

CONCLUSIONS OF THE MISSING PERSONS GROUP MEETINGS

1. This document summarizes the conclusions of the Missing Persons Group (MPG) meetings held so far, in chronological order, including the status/progress made of each conclusion.
2. Conclusions of the First Regular MPG meeting held on 4 December 2018, in Meljine (Herceg Novi), Montenegro:

No	Conclusions	Status/Progress
1.	The MPG adopted unanimously the MPG Book of rules and procedures with minor modifications;	Done
2.	The MPG adopted unanimously the 24-month work plan, which operationalizes the Framework Plan to Address the Issue of Persons Missing from Conflicts on the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia (the Framework Plan), with minor modifications;	Done
3.	The MPG established an Operational Group for the Database on active missing persons cases from conflicts on the territory of the former Yugoslavia (Database OG). Each member of the MPG will submit to International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP) within ten days of the first MPG meeting the names of one member and a deputy that will participate in the Database OG;	Done
4.	The MPG established an Operational Group to resolve no name, or unidentified (NN) cases (NNOG). Each member of the MPG will submit to ICMP within ten days of the first MPG meeting the names of members and deputy members that will participate in the NNOG. Besides their representatives, domestic institutions (DI) can nominate forensic or other relevant experts to participate in the work of the NNOG;	Done
5.	MPG members will exchange information on locations of potential gravesites and excavations bilaterally, and may inform the MPG;	In progress
6.	ICMP will provide training on the Database on active missing persons cases from conflicts on the territory of the former Yugoslavia (the Database) for MPG members that have not yet been trained in the first half of January. Training will be provided via Skype link or similar;	Done
7.	The first meeting of the Database OG will take place in the first half of February 2019. Location to be determined.	Done (meeting held on 21 February 2019 in Belgrade)
8.	With regard to MPG reports to be presented at Berlin Process summits, ICMP will draft the report which will include updates on the components of the Framework Plan;	Done
9.	ICMP will provide conclusions, the MPG book of rules and procedure, and the work plan within ten days of the first MPG meeting in languages of the MPG members.	Done

3. Conclusions of the Second Regular MPG meeting held on 17 April 2019, in Zagreb, Croatia:

No	Conclusions	Status/Progress
1.	On the Database	
1.1.	Another data field will be added to the Database. Phrases “preliminarily identified” (preliminarno identificiran) and “finally identified” (konacno identificiran) will be added to data field called “case closed”;	Done
1.2.	ICMP to produce glossary of terms (pojmovnik) used in the Database;	Done
1.3.	In cases where persons were found alive or died of natural causes, this should be noted by clicking “case closed”;	Done
1.4.	ICMP’s database developers to ensure automatic production of monthly statistical Database report containing data on number of closed cases, newly nominated cases, edited cases, etc.;	Done
1.5.	In the Republic of Croatia, cases reported only to ICMP (through provision of reference sample for DNA analysis by close relatives), can be included in the missing persons list only if the family submits a formal search request to the Directorate for Detained and Missing Persons (UZN). Registration of a missing person from the Homeland War in the Republic of Croatia is initiated by relatives of the missing persons, directly with the UZN, National Red Cross Society of Croatia, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), or Red Cross/Crescent societies in the country of residence of the relatives. After the registration has been checked in terms of the required conditions, the case is then officially included in the Official Register of Persons Missing from the Homeland War;	Applied
1.6.	Republic of Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina (BIH) are working on verification of ICMP’s records on persons reported only to ICMP and on their inclusion in official domestic missing persons records;	Done
1.7.	If Dis need contact information from families who reported their missing relatives only to ICMP, ICMP will get in touch with said families and ask for permission to share their contact details with Dis;	Applied
1.8.	Regarding specific cases where missing persons appear on the list of one country, have disappeared on the territory of another but are not included in that country’s records, the MPG concluded that cases within this category will be kept in a separate table within the Database (“operational list”), and that they will be discussed bilaterally and, once verified as <i>bona fide</i> missing persons cases, will be included in the Database;	Applied
1.9.	Titles of data categories: “place, date and circumstances of disappearance” will be changed to “presumed place”, “presumed date” and “presumed circumstances of disappearance”;	Done
1.10.	If there are discrepancies in personal data recorded on	Done

