

Budapest Process

26th Meeting of the Senior Officials of the Budapest Process

Second Preparatory Meeting for the 6th Budapest Process Ministerial Conference

Istanbul, 16-17 April 2018

Summary/conclusions

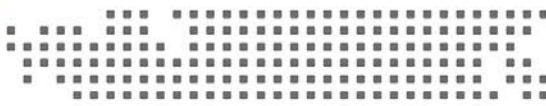
1. The Senior Officials meeting gathered **101 participants from 34 countries** – Afghanistan, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Kazakhstan, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom – as well as BSEC, 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 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).
2. Following the official opening of the meeting, with welcoming remarks from Turkey as the Chair, Hungary as the Co-chair, ICMPD as the Secretariat as well as the European Commission – Turkey presented the updated political declaration ‘the Istanbul Commitments’ as well as the action plan ‘A Call for Action’.

General comments

3. The division of the earlier discussed text into two documents as well as the overall content were well received.
4. The documents were regarded as ambitious and relevant. Participants welcomed the recommitment to strengthen cooperation and partnership in migration management.
5. Participants wished to clarify and strengthen the links between the two documents as well as avoid duplications between sections.
6. The need to shorten both documents and make language and content more concise was expressed. This includes a request for more consistency in terminology and definitions, for example related to common terms such as regular/irregular, trafficking in persons or responsibility- /burden-sharing.
7. The request to keep a balanced text was repeated, encompassing a comprehensive view of migration and bearing in mind perspectives of origin and/or transit and/or destination countries.
8. The documents should take the Global Compacts into consideration and focus on practical cooperation and implementation of the related commitments.
9. It was also suggested to express the purpose of the Budapest Process more clearly as well as to include a reference to the history of cooperation between participating countries.

Comments on the political declaration

10. The overall structure of the updated political declaration was met with approval. More detailed comments were received on the wording.



Comments on the structure of the Action Plan

11. There were several comments relating to the structure of the action plan:
 - i. The structure of the action plan following the priority goals from the 2013 Istanbul Ministerial Declaration was met with approval.
 - ii. Following several comments in this direction, it was agreed to divide Part B of the Action Plan - actions related to the Commitments – and put these actions either in part A of the action plan or the political declaration.
 - iii. Several states suggested to remove the separation between actions categorised ‘Fundamental’ and ‘Advanced’. The separation was seen as superfluous and unnecessary.
 - iv. A suggestion to add a Priority Goal Zero on ‘Enhanced Migration Governance’ was proposed.
 - v. General redrafting was recommended in certain cases in order to remove overlaps and repetitions.
 - vi. Some actions need redrafting in light of international law and obligations of states.
12. Countries were given the possibility to submit written additional comments on both the ‘Istanbul Commitments’ and the ‘Call for Action’ until 4 May 2018.
13. The Chair entrusted the Secretariat with the task to summarise the discussions and distribute the summary for comments as well as the updated political declaration and action plan.
14. The next drafts will be shared at a later stage as well as a time-plan with the dates next meetings, including the Ministerial Conference.
15. 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.