

Budapest Process

27th Meeting of the Senior Officials of the Budapest Process

Third Preparatory Meeting for the 6th Budapest Process Ministerial Conference

Istanbul, 19-20 November 2018

Summary

1. The Senior Officials meeting gathered **81 participants from 37 countries** – Afghanistan, Albania, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, the Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom – as well as EASO, the European Commission, the European External Action Service (EEAS), Frontex – the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Regional Initiative for issues of migration, asylum and refugees (MARRI) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).
2. Turkey opened the meeting with welcoming remarks as the Chair. Opening remarks from Hungary as the Co-chair, ICMPD as the Secretariat as well as the European Commission followed.
3. ICMPD, as the Budapest Process Secretariat, gave a presentation on the updates from the year 2018 including on the EU-funded project ‘Improving Migration Management in the Silk Routes countries’ and the progress achieved in its first year of implementation.
4. The Budapest Process Secretariat presented the revised texts as shared in October 2018 and the changes incorporated as laid out in the explanatory note, which delegates had received beforehand.
5. Countries welcomed the revised texts, their streamlined content and their revised structure. The clear improvements from the April 2018 versions were appreciated.
6. The Chair, Co-Chair and facilitators from ICMPD, IOM and UNHCR went through ‘the Istanbul Commitments’ and the ‘Call for Action’ and collected comments on each paragraph in the political declaration and each action point in the action plan from delegates.
7. Following all four sessions reviewing the texts, countries were given the possibility to submit their written comments on both the ‘Istanbul Commitments’ and the ‘Call for Action’ until 23 November 2018.
8. The Chair announced that the Ministerial Conference would take place during 19-21 February 2019 and asked participating countries to follow up with their Ministers and save the dates.
9. It was agreed that both texts with the comments made during the meeting would be shared within the week as well as the save the date for the Ministerial Conference in 2019.
10. The Chair committed to share a compromised proposal for both the political declaration and action plan tentatively around 10 December 2018.

11. The Turkish Chair thanked all participants for their engaged discussions and valuable comments, the Co-chair for its support and the Secretariat for the preparations and organisation.