	various lists (e.g. date of birth, father's name), those will be verified by relevant DIs through official records;	
1.11.	On the interface of the Database, personal data will be placed first while presumed place, date and circumstances of disappearance will be moved below;	Done
1.12.	An explanation about what "presumed place, date and circumstances" mean will be added to the Glossary;	Done
1.13.	Published version of the Database will be interactive and searchable, so that viewers can search it using various criteria and send feedback on information presented;	Done
1.14.	In the published version of the Database, public will be able to view general information on missing persons but not uploaded documents or additional information due to sensitivity of information they contain;	Done
1.15.	Consolidated ICRC Working Group's list on Kosovo* missing will be removed from the Database until decision is made on its potential (re)inclusion at the next Working Group session scheduled in May;	Done Re-included upon agreement by Serbia and Kosovo Commissions
2.	On the MPG report on the implementation of the Framework Plan	
2.1.	ICMP will prepare first draft of the report and submit it for comments to MPG members. ICMP will facilitate harmonization of comments to the draft so that it can be adopted at the MPG session mid-June, translated to six languages and submitted to organizers of the next Berlin Process Summit in Poznan;	Done
2.2.	The Database will be published and launched at the same time;	Done
3.	On locations of joint interest	
3.1.	Locations of interest to the BIH in the republic of Croatia will be discussed in detail at a bilateral meeting with Croatia on 18 April 2019;	Done
3.2.	Commission on Missing Persons of Serbia will commence work on locations in Serbia where the UZN will be invited to observe;	Done
3.3.	ICMP will provide any technical assistance necessary at excavations of joint interest, when required by the relevant DIs.	Ongoing

4. Conclusions of the special MPG meeting held on 14 June 2019, in Podgorica, Montenegro:

No	Conclusions	Status/Progress
1.	ICMP endeavors to continue to find solution for the publication of the Database. The working version of the Database accessible only to dedicated users, continues to be used;	Done
2.	ICMP will incorporate comments and suggestions made	Done

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

	by the MPG members at the third meeting into the draft MPG report;	
3.	ICMP will capture information presented in the DIS annexes into short and factual summary called the Annex to the Report;	Done
4.	The final draft report with incorporated comments will be submitted to MPG members for adoption;	Done; Report adopted
5.	The Report has four chapters, an introduction and conclusion. ICMP will present the Introduction while other members of the MPG will read one chapter each in alphabetical order in English - the same order as in signing of the Framework Plan.	Done

5. Conclusions of the Third Regular MPG meeting, held on 30 January 2020 in Pristina, Kosovo:

No	Conclusions	Status/Progress
1.	ICMP and UZN to communicate about re-visiting of NN cases for which post-mortem samples did not yield profiles in the past. ICMP is ready to provide assistance in DNA testing of samples from these NN cases using the new-generation technology;	Done
2.	ICMP will check whether UZN has tested some of the control samples taken from NN cases in Serbia and delivered to Croatia. Subsequently, ICMP will provide assistance to Serbia in testing of samples from the five NN cases in Serbia for which profiles were not isolated;	Done
3.	Domestic institutions will bilaterally engage in exchange of information, prioritization of locations, and drafting of a plan of activities for the locations of joint interest in the upcoming month. ICMP stands ready to provide technical support to these activities when requested by domestic institutions;	Ongoing
4.	All members of the MPG support the idea of producing a joint video/TV content to mark the International Day of the Disappeared. The production of the content, which is to be facilitated by ICMP, needs to be done prior to 30 August and broadcasted around the date. UZN needs to consult the Commission of the Government of the Republic of Croatia on Persons Missing from the Homeland War before giving final confirmation;	Done
5.	Domestic institutions of Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia agreed to meet separately in the first half of March to discuss the path towards publication of the Database. The meeting is to be facilitated by ICMP, with participation of representatives of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.	Done

