

4th Bali Regional Ministerial Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Person and Related Transnational Crime, 30 March 2011.

Statement by the Head of Delegation of Timor Leste.

Mr. Co-chairs,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Timor- Leste (TL) congratulates Australia and Indonesia in Co-chairing this very important event. TL delegation appreciates the very warm welcome and hospitality.

Being a newly independent state in the region, Timor- Leste realizes that irregular migration, people smuggling, trafficking in persons and related transnational crimes, have posed a serious challenge for states in the Asia-Pacific region and across the world.

Timor- Leste is currently one of the destination country for trafficked person from some countries in Asia region, who have been exploited for labour aboard fishing vessels, or sexually exploited in the Capital Dili.

Facing this challenging reality, Timor- Leste through the ministry of Foreign Affairs have developed the Inter-Agency Trafficking Working Group with the support from IOM's secretariat. This ITWG has been meeting since 2003 to discuss and coordinate policies on ways and means to combat human trafficking.

Concrete measures to be taken on this pertinent issue will be based on legal framework such as:

- Promulgation of Timor- Leste's Penal Code which makes human trafficking a crime in Timor- Leste, and punishable by 8-15 years imprisonment;
- The approval by the National Parliament of the accession to United Nations Transnational organized Crimes' Convention and the Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, specially women and

children, as well as the Protocol against the smuggling of migrants by land, sea and air.

Another important measure which is already underway is the establishment of the National Plan of Action's working group in 2009. This group worked intensively in their preparations of a first draft of the plan, and subsequently was presented to the public for consultation which is still going on. The aim of this National Action Plan is to strengthen the participation of all government sectors in raising awareness on trafficking issues.

A Sub -Committee of the Inter-Agency Working group began last year drafting a comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation which will address the complicated issues of human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude as well as trafficking for sexual exploitation.

Excellencies,

This year Timor-Leste is going to launch the Border Management Information System in order to monitor and control the documents and movements of illegal migrants. This is the result of a successful trilateral cooperation amongst Timor-Leste, Australia and Portugal.

Mr. Co-Chairs,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to take this opportunity to inform the following:

1. TL fully supports Bali Process as a forum to address issues of regional concern.
2. Based on the humanitarian convictions and as a matter of principle, Timor Leste is obliged to protect those fleeing persecution.

3. A Regional Processing Centre is a regional issue and required a regional solution, where all stakeholders from the countries of origin, transit and destination need to be part of the solution.

Thank you Mr. Co-chairs and Distinguished Delegates for your kind attention.

Alberto Carlos,

Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs,

Democratic Republic of Timor -Leste.