

Budapest Process

35th Senior Officials' Meeting

Date: 14th October, 2024

Location: Online

Draft Summary

1. The 35th Senior Officials' Meeting of the Budapest Process (BP) gathered **83 participants from 40 countries** – Albania, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom; as well as the European Commission, European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA), General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and the Budapest Process Secretariat, International Labour Organisation (ILO), International Organisation for Migration (IOM), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Regional Support Office of the Bali Process.
2. Opening remarks were delivered on behalf of the BP Chair Türkiye, by **Serra Albayrakoğlu Tıraş**, Head of the Foreign Relations Department at the Ministry of Interior of Türkiye, Presidency of Migration Management. This was followed by a welcome address from the BP Co-Chair by **Timea Lehoczki**, Head of Unit of the Department for European Home Affairs Cooperation at the Hungarian Ministry of Interior. Further opening remarks were made by **Simone Guerrini**, Project Manager of the Budapest Process, on behalf of ICMPD and the BP Secretariat.
3. **Meeting background:** In view of the 7th Ministerial Conference, to be held in Budapest on 12 November 2024, the BP Chairmanship proposed a series of meetings at Senior Official level (both Reference Group and Senior Officials' Meetings) in order to facilitate smooth negotiations on the new Ministerial Declaration and its Action Plan. Once endorsed, these texts will serve as the basis for the dialogue's strategy for the next five years (2025-2030).

The previous Senior Officials' Meeting, which was held on 27 June in Stockholm, Sweden continued the discussion on changes made to the Zero Drafts of the Ministerial Documents, with the aim of arriving to a 'near final' version of the texts. The Draft Ministerial Declaration and its Call for Action were then revised in accordance with the feedback provided by the delegations.

4. The **purpose of the 35th Senior Officials Meeting** was to review the latest versions of the Ministerial Documents in light of comments submitted since the previous SOM, as well as to revisit enduring points of contention among the partner countries of the Budapest Process. Considering the advanced stage of the drafting process, it was clarified that the Declaration and Call for Action were beyond minor wording changes, and that the meeting rather served as an opportunity for countries to highlight any explicit 'red lines' that remained in the text.



5. The session was moderated by the Hungarian Co-Chair and host of the upcoming Ministerial Conference. The moderator moved sequentially through the text, which was displayed on screen for the delegations. Draft amendments to the text were made where consensus was reached and the negotiations came to a close following the end of the discussion on the draft Ministerial Declaration.
6. Following the closing of the negotiations on the draft Ministerial Declaration, the Chairmanship invited BP countries and organisations to share their red lines, if any, on the current version of the draft text of the Call for Action with the Budapest Process Secretariat on that same day, by close of business.
7. The following next steps were agreed upon:
 - The Budapest Process Secretariat would update the draft Call for Action in line with the written submission received, make further adjustments to reflect changes made during the discussion on the draft Ministerial Declaration and share both documents with everyone for final consideration of the advanced versions of the draft Ministerial Documents on 16 October.
 - The Chairmanship invited the BP countries and partner organisations, **in case of any strong red lines concerning the suggested text, to submit their comments on the highlighted open parts, no later than on Friday 18 October at close of business.**
 - The next SOM will take place on 11 November, one day prior to the 7th Ministerial Conference. This will serve as the final preparatory meeting ahead of the Ministerial Conference on the next day. At the final SOM, the delegates will be asked to focus on the highlighted open sentences, with a view to reaching consensus on the Ministerial Texts.