6. Conclusions of the Fourth Regular MPG meeting, held on 22 October 2020 in Belgrade, Serbia:

No	Conclusions	Status/Progress
1.	MPG acknowledged the report on the activities of the two operational groups and the joint marking of the International Day of the Disappeared 2020;	N/A
2.	Since its establishment in 2018, the MPG adopted a total of 39 conclusions. Of those, 31 were fully implemented, seven are ongoing, and implementation of one conclusion is postponed (publication of the Regional Database);	N/A
3.	MPG adopted the Annual Report presenting their activities from the Poznan Summit in July 2019 to 29 October 2020. MPG members will deliver one paragraph inputs on their individual efforts and other activities to ICMP by 29 October 2020;	Done
4.	MPG unanimously supported continuation of the multilateral cooperation process;	N/A
5.	MPG provided their inputs regarding the proposed modalities for the future cooperation;	N/A
6.	MPG members agreed that the Regional Database is fully functional and regularly used by experts from domestic institutions, but an agreement on making it available publicly is not reached yet.	N/A

7. Conclusions of Fifth Regular MPG meeting, held on 28 September 2021 in Podgorica, Montenegro:

No	Conclusions	Status/Progress
1.	Reactivate Operational Group for Resolving Unidentified (NN) Human Remains (NNOG) and Operational Group for Database of Active Cases of Persons Missing from Conflicts on the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia (DBOG);	Done
2.	MPG members agreed that ICMPs involvement in facilitating the work of the MPG is still required in the forthcoming period;	N/A
3.	MPG members agreed to rotate in co-organizing and co-chairing sessions of the MPG together with ICMP;	Done
4.	MPG members agreed to hold a thematic session of the MPG to enhance the implementation of the components of the Framework Plan;	Done
5.	MPG agreed to adopt limited amendments to the Framework Plan;	Done
6.	MPG members agreed that ICMP will prepare a draft revision of the MPG Rules and Procedures and send it to the MPG members for comments and approval.	Done

8. Conclusions from the sixth Regular MPG meeting, held on 6 and 7 December 2021 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina:

No	Conclusions	Status/Progress
1.	To resolve the issue of NN human remains in the	Ongoing

	mortuary in Pristina, Kosovo Commission on Missing Persons will start the review of the human remains in which other MPG members that have interest will take part. The ICMP remains available to provide professional, technical and assistance in distribution and analysis of large sets of data;	
2.	Sharing of data about potential grave sites and wartime exchanges of human remains should be intensified;	N/A
3.	A meeting of the Operational Group to Resolve NN Cases is to be held in the last week of January 2022 in person or online depending on the epidemiological situation;	Done
4.	In February 2022 a trilateral meeting among Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia is to be held within the Operational Group for Regional Database for the purpose of harmonization and verification of data;	Done
5.	The initiative to expand the Regional Database to include the resolved cases is supported;	N/A
6.	ICMP welcomes the agreement of all MPG participants, with exception of Serbia, regarding the publication of the Regional Database and expressed its hope that that full agreement will be reached soon;	N/A
7.	ICMP welcomes the agreement of all participants, with exception of Croatia, to hold joint commemorations of all victims of war conflicts in the territory of the former Yugoslavia;	N/A
8.	MPG adopted the limited amendments to the Framework Plan;	Done
9.	MPG adopted the amended Rules and Procedure with the caveat that the meetings with families are to be held annually, and to reword Article 5 and that the ICMP is to distribute documents to the MPG members regardless who co-chairs the meetings;	Done
10.	ICMP will prepare and submit to the members the amended Framework Plan and Rules and Procedure in line with the conclusions of the 6th meeting of the MPG.	Done

