



# BUDAPEST PROCESS

## 6<sup>TH</sup> MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

19-20.02.2019 ISTANBUL



## 6<sup>TH</sup> MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE



# IMPRESSIONS

# CONTENTS



INTRODUCTION	1
FOREWORD FROM H.E. RECEP TAYYIP ERDOĞAN, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY	2
OPENING WORDS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BUDAPEST PROCESS, TURKEY	3
THOUGHTS & REFLECTIONS BY THE CO-CHAIR, HUNGARY	4
THOUGHTS & REFLECTIONS BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER	5
THOUGHTS & REFLECTIONS FROM ICMPD AS THE BUDAPEST PROCESS SECRETARIAT	6
SELECTED QUOTES	8
PICTURE GALLERY	10
THE ISTANBUL COMMITMENTS	11
A CALL FOR ACTION	16
TWEETS AND FAMILY PHOTO	21

Funded by

Chair



Co-Chair



Secretariat



# INTRODUCTION

The Budapest Process held its 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on 19-20 February 2019 in Istanbul, Turkey. It gathered 47 participating countries, the European Commission and other European institutions and 15 regional and international organisations. The event was hosted and chaired by Turkey and funded by Turkey, the European Union, Switzerland, Norway and Hungary.

20 Ministers as well as the European Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship and 12 Deputy Ministers and State Secretaries took part in the conference.

The following 38 countries adopted the “Istanbul Commitments on the Silk Routes Partnership for Migration” and its action plan “A Call for Action – a five year plan” at the Conference: Afghanistan, Albania, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Pakistan, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom and Uzbekistan. This political declaration and action plan build upon the achievements of the 2013 Istanbul Ministerial Declaration on a Silk Routes Partnership for Migration while taking into account the migration developments of the past years. The countries who attended the Conference but did not adopt the Istanbul Commitments reiterated their strong support to the process and its activities.

The Istanbul Commitments introduce five commitments to be upheld in migration management: commitments to partnership, comprehensive migration management, human rights, support and solidarity, and knowledge. The Budapest Process will now focus on the implementation of the five-year action plan which lists action points following the six priority goals:

- Prevent and counteract irregular migration, facilitate return and readmission of irregular migrants, and combat criminal networks involved in smuggling of migrants,
- Better organise and improve conditions for legal migration and mobility,
- Support the integration of migrants and counteract discrimination, racism and xenophobia,
- Strengthen the positive impact of migration on development, both in countries of origin and of destination,
- Prevent and combat trafficking in persons, address its root causes and provide adequate protection and support to trafficked persons,
- Promote international protection and the respect of the rights of refugees, in line with international standards



# FOREWORD FROM H.E. RECEP TAYYIP ERDOĞAN, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

Welcome to İstanbul, the junction of continents, cultures and hearts as well as the city of history and civilization. Embracing oppressed persons and victims during its long history, İstanbul is hosting an important event on migration today.

The international community is facing a migration crisis of a magnitude rarely seen in history. The humanitarian tragedy we encountered every day is just the tip of the iceberg of migration.

Migration is a humanitarian and political issue which also has a security dimension. In the core of this issue, there is lack of justice and empathy. Addressing the issues of migration and refugee from the viewpoint of security itself will be a reductive approach. It is so clear that building up higher walls and putting barbed wire around are not sound solutions for preventing irregular migration. To make a proper assessment, we should focus on visible problems as well as the invisible problems.

The current system failed to bring solutions to conflict or instability or even for the reasons that trigger people to migrate. In such an era when distances have become meaningless, the fate of Europe cannot be considered apart from the fate of Africa and the fate of North America cannot be considered apart from the fate of South America. Developing technology and transportation opportunities not only bound us but also make us seek common solutions for our problems.

I do not make those evaluations as a President of a country which is far away from all the conflicts and irregular migration movements, instead as a President of a country which hosts the highest number of asylum seekers in the world according to the statistical data of the United Nations.

