



Remarks by

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At the Opening Session of
The Fourth Ministerial Conference of the Bali Process
On People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons
And Related Transnational Crime

Bali, Indonesia, 30 March 2011

My Esteemed Colleague and fellow Co-chair, the Honourable Kevin Rudd, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia,

Excellencies Ministers and Heads of Delegation,

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by once again thanking you for attending this meeting.

Indeed, our meeting today marks an important juncture of the Bali Process.

Together, we will review progress that we have achieved thus far, particularly after the Ministerial Conference of the Bali Process in April 2009.

We will take stock of the current situation regarding people smuggling and trafficking in persons.

And we will chart future directions for this common endeavor of ours.

*Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

When it was established in 2002, the Bali Process was meant to advance collective efforts to solve a regional problem. To provide a comprehensive solution to the emerging and increasingly complex problem of irregular migration.

I am heartened to note that since its inception, the Bali Process has indeed provided a valuable forum towards this end.

It has served as a forum for enhancing regional cooperation to prevent irregular movements of people and to address the problems that they bring about.

It has ensured that this cooperation is carried out in a comprehensive and inclusive manner

It has made possible constructive exchanges of views among countries of origin, transit and destination, on how to respond to the complex challenges of irregular migration.

It has fostered a close working partnership between countries and relevant international organizations, including the IOM, the UNHCR and the UNODC.

It has facilitated concrete capacity building and partnership among its participants.

And it has placed the plight of the victims at the heart of its deliberations, most notably, the victims' need for assistance and protection.

Yet, we should not be complacent, as there are many challenges ahead.

As published in the IOM's World Migration Report 2010, undocumented migration is increasingly an issue within the region. It is estimated that some of Asia's largest undocumented migration flows may among the largest overall contemporary flows.

This leads us to the root causes of irregular movements of people within our region, which are multi-dimensional and multi-faceted.

Poverty, economic disparities, gaps in labour market opportunities, conflicts, and insecurity, are the major factors behind the rise in the incidence of people smuggling and human trafficking. We must address these root causes.

We must also remain vigilant in the face of rampant transnational organized crimes.

As the increase in transnational organized crimes infringes on national security concerns of many countries, we must ensure that we will always be a few steps ahead of their perpetrators.

The global economic crisis and the widespread anxiety over food and energy security, the impacts of climate change and the outbreak of natural disasters all over the region have compounded the situation further.

We also need to observe closely the potential impacts of recent political developments in some countries on the irregular movements of people.

Taking all of these into account, the *raison d'être* of the Bali Process has not only remained valid. It has become even more pertinent.

This forum should continue to provide a regional framework for addressing the challenges of people smuggling, trafficking in persons and related transnational crimes.

Since the issue it addresses is multidimensional and multifaceted, the framework should be comprehensive and inclusive.

It has to provide a solution for all countries affected.

It has to accommodate the interests of all countries involved, consistent with applicable international standards.

In this regard, we need to deepen our approach and partnership to match contemporary challenges.

Indeed, as we convene today, we urgently need to find common ground. We must address all aspects of the problem. We must strengthen cooperation, expand our networks, and think outside the box.

*Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I am confident that we are heading the right direction.

Our last meeting in 2009 has revitalized the Bali Process by, among others, re-instating the Ad-hoc Group mechanism for formulating ways and means of responding to current challenges.

I am heartened to note that the Ad-hoc Group has produced a number of concrete achievements, including capacity building workshops and initiatives on data exchange.

I also welcome the successful result of the recent Bali Process Ad-hoc Group Senior Officials Meeting (AHG SOM) and the Bali Process Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) in Bali, 9-10 March 2011.

*Excellencies,
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As Co-chair of the Bali Process, Indonesia is convinced that much more can be done.

We in Indonesia remain steadfast in our efforts to combat people smuggling and trafficking in persons.

Our approach is multi-pronged. It involves legal enforcement, social-economic development, a victims-oriented approach and international cooperation.

We continue to strengthen the capacity of our legal enforcement agencies.

We are working on national legislation to criminalize people smuggling. We are committed to this: a provision that would criminalize people smuggling will be incorporated into the amended immigration law of 1992.

This will make official the undeniable truth that people smugglers are heinous criminals.

It is also in line with Indonesia's commitment to ratify the Protocol against people smuggling, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

Furthermore, at the regional and international levels, our commitment to the Bali Process is unwavering, as evidenced by the holding of this very meeting today.

Finally:

Excellencies,

*Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I wish to thank the Government of Australia for Co-chairing the Bali Process and for its equally firm commitment to this endeavour.

I should also like to acknowledge the valuable contributions of the UNHCR, the IOM, and the UNODC to the Bali Process.

I also thank the observer States and international organizations for their participation in this meeting. By learning from one another, we can all wage a more effective battle against people smuggling and trafficking in persons.

Thank you.

I now have the pleasure of inviting my Co-chair, the Honourable Kevin Rudd of Australia, to deliver his opening remarks.

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