Budapest Process
Third preparatory meeting for the 5th Budapest Process Ministerial Conference:
“A Silk Routes Partnership for Migration”

Budapest, 4-5 March 2013

Final summary with conclusions

1. On 4-5 March 2013 the 3rd Preparatory Meeting for the 5th Budapest Process Ministerial Conference “A Silk Routes Partnership for Migration” was held in Budapest, hosted by Hungary. The meeting gathered 97 participants from 40 countries, the European Commission, the Secretariat General of the Council of the European Union and as well as relevant international organisations.

2. Hungary (Deputy State Secretary of the Ministry of Interior), as the host of the meeting and Co-Chair of the Budapest Process, opened the meeting and welcomed all delegates. Opening statements followed by Turkey, as the Chair of the Budapest Process, (statements by the Deputy Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior and Director General for Consular Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs), and ICMPD as the Secretariat.

3. In an introductory presentation, mainly for new participants, Turkey explained the milestones and achievements of the Budapest Process and gave an overview of the purpose of the Ministerial Conference and state of play of the preparatory process.

4. The purpose of the meeting was to agree on the final draft of the Istanbul Ministerial Declaration and to advance discussions on the operational follow-up package after the Ministerial Conference.

5. The first day focused on discussing the Ministerial Declaration which had developed considerably between the second and third meetings. After the second preparatory meeting in Ankara, participants provided written comments to the Secretariat. Based on those comments, a third draft was produced, which was shared with participating countries in advance of the third preparatory meeting.

6. The first section of the document, including the preamble, was presented by Turkey which also chaired discussions. The presentation was followed by a Tour de Table where countries provided their remaining comments to the text.
7. The second half of the day provided for discussions on the thematic areas of cooperation included in the second section of the declaration; Migration and Mobility – introduced and chaired by Pakistan, Integration – introduced and chaired by the Russian Federation, Migration and Development – introduced and chaired by Afghanistan, Irregular Migration – introduced and chaired by the United Kingdom, Trafficking in persons – introduced and chaired by Hungary, International Protection – introduced and chaired by Switzerland.

8. Based on the above discussions, a final draft was produced until the second day of the meeting by an open-ended drafting group. After a final round of comments during the meeting, the latest draft of Istanbul Ministerial Declaration was considered final.

9. It was noted that both the English and Russian versions of the Ministerial Declaration need linguistic editing and that the Russian version should be harmonised with the English version.

10. The second day of the meeting focused on operational follow-up after the Ministerial Conference. The Secretariat of the Budapest Process presented contributions received from countries regarding their ongoing actions in the Silk Routes region and priorities for further cooperation. Also the state of play of the project "Silk Routes I" was presented including an operational follow-up package developed within the framework of that project. The operational package was developed within the framework of the consultation phase of the project organised around three consultation meetings – the first in Ankara on 11-12 December 2012, the second in The Hague on 31 January-1 February 2013 and the third to immediately follow this meeting.

11. The proposed package consists of two larger capacity building projects (programmes) and three further actions. The projects covered migration policy development and capacity building in the wider sense as well as migration and development, engagement of people living outside of their countries of nationality, return and readmission and development of labour market policies.

12. Several countries and stakeholders expressed support to, and interest in, the further development of these actions i.e. Australia, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the European Commission. Delegations pointed out the importance of implementing practical actions in the Silk Routes Region in follow-up of the Istanbul Ministerial Conference and Declaration and expressed satisfaction with the quality of proposed actions. At the same time several delegations pointed out the importance of prioritising efforts and focus resources on the most important areas.

13. Both Switzerland and Turkey expressed their sincere willingness to continue contributing financially to capacity building actions in the Silk Routes Region. The United Kingdom mentioned that it is exploring possibilities of funding bridging actions in the region, intended to commence immediately after the Ministerial Conference and prepare the grounds for larger capacity building projects further on. The European Commission explained that it is committed to support dialogues within the framework of the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility and shared that funding has been earmarked to implement concrete actions in the Silk Routes Region. Such actions, providing overarchong long term capacity building in the field of migration, should have a strong focus on sustainability. In addition, several countries explained that they are still discussing concrete financial support internally but expressed their readiness as partners and to provide in-kind contributions such as expertise.

14. As the last point of the agenda, the Turkish Ministry of Interior presented the Conference Guide laying out the logistical framework for the Istanbul Ministerial Conference.
15. The Chair thanked all participating countries for their engagement and contributions and entrusted the Secretariat to summarise and circulate results as well as to review and distribute the text of the Draft Declaration, and coordinate the follow-up.

16. The Chair and the participants thanked Hungary for its support and the great hospitality.

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