Distinguished friends,

Managing the migration phenomenon in the broadest sense is as important as preventing irregular migration. The Budapest Process chaired by Turkey since 2006 is a valuable platform that aims to cooperate between source, transit and target countries on migration routes.

The messages given and the decisions taken during the 6th Ministerial Conference will affect the life of millions throughout the world. I believe that all my friends gathered here consider the issue sensitively.



**Recep Tayyip Erdoğan**  
*President of the Republic  
of Turkey*



# OPENING WORDS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BUDAPEST PROCESS, TURKEY

Every country has different attitudes towards migration, and different plans for implementing migration policies; the Budapest Process gathers many countries and, as its chair, we welcome their diversity.

Conferences and different processes, similar to the Budapest Process, are operating in the field of migration management around the world. They make tremendous efforts to gather and discuss different viewpoints around one table. Those are the efforts that we all make, and which lead to great results.

We hold the chairmanship of the Budapest Process since 2006 and have focused on the geographical enlargement of the Process, such as by adding the Silk Routes Region Working Group, and producing concrete outputs.

The regions covering the Budapest Process have historically been subject to huge migration movements. Therefore, we are and shall be in as much need of a great vision as we were in the past. We believe that any meeting on migration, even the smallest one, shall contribute to positive outcomes, solutions and hope.

As a country, by virtue of our geographical location, we are a destination and transit country, which lies at the crossroads of migration routes. In such a position, we have adopted the policy of managing migration rather than preventing it. Our decision leads to many costs and serious responsibility, for which we have been allocating significant human and financial resources.

As the Republic of Turkey, we have hosted the 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference of the Budapest Process and we thank all countries' contributions to this Process as a support for diminishing migration tragedies and creating hope for all people who wish to live in a peaceful world.

We were very pleased to host you in Istanbul and thank you for your cooperation.



**Süleyman Soylu**  
*Minister of Interior of the  
Republic of Turkey*



# THOUGHTS & REFLECTIONS BY THE CO-CHAIR, HUNGARY

Migration today is, more than ever, a global issue - a priority for all governments.

The migration reality has changed tremendously in the previous years. This is our common challenge which requires common responses. Close cooperation is needed between countries in order to prevent and stem irregular migration, combat trafficking in and smuggling of human beings as well as to enhance border management activities. Tackling the root causes which lead to mass migratory movements is also an important element of our work: eradicating poverty, prevention of armed conflicts, creating livelihood opportunities taking into account effects of climate change and giving people the possibility to study abroad and gain skills that can benefit their country of origin. We need stronger and more coherent actions to ensure real partnerships and continued efforts.

The Budapest Process is an important forum for dialogue on various aspects of migration. We are convinced that our strengthened cooperation will open new perspectives for the Budapest Process, and we can prove again the effectiveness of our joint efforts. Hungary as the co-chair of the process has been and is committed to guide the Budapest Process in close cooperation with Turkey and ICMPD towards success and efficiency.

We are very grateful for the organisation of the Preparatory Meeting at Senior Official level as well as the Ministerial meeting itself.



# THOUGHTS & REFLECTIONS BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER

In our globalised world, human mobility - as well as many other pressing issues - can only be effectively addressed together. This is a lesson Europe learnt in the last few years. Building strong partnerships with and between countries of origin, transit and destination of migration has become a key feature of the European Union's migration policy.

Our partnership along the Silk Route allows us to work hand in hand and engage in a dialogue on migration and mobility amongst countries on the European and Asian continents. It is a partnership based on mutual respect and understanding. For centuries, the Silk Route has been characterised by human mobility - people seeking to do trade, looking for opportunities for a better life, or fleeing conflict, war and fear. We are all aware that the geopolitical instabilities lying at the origin of these movements still exist. This is why we must continue our joint work of preparation, coordination and mutual support, and increase our collective capacity to face these common challenges.

In this, we can build on the results we have already achieved between the EU and important countries. Together with Turkey for example, we have delivered on what matters most: saving migrants' lives by preventing the use of irregular and dangerous migration channels, and fighting effectively against smugglers and traffickers.

