

Australia Country Statement - 4 minutes

For publication on Bali Process website, delivered by Minister Dutton at the Seventh Bali Process Ministerial Conference on 7 August 2018

Thank you Co-Chairs, Ministers, distinguished delegates, it is a great pleasure to be here with you today. Please allow me to commence by offering my condolences to the people of Indonesia on the significant loss of life in and around Lombok and thank the first responders who were in Lombok and provided assistance to our delegation and to the members who were attending the counter-terrorism conference there.

I would also like to say thank you very much and express my sincere appreciation, once again, to Indonesia for its generous hospitality.

Irregular migration constitutes one of the most significant global challenges of the 21st century. Recently, this is most evident in Europe, where the growth in the irregular movement of people has created a marketplace for smugglers and traffickers, who undeterred by the dangers of illegal voyages exploit the vulnerable for their own financial gain. Unless irregular migration is effectively

deterred and prevented, it will have increasingly detrimental impacts on our nations; on our national security, our sovereignty and in our public's support for regular migration.

As members of the Bali Process, we must not be blind to the reality around us. The risk of large numbers of irregular maritime movements in our region remains. Collectively, we must continue to commit to addressing the challenge of irregular migration. The Bali Process—now 16 years old—remains the pre-eminent forum for regional engagement on these critical issues. Australia deeply values the partnerships we have developed through this forum and acknowledges the ongoing commitment in this forum to developing practical initiatives that help address the evolving nature of people smuggling, human trafficking and related transnational crime.

Australia is eager to continue to use the Bali Process as a forum for policy deliberations, information sharing, and identifying opportunities for capacity building to address migration issues in the region. We encourage members to strengthen their involvement with the Regional Support Office and Bali Process working groups, including the Trafficking in Persons Working Group—co-chaired by Indonesia and Australia. Testament to its value, the Trafficking in Persons

Working Group has delivered critical resources to support collective efforts to tackle this repugnant crime, including a new policy guide on Following the Money in Trafficking in Person Cases.

As Bali Process members may be aware, on 20 December last year, Australia established a Home Affairs portfolio. This is the most significant reform of Australia's national intelligence and domestic security arrangements in more than 40 years. Home Affairs brings together our domestic security and law enforcement capabilities in one portfolio. It includes the Department of Home Affairs, which plays a centralised role to enhance the coordination of strategy, planning and policy. And five independent agencies, each with their own head. Home Affairs is greater than the sum of its parts; there are clear lines of authority, a singular purpose and pooled capabilities.

Importantly, the new portfolio will support Australia's regional engagement activities to counter human trafficking and people smuggling. Already, the Australian Government has introduced Australia's first Modern Slavery Bill. This legislation will require more than 3,000 large business to report annually on how they are protecting and eradicating modern slavery in their supply chains and operations.

Further, in a world's first the Australian Government will publish an annual statement covering Commonwealth procurement, underlining the Government's commitment to lead by example in the fight against modern slavery. We welcome the opportunity to share with Bali Process members its experience in developing the Modern Slavery Act, and the value of business to government collaboration.

As members, we have achieved a great deal together. And only together, can we achieve a great deal more. We know that in the 21st century, it is the strength of our partnerships and our collective security which will ensure each of our nations remains secure and prosperous with the support of our people for further movements of people around the country.

Thank you