9. Conclusions from the seventh Regular MPG meeting, held on 2 August 2022 in Podgorica, Crna Gora:

No	Conclusions	Status/Progress
1.	Timeline for harmonization of data values for duplicate cases was adopted by the MPG (Trilateral Serbia-Montenegro-Kosovo, 23 to 25 August; bilateral BIH-Serbia in the first half of September; bilateral Serbia-Croatia, after the Forum for the Families in September; and additional trilateral Serbia-Montenegro-Kosovo after the Forum for the Families in September);	Done
2.	The MPG agreed to launch the public version of the	Done

	Database at a special event on 3 November, potentially in Sarajevo;	
3.	The MPG agreed to hold the first edition of the Forum for the Families on 12 September in Podgorica;	Done
4.	MPG fully supports the work of the NNOG;	N/A
5.	MPG stands ready to provide support to the Kosovo DI in the process of inventory of NN cases in the Pristina Mortuary, and is looking forward to hearing about the results of this process;	Ongoing
6.	MPG shall discuss the idea of establishing an additional operational group dedicated to locations of joint interest at the MPG session in Zagreb, in December;	Done
7.	Prior to the MPG session in Zagreb, DIs shall deliver to ICMP a list of locations of joint interest that they have submitted to other DIs in the past period (Croatia has a dissenting opinion on this conclusion);	Done
8.	MPG could not agree on the text of the third MPG Report as proposed by the MPG Secretariat;	N/A
9.	ICMP shall draft new formulation for the section of the MPG Report dedicated to individual DI inputs, which will include statistical indicators. MPG members shall revise the statistics related to their activities and ICMP will then send a revised Report to the DIs for the final consideration.	Done

10. Conclusions from the eight Regular MPG meeting, held on 31 January 2023 in Zagreb, Croatia:

No	Conclusions	Status/Progress
1.	MPG acknowledged information on the software for managing data on NN cases. ICMP stands ready to offer software to every DI to help manage data of their NN cases. MPG members will inform ICMP in writing if they want to use the software to manage data on their NN cases. ICMP is ready to provide software support and training for its use;	Done
2.	MPG agrees that solving NN cases in mortuaries across the territory of the former Yugoslavia is a priority. In this context, it is necessary to continue the exchange of data on potential NN cases of common interest on a bilateral basis and through the other existing cooperation mechanisms and NNOG;	N/A
3.	MPG has reached a consensus that the issue of locations of joint interest is primarily a topic for bilateral cooperation. In this sense, there is no need to establish a dedicated operational group for locations. MPG can be included as necessary; in case it is a location that could be of interest to more than two domestic institutions;	N/A
4.	MPG recognizes the need to start discussing the sustainability of the MPG but agrees that it is not the right time to make significant changes to the format in	Ongoing

	which the MPG functions;	
5.	MPG members agree that the status quo should not be constant, and a long-term process of ensuring the sustainability of MPG as a multilateral format needs to start. The dialogue on these changes should include a wide range of participants, primarily the leaders of the governments of the MPG members. The functioning of ICMP in the following period should remain unchanged;	N/A
6.	To ensure the financial stability of MPG in the coming period, MPG will, in cooperation with ICMP and the British Embassy in Sarajevo, organize a meeting for donors to stimulate the interest of other international actors for financial support to the MPG;	Done
7.	An online meeting of the Operational Group for Database (DBOG) should be organized to continue work on harmonizing the accuracy of the data;	Ongoing
8.	DBOG members should review, and when appropriate, approve new nominations within the Database;	Ongoing
9.	Additional meeting of the DBOG for Kosovo, Montenegro, and Serbia should be organized to further harmonize the data and review additional nominations within the Database;	Done
10.	ICMP is considering the possibility for the MPG to share its experiences with institutions and civil society from Ukraine;	Ongoing
11.	MPG will, in cooperation with ICMP, try to ensure its presence in a significant format at the next Berlin Process Summit.	Done (in 2024)