There has also been increasing engagement between the EU and Afghanistan, which is important for the stabilisation, reconstruction and prosperity of the country. This has contributed to making progress towards a durable solution of the situation of the Afghan refugees dispersed in the neighbouring countries. We are equally determined to deepen our dialogue and cooperation with partner countries such as Pakistan, Iraq and Iran on migration and many other issues, building on the progress already made. The EU-Bangladesh relation has also been very constructive, in particular for the effective cooperation on migration management that we have established since 2017, and for the long-standing hospitality Bangladesh has been offering to the Rohingya refugee population.

We need to build on these types of cooperation. In particular, we need to further address the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement, more effectively manage our borders, be even more uncompromising towards migrant smugglers and human traffickers, ensure an effective cooperation on return, readmission and reintegration of irregular migrants and offer pathways for resettlement and a clear framework for legal migration.

It is only by sincerely working together, that we can build a better organised, more sustainable and fairer system for migration management in the Silk Route neighbourhood and globally.



**Dimitris Avramopoulos**  
*Commissioner for Migration,  
Home Affairs and Citizenship  
European Commission*



# THOUGHTS & REFLECTIONS FROM ICMPD AS THE BUDAPEST PROCESS SECRETARIAT

The Budapest Process has, over the last 26 years, been instrumental in bringing countries together and in bridging both different positions as well as great distances in migration policymaking. At ICMPD we believe that it is always possible to improve migration governance. We are honored to contribute to this important goal by serving as the Secretariat of the Budapest Process dialogue.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference lies behind us now; after a two year process, intense cooperative work and negotiations have resulted in a renewed set of objectives for transforming contemporary migration challenges with concerted action and shared responsibility. The Istanbul Commitments on the Silk Routes Partnership for Migration and its Call for Action have brought in a new phase of migration cooperation in the Silk Routes region with 41 concrete actions to be implemented within the next years. They were adopted by close to 40 participating states, and they represent our joint and shared legacy for the future.

We can now look at a future of renewed commitment and continued collaboration – a future in which we wish to see solid partnerships to effectively manage and regulate migration, better managed migration flows, and decreased challenges of irregular migration. We also wish to see better protection for those in need of it, and societies free of xenophobia, racism and discrimination against migrants and refugees.

We are reminded, more than ever, that this process continues to be of utmost relevance: in times of growing differences in standpoints and priorities, it is essential to rely on well-established informal platforms such as the Budapest Process to maintain partnerships and to reinforce underlying trust in order to facilitate continued cooperation in migration.

I wish all of us success in the work that is to come!



**Michael Spindelegger**  
*Director General of the  
International Centre for  
Migration Policy Development*





*The two main reasons of migration are income inequality and security concerns. Migration is not a phenomenon that only one country can manage itself. If migration is not managed fully, illegal actions begin to govern countries. Our main migration strategy is to prevent tragedies of migration and manage it well rather than preventing migration. The experiences we have gained since 2013 reveal we should focus on concrete outcomes. The meeting, which we hold today, aims to carry forward the 2013 Istanbul Ministerial Declaration. Our goal is to reach the best that we can and create a world where we find only seashells and starfish on the shores.*

**Süleyman Soylu**  
Minister of Interior of the Republic of Turkey



*As long as we find the willingness and strength to share our ideas, our visions but also our disagreements, our seemingly opposing objectives or opinions - as long as we do that - we can try to find solutions, and a way to move forward. And we can identify opportunities for operational cooperation. Networks, mutual understanding and trust are essential elements for any operational cooperation. These can only be built by listening to each other; and by having the opportunity to exchange also informally.*

**Michael Spindelegger**  
Director General  
International Centre for Migration Policy Development



*The national unity government has decided to make migration a priority, and this was reflected in the guidance of government leadership officials.*

**Sayed Hussain Alemi Balkhi**  
Minister of Refugees and Repatriation  
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan



*This gathering is very important. We are here in order to find common routes forward because migration, whether we want to admit it or not, has taken global dimensions; migration has become a global issue and we can only address it together in unity and in solidarity.*

