

Statement by Mr. Makmur Widodo
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Thank you, Chair.

Mr. Director General of the Organization, Distinguished Colleagues and Partners, Ladies and Gentlemen, this afternoon I would like to share with you some progress so far achieved by what is called the Bali Process. Given the time allotted to me, I have prepared already my remarks, distributed to you all.

Let me start by first thanking the Director General for inviting me to be with you all just this afternoon. I would like to suggest to you to pursue a humble approach to this issue under consideration, namely with regard to looking at the recent past, looking at the present time and looking to the future.

Bali Regional Ministerial Meeting

As regards the recent past, we know that the tragic bombing in New York, the terrorist bombing, has indeed affected the global security methods. We all know the world was witnessing the scourge of terrorist acts, the spread of weapons of mass destruction and transnational crimes. Within our regions, the Asia-Pacific, it happened that the two Ministers of my country, Indonesia and Australia, both sat together and agreed to organize the First Bali Regional Ministerial Meeting on one theme, namely People-Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crimes, that is the theme of the Bali Ministerial Meeting.

We did host the First Bali meeting. It was held 27-28 February 2002, and the second one 29-30 April this very year. The First Bali Meeting agreed to lay the foundations for regional cooperative policies and efforts in our concerted efforts to combat these transnational crimes. Countries within the region firmly believe that these crimes indeed constitute a just threat to the global peace and security. As a follow-up of the First Bali Meeting, the two countries who were chairing the first meeting, agreed to host the Second Bali Ministerial Meeting.

Before proceeding, the results of the First Bali Meeting, as we all know, was the establishment of two ad hoc Expert Groups entrusted with two different mandates. The first Group is mandated to address international and regional cooperation, while the second one is tasked with a mandate of addressing issues related to policies, legislative framework and then law enforcement. The two Groups are chaired respectively by New Zealand and Thailand. The work of the two Groups was so instrumental, the focus of which is then to empower our national capacities into relevant themes.

Coming to the Second Bali Ministerial Meeting, the Ministers agreed, among others, that the Process, what was eventually known as the Bali Process, should be continued. In this regard, the Ministers agreed that IOM, this very Organization, be invited to create a funding appeal to support the Bali Process. Why is that so? Because of the fact that the countries within the Region indeed lack human resources, financial resources, and at the same time, national capacities. Let me take

this very opportunity, again, to salute the IOM for its very positive and prompt response to the demand of the Ministers.

I should like to inform you that, as a follow up to the Second Bali Ministerial Meeting, the two Working Groups did organize several Workshops. In this case, again, we are grateful to the Organizations for their valuable contributions. The First Working Group has just organized its First Workshop, some months ago, in Seoul, South Korea, and the Second Working Group has just organized its own Workshop, just some weeks ago, in Fort Dixon, Malaysia. It is up to this Working Group to then implement the agreed results of the Second Bali Ministerial Meeting.

As each and everyone of you hopefully has the remarks that I prepared, I would rather conclude by saying that the Bali Process is indeed not an end in itself. This is a Process, in such a concerted manner, involving not only countries within the Region, but involving also those International Organizations concerned, such as IOM and UNHCR. Why is that so? Because the countries in the Region believe in the very principle and spirit of cooperation since we all understand that the prevailing peaceful and secure vision, in one or two regions, will then link and depend also on the secure and peaceful situations of other Regions. In other words, the security and the peace of the globe, of course inclusive of the North, the developed and industrialized countries, is also dependant on the peace and secure life of the people in the developing countries, in this case inclusive of the countries within the Region of the Asia/Pacific.

This is, in a nutshell, what I would like to share with you. Some progress so far achieved by what is called the Bali Process, that is a process of concerted regional policies and programmes in our joint contributions to the joint and common endeavors to achieve a peaceful and secure world that we are living with. Let me conclude by saying that as far as the Mandate by the Ministers given to the Organization, on the 19 of this very month, the Organizations have presented what we call Special Project Fund. This is indeed as a follow up of the Second Regional Ministerial Meeting in Bali and, in essence, this is the commitment to fulfill by the Organizations.

I should conclude by inviting the donor countries to come forward to vet the project so that the Bali Process can move forward.

Thank you for your kind attention. Thank you Mr. Chairman.