

## Budapest Process

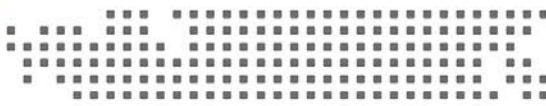
### 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Senior Officials of the Budapest Process

#### Fourth Preparatory Meeting for the 6th Budapest Process Ministerial Conference

Istanbul, 19 February 2019

### Summary

1. The Senior Officials meeting gathered **129 participants from 46 countries** – Afghanistan, Albania, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iraq, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and Uzbekistan – as well as the Council of the European Union, the European Commission, the European External Action Service (EEAS), the European Asylum Support Office (EASO), the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX), the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), the Council of Europe, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Regional Initiative for issues of migration, asylum and refugees (MARRI), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) 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 of the process of negotiation leading to the texts presented today. Participants were reminded of the zero draft in November 2017 and how this developed into two texts: a political declaration and an action plan. The Secretariat encouraged participating states to focus on the new changes in the texts since December 2018 but not to re-open agreed compromises.
4. The Chair opened the floor for general comments on the texts. The following main issues should be mentioned from the rich discussion:
  - a. The majority of participating countries welcomed the revised texts and the work accomplished since the initial zero draft, stating that it contains all crucial elements and is well received and accepted.
  - b. A few countries commented on the reference to the Global Compact for Migration in the political declaration “The Istanbul Commitments on the Silk Routes Partnership for Migration”. Some countries suggested to delete the references to the Global Compact and explained that politically, they are prevented from accepting the text including this reference. Other countries reiterated the importance of keeping the reference to the Global Compact for Migration - as one of the key outputs in the field of migration to date.



- c. The term “responsibility-sharing” was replaced by “solidarity” and “joint responsibility” in all but one instance. The Russian Federation requested a footnote to be included regarding the terminology “responsibility-sharing”.
  - d. It was added, in the declaration and the action plan, that all six priority goals carry equal weight and are interconnected.
  - e. A reference was added in the preamble recognising that an open and free debate contributes to a comprehensive understanding of all aspects of migration.
5. A new version was shared with all participants for silent approval procedure ahead of the 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on 20.02.2019.
6. Considering that not all countries were in a position to adopt the political declaration and its action plan while it still contained the mention of the Global Compact on Migration, it was decided to list countries adopting the two documents individually in the beginning States were requested to notify the Budapest Process Secretariat before 8am on 20 February regarding their adoption status.
7. The following countries decided not to adopt the “Istanbul Commitments on the Silk Routes Partnership for Migration”: Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Poland and Slovakia. However, all countries stressed their continuing support for the Budapest Process as such.
8. It was agreed to refer to observer countries in a footnote of the declaration. A further footnote was added mentioning that other Budapest Process participating and observer countries can join and participate when relevant.
9. 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.