*(...) Our primary objective is to build an organised and sustainable management of human mobility, respectful of human rights, and inspired by the principles of solidarity, partnership, accountability and sharing of responsibility. This is the only way forward.*

**Dimitris Avramopoulos**

Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship  
European Commission



*"I commend the significant work the Budapest Process has achieved over more than 25 years. Indeed, those accomplishments contributed to the successful adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration last December by the United Nations General Assembly. Now, our attention must focus on generating effective cooperation that responds to the Compact - addressing the complex challenges of migration while reaping its many benefits, saving lives and taking stronger action to crack down on human trafficking.*

**António Guterres**

Secretary-General of the United Nations



*We look forward to engaging actively on the prospects, opportunities and pathways for regular migration to facilitate labour mobility and decent work, optimising education opportunities, upholding the right to family life, and responding to the needs of migrants in a situation of vulnerability. ... Going forward, it would be worthwhile to establish working groups under each priority goal to follow-up on their implementation, without prioritising one area over the other.*

**Shehryar Afridi**

Minister of State for Interior  
Government of Pakistan  
(in office until mid-April 2019)





H.E. Mr Süleyman Soylu, Turkey's Minister of the Interior, greets all participating Ministers and other high-level participants on 20 February.



Senior Officials from more than 40 countries gather for an all-day meeting on 19 February to finalise the political declaration of the 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference and the action plan "The Call for Action". This preparatory meeting was the fourth and final of its kind.



The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) serves as the Secretariat of the Budapest Process since 1993; in this role, ICMPD provides administrative, strategic and content support to the Turkish Chair in their leadership of the process.



Turkey is the Chair of the Budapest Process since 2006. On the occasion of the 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference, Turkey hosted a gala dinner in Çırağan Palace in the presence of H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Turkey.



Over 250 delegates from 47 countries, the European institutions and more than ten regional and international organisations attended the 6<sup>th</sup> Budapest Process Ministerial Conference.



*"We applaud the work of regional consultative processes such as the Budapest Process and other inter-state dialogue mechanisms on migration as pioneers at the forefront of migration governance", said Ms. Ol'ga Algayerová, Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Europe. "Their work at the regional and cross-regional levels has helped lay the groundwork for the development of the Global Compact on Migration."*



# THE ISTANBUL COMMITMENTS ON THE SILK ROUTES PARTNERSHIP FOR MIGRATION

WE, the Ministers responsible for migration and migration-related matters from the Budapest Process participating and observer countries Afghanistan, Albania, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Pakistan, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom and Uzbekistan, in the presence of the European Commissioner responsible for migration, and representatives of relevant organisations;<sup>1 2 3</sup>

Gathered in Istanbul on 20 February 2019 at the Budapest Process 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference;

Thanking the Chair, Turkey, for its timely initiative and for hosting the conference and the preparatory meetings, and Hungary acting as Co-chair for its support and the Secretariat, ICMPD, for its administrative and substance preparations;

Recognising the unique role and strong impact of the Budapest Process and the Silk Routes Partnership for Migration and the substantial progress made regarding migration cooperation with and migration management within the Silk Routes region;

Reaffirming the continued need to implement, consistently and in a planned and balanced manner the six priority goals of the 2013 Ministerial Declaration on a Silk Routes Partnership for Migration;

Noting that many countries are at the same time countries of origin, transit and destination;

Conscious that the countries of the Silk Routes Region historically are affected by largescale movements of refugees and irregular migrants and host some of the largest refugee populations in the world putting an additional responsibility on public authorities and delivery of services;

Taking into account and building upon lessons learnt of the recent migration and refugee crisis and the role of the European Union and its Member States in managing migration in partnership with countries of origin and transit;

Affirming the need of a renewed political commitment in light of major migration flows in the last years affecting different regions of the Budapest Process;

**1 Australia, Bangladesh and Iran are observers to the Budapest Process and participate in relevant events and activities.**

