Final summary with conclusions

1. On 10-11 December 2012 the 2nd Preparatory Meeting for the 5th Budapest Process Ministerial Conference “A Silk Routes Partnership for Migration” was held in Ankara, hosted by Turkey. The meeting gathered 81 participants from 38 countries, the European Commission, as well as 7 agencies and international organisations.

2. Turkey, as the Chair of the Budapest Process, opened the meeting, welcomed all delegates and gave an overview of the purpose of the Ministerial Conference and the preparatory process. Turkey reiterated its commitment to maintain the Budapest Process as a secure and open platform for cooperation where all issues will continue to be given equal treatment. Turkey informed that it will organise a ministerial meeting in connection with the Ministerial Conference between Afghanistan, Iran, Greece, Pakistan and Turkey, based on an early cooperation understanding. Furthermore, Turkey proposed to organise, in the margins of the Ministerial Conference, a ministerial meeting between Turkey and EU 27. The Co-Chair, Hungary, called for concrete follow-up to the Ministerial Conference, and defined establishing a long-term platform of political-level cooperation with the Silk Routes-countries as a key objective for the Process.

3. After the introductory speeches, a short introduction of the Budapest Process (for new participants) including state of play of the preparatory process was given by the Chair and the Secretariat.

4. The meeting had two main purposes; 1) to consider the first draft of the Ministerial Communiqué and 2) to discuss operational follow up, including structural issues regarding the Budapest Process.
The draft Ministerial Communiqué

5. Following the introduction, a tour de table was held with comments on the first draft of the Ministerial Communiqué. The first draft was in general positively welcomed as a good basis for dialogue, mirroring the discussions held at the first Preparatory Meeting in Izmir on 27-28 September 2012.

6. Several countries proposed to add or omit certain issues or suggested renewed wording for the communiqué. Furthermore, there were several comments on terminology relating to, for example, “irregular” or “illegal” migration, international protection and asylum, trafficking in persons, migration and mobility (bona fide) as well as return and readmission. Among the general comments the following should be noted:
   a) Several countries proposed to streamline and re-organise the document via shortening and condensing the preamble.
   b) A proposal was made to add a general objective for the document, setting the framework for A Silk Routes Partnership for Migration.
   c) Some countries proposed to have two parts of the document - one principal and one operational part. The operational part could also be titled action plan or work plan. It was also suggested to have the operational part in an Annex.

7. Based on comments received at the tour de table on day one and other remarks and requests received, on the second day a revised draft for the proposal for the Ministerial Communiqué was presented by the Chair. The proposal included a restructuring of the text and divided the communiqué into a principal and an operational part. Several delegations had different opinions regarding the new structure of the text as well as regarding certain topics added. It was therefore proposed that further comments should be conveyed in writing following the meeting.

8. Furthermore it was noted that several issues regarding terminology should be clarified and that the Russian version of the text must be harmonised with the English version.

Structural issues regarding the Budapest Process

9. Apart from discussing the first draft of the Ministerial Communiqué, the purpose of the meeting was also to discuss the implementation of the Silk Routes Partnership for Migration, the operational continuation after the Ministerial Conference and methods to show-case results and follow-up between meetings. Furthermore, the possible engagement in the Budapest Process of civil society, academia and further actors, such as the private sector, was discussed. Three working tables were organised (all working tables covered all issues) and were chaired by 1) Switzerland and the Russian Federation, 2) Hungary and Pakistan and 3) Afghanistan and the United Kingdom.

10. On the second day, the main results of the working table sessions were presented by the Chairs. The following joint conclusions were identified:
   a) Implementing framework - Working group structure
      i. The present structure with three regional working groups (the South East European Region, the Black Sea Region and the Silk Routes Region) should be kept as the implementing framework of the Silk Routes Partnership for Migration. Several advantages of this structure were identified, including strong regional ownership, strong contributions by the relevant chairs and the
necessary flexibility to work on thematic issues of importance. The focus of all working groups on the Silk Routes Region should be increased.

ii. The possibility to involve further countries in the organisation of working group meetings was also raised. This involvement could take different shapes, as co-chairs, as hosts of meetings or in the taking on of specific topics for further research or dialogue. Participants overall encouraged state ownership in carrying out this work.

iii. Afghanistan will enter as co-chair of the Silk Routes Region Working Group.

iv. Ad-hoc working group meetings can and should still be organised on a needs basis.

v. Senior officials meetings to follow-up on the implementation of recommendations will be held yearly or twice a year.

b) Operational follow-up

i. A package of measures should be compiled to cover the above points and different aspects of cooperation as follow-up to the Ministerial Conference.

ii. It is important to prioritise the needs for operational follow-up.

iii. It was noted that the project “Fostering cooperation on migration with and within the Silk Routes Region”, is now entering the consultation phase, aiming at identifying concrete cooperation possibilities between the countries. The results of this project will also be of great assistance to the formulation on operational follow-up. The next consultation meeting will be held in the Netherlands at the end of January 2013.

iv. It was proposed that participating states should prepare a list covering a) ongoing action in the Silk Routes Region, b) their priorities for further cooperation and c) further ideas for possible activities.

c) Showcasing results and follow-up

i. All working groups agreed that a web-portal should be instituted as a mechanism for more regular follow-up of recommendations and conclusions from the Budapest Process meetings and to improve the information exchange and cooperation between meetings. A web-portal should function as an interactive platform and give states an opportunity to share information, experiences and good practices on certain topics following Working Group meetings and also to share questions or ideas. Also concrete achievements of the Working Group meetings could be illustrated.

ii. It was noted that the active contributions from participating states are needed in order to make full use of such a platform. In this regard the Secretariat could provide assistance through asking countries for input and feedback through short questionnaires.

iii. The web portal should use existing Secretariat structures and a log-in section for Budapest Process participants should be created on the Budapest Process webpage for any restricted information.

d) Involvement of further actors (civil society, academia and private sector)
i. The input of civil society, academia and private sector can be very valuable for content discussions. Further actors and stakeholders should for this reason also in the future be involved on a case by case basis for expert meetings where an added value can be established for their involvement.

ii. For the moment there is no need for special events to engage further actors. However, the discussion could be opened again at a later stage.

11. Based on the updated version of the text to be shared with delegates as soon as possible, delegations were kindly asked to
   a) provide comments on the text in writing until 18 January 2013 to the Secretariat and
   b) highlight in the text all issues that they give very high priority as well as issues which they believe should be omitted.
   c) to provide to the Secretariat by 15 February 2013 their i) ongoing action in the Silk Routes Region, ii) their priorities for further cooperation and iii) further ideas for possible activities.

12. The third preparatory meeting will be hosted by Hungary as the Co-chair and will be held on 4-5 March 2013 in Budapest.

13. The Chair thanked all participating countries for their engagement and contributions and entrusted the Secretariat to summarise and circulate results as well as to coordinate follow-up. Participants thanked Turkey for the great hospitality.