristina Albertin
Regional Representative for South Asia

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the first instance, let me thank all the members of the Bali Process for giving UNODC as an observer the opportunity to speak here.

As most of you know, the mandate and work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is to assist our Member States to fight organized crime, illicit drugs, corruption and international terrorism within the respective UN conventions and universal instruments.

As the guardian of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its supplementary protocols on human trafficking and migrant smuggling, our primary goal is to promote global adherence to these universal instruments and assist States to effectively implement them, in particular, through:

- developing an effective criminal justice response and
- improving evidence-based knowledge to allow for effective decision making and policy development.

UNODC shares the view with the Bali Process that human trafficking and smuggling of migrants remain issues of great concern – despite the existence of the UNTOC for now more than ten years- and that there is a still a great need for more cooperation to strengthen the capacities of countries to address effectively human trafficking and smuggling of migrants.

With regard to UNODCs work against human trafficking, our comprehensive approach focuses on what we refer to as the four P's: prevention of human trafficking, prosecution of perpetrators, protection of victims and partnerships towards ending human trafficking.

With regard to irregular or unsafe migration, those migrants can also become vulnerable to exploitation and human trafficking – especially when moving irregularly or as result of it. Irregular migration within, through, from and to the Bali Process region is significantly facilitated by migrant smugglers.

We all recall the shocking Christmas Island boat tragedy, a reminder that smuggling networks prefer methods that minimize their risks – too often at the expense of the safety and lives of the smuggled migrants. Migrant smuggling is a deadly business.

While the profits are high, the criminals – in particular the organizers who drive the business - face little risk of detection and punishment.

As often highlighted, legislation needs to be enhanced, also in line with the UNTOC provisions. Border control measures are crucial. We especially need to increase the focus on investigating and prosecuting migrant smugglers. The challenge is to dismantle the smuggling networks and bring the perpetrators to justice.

Law enforcement initiatives alone cannot solve the problem. They have to be embedded in a wider migration and development policy framework. Where not combined with a holistic approach, increased border controls may simply result in diverting migrant smuggling routes elsewhere and increase the demand for even more risky services.

UNODC stands ready to further intensify cooperation with the Bali Process and its participating states in addressing human trafficking and migrant smuggling: by providing advice on specific issues, assisting states through comprehensive technical assistance programmes, and fostering international law enforcement and criminal justice cooperation.

UNODC is also committed to support the Bali Process in operationalizing the inclusive but non-binding regional cooperation framework.

The following are few examples of our work:

- (a) with the recent adoption of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons in August 2010, UNODC is entrusted to manage the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons
- (b) UNODC in cooperation with relevant national and international institutions has elaborated practical guidance on how to translate the Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons Protocols into domestic legislation.
- (c) Currently, we are in the process of translating and adapting the UNODC Basic Training Manual on Investigating and Prosecuting Migrant Smuggling. In addition to our computer based training course on anti-human trafficking, we are now working on a respective course on migrant smuggling.

(d) UNODC has carried out a number of research projects in the Bali Process region, such as for example two research studies on migrant smuggling from, through and to India.

(e) With regard to generating strategic information in the Bali Process region, UNODC is currently establishing a data reporting system on migrant smuggling and related conduct, which will make a significant contribution to the Bali Process by increasing the evidence base for analysis and policy development.

Our success in this is contingent upon countries' willingness to share data and so allow for proper evidence and analysis of these truly transnational crimes which pose great threats to all our citizens and societies.

Thank you for your attention.

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