**2 Other Budapest Process participating and observer countries can join and participate as relevant.**

**3 The Russian Federation has made an interpretative statement.**



Noting also the importance of the Black Sea Region and the South East European Region in addressing refugee and migration flows;

Commending Turkey, the Silk Routes countries and other involved countries for their constructive role in finding solutions to managing the major migration flows of the past years;

Recognising that the countries of the Silk Routes region have historic experience and important knowledge to share regarding the management of largescale movements of refugees and migrants<sup>4</sup>;

Noting, in this regard, the need to exchange information and experience and continue to increase the capacities of the countries of the Silk Routes Partnership for Migration to manage such movements;

Affirming the need to take a holistic view of migration and look at the whole migration chain, including drivers of migration, and on-going migratory movements, the aftermath of such movements including integration as well as safe and sustainable return and reintegration, ensuring that rights of refugees and human rights of migrants are protected;

Acknowledging that forced displacement, including internal displacement, can have an effect on migration flows and should be handled in accordance with relevant UN guiding principles;

Recognising that since the previous Ministerial Conference in 2013 important international frameworks and instruments have been adopted which affect the governance of migration at national, regional and global level including: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted in September 2015 containing the ground-breaking sustainable development goals (SDGs), of special relevance here SDG 10.7 and 8.7, as well as the commitments made at the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016;

Highlighting the role of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants adopted in September 2016 leading to the two global compacts, the “Global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration” and the “Global compact on refugees”, without prejudice to states’ varying positions regarding the compacts;

Emphasising that the Budapest Process has the knowhow, tools and outreach to play an important role, through years of dialogue and operational activities in Europe and Asia specifically in the Silk Routes Region, for the translation of global commitments and frameworks to regional realities;

Aware that the Budapest Process should endeavour - including through exchanging information and furthering a common understanding - to build clear, comprehensive and transparent, national legal frameworks for all aspects of migration and mobility, taking into account national policies and competencies in this regard and to continue capacity building in the Silk Routes Region, including through furthering the development of holistic migration policies, institutional capacity and cooperation;

Recognising that an open and free debate contributes to a comprehensive understanding of all aspects of migration;

Underlining the positive impact of well-managed regular migration on development, while recognising at the same time the negative effects of irregular migration and therefore committing to make migration a choice rather than a necessity;

**4 Refugees and migrants are governed by separate international legal and political frameworks and this declaration reaffirms this distinction between status of refugees and migrants under international law.**



Recognising the severe risks posed by organised criminal networks involved in irregular migration to internal security and the security of citizens and migrants alike;

Affirming that this non-legally binding declaration applies as appropriate for each participating country in accordance with applicable international law and without prejudice to national legislation and especially noting that within their sovereign jurisdiction, states may distinguish between regular and irregular migration status;

Highlighting the importance of strengthening international cooperation and solidarity in the field of migration;

Recalling the following elements of international law of relevance for migration management, (while noting that accession status differs among participating states):

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights which ensures the respect by states of human rights of all individuals on their territory, including refugees, beneficiaries of subsidiary or complementary forms of protection and migrants
- That everyone has the right to leave any country, including his or her own, and to return to his or her country, in line with Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), That everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy asylum in line with Article 14 (2) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948),
- That each State has a sovereign right to determine whom to admit to- and to allow to stay on- its territory, subject to that State's international obligations,
- That states have rights and responsibilities to manage and control their borders, and to implement border management procedures in conformity with applicable obligations under international law,
- That states must readmit their nationals and ensure that they are duly received without undue delay, following confirmation of their nationalities in accordance with national legislation and customary international law and readmission agreements where applicable,
- The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the supplementing Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air,
- That the term "international protection" as used in this Declaration includes the refugee status according to the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, as well as complementary or subsidiary or temporary forms of protection as applicable,
- The principle of non-refoulement in international refugee and international human rights law as a non-derogable right
- The Convention on the Rights of the Child highlighting the significance of always protecting the best interests of the child.



