

Budapest Process

34th Senior Officials Meeting

Date: 27th June, 2024

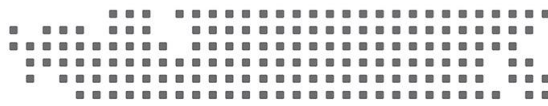
Location: Stockholm, Sweden

Summary

1. The 34th Senior Officials Meeting of the Budapest Process (BP) **gathered 82 participants from 42 countries** – Albania, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, India, Iraq, Ireland, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom; as well as the European Commission, European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA), International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and the Budapest Process Secretariat, International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and Regional Support Office of the Bali Process.

Note: As decided by the Senior Officials in December 2022 and upon the invitation of the Turkish Chair, Jordan participated for the first time at the Budapest Process (BP) meeting in the capacity of an observer, as well as Lebanon, which was present for the second time. India has revitalised their observer country participation, with the 34thSOM being the third BP meeting they attended since the renewed invitation in 2023.

2. On behalf of the host country, welcoming address was delivered by **Anders Hall**, State Secretary to the Minister for Migration at the Ministry of Justice of Sweden. This was followed by opening remarks delivered by **Jörgen Lindström**, Ambassador for Migration and Return at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden and the BP Reference Group Rapporteur. Further opening remarks followed from the BP Chair **Serra Albayrakoğlu Tıraş**, Head of Foreign Relations Department at the Ministry of Interior of Türkiye, Presidency of Migration Management, the BP Co-Chair **Timea Lehoczki**, Head of Unit of the Department for European Home Affairs Cooperation at the Hungarian Ministry of Interior, as well as **Alexandra Sá Carvalho**, Deputy Head of the International Affairs Unit in the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs at the European Commission and **Sedef Dearing**, Head of the Budapest Process Secretariat and Director for Migration Dialogues and Cooperation at ICMPD.
3. **Meeting Background: Senior Officials Meetings are the main decision-making body of the Budapest Process Dialogue** that provide strategic guidance and plays a pivotal role in the shaping of the dialogue's priorities. The year 2024 marks the end of the implementation of the previous Ministerial Declaration and the Call for Action adopted at the 6th Budapest Process Ministerial Conference, back in 2019. In the run up to 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 meetings and Senior Officials Meetings to facilitate smooth negotiations on the new Ministerial Declaration and its Action Plan. Once endorsed, these will provide strategic direction to the dialogue for the next 5 years (2025-2030).



The previous Senior Officials Meeting, which was held on 5th December 2023, in Istanbul, Türkiye, discussed the Zero Drafts of the new Ministerial Declaration and its Action Plan. Overall, strong support was expressed by all participating and observer states to the draft Ministerial Texts. Based on the comments and feedback provided by the delegations, the Draft Ministerial Declaration and its Call for Action were revised accordingly.

4. The **purpose of the 34th Senior Officials Meeting** was to review the latest version of the Ministerial Documents at the plenary of BP participating and observer countries and organisations with the aim to reach near final documents. The current Senior Officials Meeting was organised back-to-back with the 10th Reference Group Meeting, which took place one day earlier, which includes 13 key partner states, donors and co-Chairs of Thematic Working Groups.
5. The Turkish Chair delivered a **presentation outlining the changes to the Zero Drafts of the new Ministerial Declaration and the Call for Action**, as well as an updated roadmap for the next steps towards the 7th Ministerial Conference. The presentation set the stage for a plenary discussion on the draft Ministerial Documents, which were displayed on the screen, starting with the draft Ministerial Declaration and then moving to the draft Call for Action.
6. During a productive discussion moderated by the Chairmanship, **delegates made concrete rewording proposals on the draft Ministerial Documents**. Some rewording proposals for the draft Ministerial Declaration were shared based on discussions held the previous day among the Reference Group. The proposed changes to the draft wording were considered by the plenary and, whenever possible, inserted directly in the draft Ministerial Documents. In instances where this was not possible, due to diverging opinions or in instances where more general remarks were made, the comments were duly taken note of.
7. **Following constructive deliberations on several points of contention**, an agreement was reached that the BP Secretariat would be tasked to work on the draft Ministerial Documents and, based on inputs received, propose draft rewording as necessary, to be considered by the BP partners.
8. In closing, **the following next steps were outlined as follows:**
 - Within two weeks after the meeting, the updated Ministerial Documents will be shared by the BP Secretariat with the countries for a final round of comments.
 - Countries will provide any further substantive comments on the updated drafts of the Ministerial Declaration and the Call for Action in writing by the deadline that will be communicated by the Secretariat in writing.
 - Based on the comments received, an ultimate round of revisions will be made in the run up to the 7th Ministerial Conference.
 - The next SOM is to take place on 11 November, one day before the Ministerial Conference.
9. The Host, Chair, Co-Chair and Secretariat thanked all participants for attending the SOM and actively participating in the drafting of the Ministerial Texts.