11. Conclusions from the extraordinary MPG meeting, held on 15 October 2023 in Tirana, Albania:

No	Conclusions	Status/Progress
1.	The MPG adopted the fourth Annual Performance Report covering reporting period from 1 July 2022 to 1 July 2023, which will be presented at a dedicated event at the margins of the Berlin Process Summit in Tirana on 16 October (a day after the MPG session);	Done
2.	MPG members agreed to develop new ideas and proposals to enhance the draft MPG Plan of Activities 2024-2026. These will be sent to ICMP by 5 November;	Done
3.	The MPG Secretariat will discuss and formalize new proposals for the MPG Plan of Activities 2024-2026 at their session in November and send a new draft to the MPG for approval.	Done

12. Conclusions from the extraordinary MPG meeting, held on 29 February 20214 in Dubrovnik, Croatia:

No	Conclusions	Status/Progress
1.	DIs, members of the MPG, unanimously reiterate their commitment to the joint work to address the issue of missing persons from the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia in line with the Framework Plan and under auspices of the MPG, with the overarching goal of providing answers to the families of missing persons;	N/A
2.	The MPG reiterates the need for the continued involvement and facilitation by ICMP in the work of the MPG and other bodies (operational groups and the Secretariat);	Ongoing
3.	Members of the MPG strongly call on the members of the international community, primarily participants of the Berlin Process, to reinforce their commitment expressed in the London Declaration by providing political and financial support to the MPG;	Ongoing
4.	MPG members could not reach a consensus to temporarily suspend the co-chairing principle in the coming period and for the ICMP to chair the sessions in viable locations;	N/A
5.	The MPG reiterates the importance of all heads of DIs to participate in full capacity and authority to make decisions at the sessions of the MPG;	N/A
6.	MPG members agree to operationalize the components of the Framework Plan by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Focusing on the work of the NNOG in the direction of resolving NN cases by collecting additional reference samples and locating relatives that might provide reference samples, b) Engaging new methods and technology to search for human remains that might be located in riverbeds and lakes, c) Organizing operational bilateral and trilateral meetings to discuss cases of joint interest with participation of ICMP as needed; 	Ongoing
7.	The MPG will seek to raise awareness of the work of the MPG and create new partnerships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) By ensuring high-level participation of the MPG in the context of the upcoming Berlin Process Summit in Berlin with DIs working with their governments to secure high-level format, b) Initiating a strong partnership with the EU institutions by holding a meeting in the EU Parliament and the DG NEAR in the period after the elections, last quarter of 2024 or beginning of 2025 with the aim of securing EU support and sponsorships, c) Increasing the visibility of the MPG by designating a joint date for media or press events on 18 July, the date when the London Declaration was signed, or 6 	Ongoing

	November, the day when the Framework plan was signed in 2018;	
8.	The MPG members request from ICMP the cost projection for the MPG activities in 2024 and each coming year. DIs shall endeavor to secure budget allocations with their government to cover the costs of DIs travel and accommodation at MPG meetings.	Ongoing

13. Conclusions from the ninth Regular MPG meeting, held on 10 September 2024 in the Hague, Netherlands:

No	Conclusions	Status/Progress
1.	Members of the MPG will deliver their written comments and suggestions to the draft MPG Report that was discussed at today's session, at latest by Wednesday, 18 September 2024;	Done
2.	ICMP will insert all the comments and suggestions received from the MPG members within 24 hours of their receipt. If necessary, an online session of the Secretariat can be convened where to present all the modifications;	Done
3.	Chairwoman of the Board of Directors of the Missing Persons Institute of Bosnia and Herzegovina Saliha Djuderija will present the summary of the MPG Report, on behalf of the MPG, at the upcoming meeting of Berlin Process Foreign Ministers in Berlin on 1 October;	Ongoing
4.	Speech summarizing the MPG Report will be shared and harmonized by all MPG members and delivered by Ms. Djuderija at the ministerial meeting;	Done
5.	MPG agrees to hold the 10th regular session of the MPG in Berlin on 30 October, co-chaired by the Commission on Missing Persons of the Government of the Republic of Serbia. On the 1 October, the MPG will convene a meeting of the Forum of the Families to exchange information with the Board of the Regional Coordination Network.	Ongoing