## HAVE AGREED

**To take concerted action to endorse and implement the attached five-year plan “a Call for Action” following the priority goals of the Istanbul Ministerial Declaration each having equal weight:**

- Prevent and counteract irregular migration, facilitate return and readmission of irregular migrants, and combat criminal networks involved in smuggling of migrants,
- Better organise and improve conditions for legal migration and mobility,
- Support the integration of migrants and counteract discrimination, racism and xenophobia,
- Strengthen the positive impact of migration on development, both in countries of origin and of destination,
- Prevent and combat trafficking in persons, address its root causes and provide adequate protection and support to trafficked persons,
- Promote international protection and the respect of the rights of refugees, in line with international standards

## And

**To apply key commitments to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration along the Silk Routes:**

### A commitment to partnership

- Successful migration and protection policies can only be attained through cooperation and partnership among countries of origin, transit and destination of migratory flows.
- A partnership approach will be applied on global, regional and local levels when designing and implementing migration policies with relevant stakeholders.
- Cooperation amongst Budapest Process participating countries will promote joint solutions to regional issues of common interest regarding migration.
- Sustain and operationalise existing well-established migration partnership frameworks.

### A commitment to comprehensive migration governance

- Migration and asylum governance should be comprehensive, over-arching, human rights-sensitive and inclusive.
- The development of comprehensive migration and asylum policies and strengthening whole of government and society approaches will be supported using as relevant a multi-stakeholder approach through continued capacity building, regional cooperation, and exchange of best practices.
- Pursue a people-centered approach in policy development and implementation of activities.



### **A commitment to respect, protect and fulfill international human rights and fundamental freedoms**

- Human rights of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees are crucial for the development and functioning of sustainable migration, asylum and protection policies. Human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, asylum seekers and refugees and persons in need of protection, regardless of status, shall be protected as shall the rights of all unaccompanied minors and those separated from their families in need of international protection. Primary consideration will be given to the best interests of the child.
- Furthermore, the special needs of all migrants and refugees in vulnerable situations will be safeguarded, in accordance with national laws and relevant obligations under international law, while ensuring dignified protection policies and while considering gender-specific aspects of migration.

### **A commitment to support and solidarity**

- The principles of support and responsibility sharing should guide the work of the Budapest Process and the Silk Routes Partnership for Migration.
- Solidarity and international cooperation are essential elements to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration, to address refugee situations, including protracted, irregular movements and sudden inflows and to enforce border control and enhance law enforcement cooperation and to combat migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons.
- Respond efficiently to crises including contingency planning and early warning systems.

### **A commitment to knowledge**

- Without sufficient knowledge and communication on all levels – for policy makers, societies, migrants, asylum seekers and refugees - the design, implementation and proper follow-up of migration policies is compromised. Consequently, there is a strong commitment to enhance the knowledge base through gathering data, analysis and dissemination on all levels also using the already existing structures and information.



# A CALL FOR ACTION

## A FIVE YEAR PLAN

### INTRODUCTION

The Call for Action complements the “Istanbul Commitments on the Silk Routes Partnership for Migration” - the political declaration adopted by the participating states of the Budapest Process on the occasion of its 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference.

The Call for Action lists key actions that can be drawn from the six interconnected priority goals agreed upon in the Budapest Process Istanbul Ministerial Declaration “A Silk Routes Partnership for Migration” in 2013 each having equal weight.

#### Priority Goal 1

#### **Prevent and counteract irregular migration, facilitate return and readmission of irregular migrants, and combat criminal networks involved in smuggling of migrants**

1. Further strengthen counteracting irregular migration and fighting against migrant smuggling by fostering cooperation and improving coordination by all stakeholders at the national, regional and international level;
2. Increase law enforcement cooperation regionally and bilaterally on preventing and combating migration related crime including smuggling of migrants and document fraud as well as tracing illicit financial flows or other material benefits and seizing crime proceeds;
3. Strengthen operational cooperation in the field of border management with a view to counteract irregular migration, smuggling of migrants while respecting the principle of non-refoulement as well as international human rights;
4. Establish flexible and swift channels to exchange information, experience and know-how between countries of destination, transit and origin also working with relevant international law enforcement organisations including on travel-identity and breeder or source documents with full respect for the right of privacy and protection of personal data;



5. Enhance regional and bilateral cooperation and capacities on return and readmission to carry out swift identification and issuance of travel documents, including through Information and Communication Technology solutions (ICT), also through the negotiation, conclusion and implementation of readmission agreements or arrangements and/or standard operating procedures (SOPs) on return and readmission, in full compliance with international human rights, in accordance with the obligation of each state under customary international law to readmit its own nationals;
6. Support the sustainability of returnees' economic, social and psychosocial reintegration and strengthen their resilience through promoting tailor-made individual and community-level assistance and enhance measures to better manage the return and reintegration process;
7. Prioritise voluntary return and strengthen the capacity of national and consular authorities, international and other relevant organisations to manage returns while not excluding the use of forced return in accordance with international law and human rights, in justified cases when all other options are exhausted;
8. Further analysis of root causes of irregular migration and displacement, further information and experience exchange in this regard in order to shape policy development;
9. Raise awareness of and provide relevant, accurate, transparent and timely information to, potential and actual migrants, on the risks and dangers associated with irregular migration including through information campaigns;
10. Promote local, regional and (inter)national projects addressing the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement in economic, security, education and environment related areas;
11. Explore means to prevent misuse of regular migration channels or the asylum systems while safeguarding the right to seek asylum.

## **Priority Goal 2**

### **Better organise and improve conditions for legal migration and mobility**

1. Further develop and promote use and knowledge of already existing pathways for regular migration taking into account national labour market needs and improve transparency of rules and regulations on admission and residence;
2. Explore options for family reunification for refugees and migrants in line with existing national legislation as well as relevant international obligations;
3. Provide relevant, accurate and timely information to potential and actual migrants on possibilities for orderly and regular migration and rules and regulations, including relevant pre-departure information about the host country and integration there as well as ensuring that migrants have sufficient information on their rights and obligations;
4. Promote and develop the following tools, as appropriate: labour market assessments, labour mobility agreements, programmes for circular and temporary migration or other means;
5. Explore best practices on skills matching and on facilitating the recognition of refugees and migrants' professional and educational qualifications, the validation of diplomas and ensuring the optimal use of human skills;



6. Enhance measures for skills development, including regarding reintegration, with the contributions of both sending and receiving countries;
7. Increase initiatives and promote better use of existing means for enhanced student mobility between the Silk Routes region and the other Budapest Process regions, including the setting up of scholarship and trainee programmes regionally and nationally;
8. Explore options for promoting the portability of earned social benefits including certain retirement pension rights for regular migrants within the framework of existing international agreements and in accordance with national legislation;
9. Facilitate well-managed mobility for bona fide travellers - including students, researchers and business people - and improve transparency of rules and procedures;
10. Develop measures and improve labour inspections to avoid labour exploitation and to reduce abusive practices and violations of human and labour rights of migrant workers during the recruitment process as well as in their work.

### **Priority Goal 3**

#### **Support the integration of migrants and counteract phenomena of discrimination, racism and xenophobia**

1. Share good practices for supporting receiving communities in integrating refugees and regular migrants and develop adequate integration tools and measures to encourage their active participation in the social, economic and cultural life of receiving countries and promote information on observance of national laws and respect for customs of the country of destination;
2. In order to reach out to regular migrants and refugees, establish official and reliable information mechanisms on their rights and obligations, as well as on their access to services also supporting the use of innovative methods and technologies;
3. Continue information campaigns on integration and on counteracting discrimination, racism and xenophobia and related intolerance;
4. Support the access of regular migrants and refugees to relevant services including where appropriate: for education, training, social protection, healthcare and justice, specifically for vulnerable groups;
5. Develop and maintain legislative and administrative measures to counter discrimination, racism and xenophobia and related intolerance, and initiate capacity building to this end;
6. Engage with civil society and diaspora communities in cooperation with host governments in both monitoring and countering incidents of discrimination, racism, xenophobia and related intolerance;
7. Support schools and other educational structures to promote awareness and the recognition that an open and free debate contributes to a comprehensive understanding of all aspects of migration and work against discrimination, racism and xenophobia and related intolerance.



## Priority Goal 4

### Strengthen the positive impact of migration on development, both in countries of origin and of destination

1. Support the creation of livelihood opportunities in countries of origin and in hosting communities in order to promote self-reliance and to reduce dependency as well as enhance development programmes with a focus on displaced persons in countries of origin and in hosting countries through financial initiatives;
2. Mainstream regular migration into development planning as well as take into account development issues and national labour market needs when elaborating migration policies;
3. Facilitate and promote the faster, cheaper and safer transfer of remittances through channels including through reducing costs, providing training on financial literacy, and improving the use of monetary and social remittances for the benefit of the sustainable economic and social development of the countries of origin, while taking into account the private nature of such assets;
4. Engage with diasporas and make better use of their contributions to development and, to this end, use established good practices to promote positive impacts of regular migration on development in countries of origin, transit and destination;
5. Develop and implement measures counteracting possible negative effects of migration on countries of origin, such as brain drain and social impacts on family left behind, and countries of destination, such as effects on labour markets and welfare systems;
6. Improve cooperation with the private sector and promote sustainable development efforts in countries of origin and support policies aiming at creating job opportunities and increasing financial literacy, stepping up support to micro, small and medium size enterprises (SME) including through access to microfinance and micro-loans with special focus on categories such as women, youth, persons with disabilities and rural populations.

## Priority Goal 5

### Prevent and combat trafficking in persons, address its root causes and provide adequate protection and support to trafficked persons

1. Continue to develop national and regional strategies and policies for preventing and combatting trafficking in persons, including protection of victims, with a particular focus on vulnerable categories, involving all relevant stakeholders. Strategies should also include actions to prevent the demand-side of trafficking;
2. Support the development of mechanisms for the national and transnational referral of trafficked persons while increasing capacities to assist and protect victims including their rehabilitation and (re) integration into society including access to the labour market or education sector;
3. Strengthen capacities of law enforcement, border management and judicial authorities to allow for effective identification, prosecution and punishment of traffickers and to take measures to disrupt the modus operandi of traffickers including by addressing impunity of perpetrators and protecting the victims and their rights.



## Priority Goal 6

### Promote international protection and the respect of the rights of refugees in line with international standards

1. Establish and maintain programmes aimed at capacity building in the field of international protection in countries of origin, transit and destination;
2. Maintain and further improve procedures for the identification of asylum seekers and refugees, providing them with adequate reception conditions and documentation, and granting refugees durable solutions, including voluntary repatriation, local integration, resettlement on a voluntary basis and complementary pathways to protection;
3. Further solidarity and joint responsibility with countries hosting large numbers of refugees by increasing cooperation on resettlement and providing technical and financial assistance to host countries, as relevant;
4. Suggest, support and implement measures to address refugee situations including protracted ones and sudden mass flows.



*Migration is a drama which the world is in a state of urgency to solve. The important thing is to see people as a world citizen, above all, to focus on ensuring the safety of life, property and happiness all over the world. (Translation)*

@suleymansoylu  
Minister of Interior of the Republic of Turkey

*#Pakistan calls for enhanced dialogue and cooperation on migration issues, Pakistan's contributions for hosting millions of refugees highlighted.*

@PakTurkey  
(Embassy of Pakistan in Turkey)

*Better managing migration will continue to be a global task for decades to come, inspired by the principles of solidarity, partnership and sharing of responsibility. Human mobility is the reality of today and of the future. #BudapestProcess2019*

@Avramopoulos  
EU Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship



Ministers and other high-level officials from the following countries participated in the 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference:

Afghanistan, Albania, Austria, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iraq, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom and Uzbekistan.

The participants also included Dimitris Avramopoulos, European Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship and representatives of more than fifteen international and regional organisations.





Funded by

Chair



Co-Chair



Secretariat

