



# **The Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational**



## **BALI PROCESS SIDE EVENT – OUTCOMES DOCUMENT VIENNA FORUM: UN GLOBAL INITIATIVE TO FIGHT HUMAN TRAFFICKING VIENNA, 14 FEBRUARY 2008**

1. The Government of the Republic of Indonesia and the Government of Australia, in their capacity as the Co-chairs of the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Person and Related Transnational Crime (the Bali Process), hosted a Side Event during the Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking. The event disseminated information on the Bali Process and its activities. In particular, presentations and discussions demonstrated the utility of the Bali Process as a model for regional cooperation in the fight against human trafficking. The Bali Process has made, and continues to make, a valuable contribution to combating human trafficking in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond, through strengthening and facilitating non-binding and informal cooperation among policy makers and practitioners from over 50 countries, as well as with key international and regional organisations.
2. The event was attended by more than 100 participants and was opened by H.E. Dr. Meutia Farida Hatta, Minister for Women's Empowerment of the Republic of Indonesia. The Minister, noting that human trafficking is a crime against the individual and an infringement of the most fundamental human rights, emphasised the importance of strengthening cooperative networks in order to help prevent the crime, prosecute perpetrators and protect victims. Mr. Michael Potts, the Australian Ambassador for People Smuggling Issues and Australian Co-chair, provided an overview of the Bali Process, outlining its genesis and objectives, as well as the characteristics which make it a particularly effective model for regional cooperation against human trafficking. H.E. Triyono Wibowo, Indonesian Ambassador/Permanent Representative to the UN and Other International Organizations in Vienna, presenting on behalf of the Indonesian Co-chair, Dr Desra Percaya, updated attendees on Bali Process activities and the trend towards increasing and strengthening victim-oriented cooperation. Police Major General Kerkphong Pukprayura, the Thai Bali Process Coordinator on law enforcement cooperation, elaborated on how the Bali Process' practical approach has provided a strong foundation for deeper and stronger regional cooperation among law enforcement practitioners in the fight against human trafficking. Mr. Scott Wilson, a representative from the Australian Attorney General's Department, gave an additional explanation on how the Bali Process has benefited participating small and developing countries in their effort to fight human trafficking, citing the particular example of how the Bali Process has assisted Palau develop anti-trafficking legislation.
3. Following panel presentations, Mr. Lance Bonneau, from the International Organisation for Migration, moderated a half-hour interactive discussion, during which panel presenters and attendees exchanged views on the Bali Process and the role of Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs) in the fight against human trafficking. The

Co-chairs of the Bali Process wish to present the following conclusions to the Vienna Forum:

Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs) remain the most effective way for states to cooperatively combat human trafficking and are therefore integral components of the global effort to fight the crime. RCPs, such as the Bali Process, are able to respond to the complexities of human trafficking, including changes in patterns and increased volumes, due to their strong operational networks and ability to facilitate direct contact between policy makers and practitioners. The high-level political impetus that drives RCPs, such as the Bali Process, enables practical cooperation at the operational level to develop and strengthen. RCPs are also particularly effective at providing technical assistance to small and developing states and helping build their capacity to tackle human trafficking.

- We consider that the work of RCPs would be enhanced through continued exchange of experiences and best practices at inter-regional meetings and see scope for this occurring under the UN.GIFT and other relevant initiatives undertaken by the international community.
- Effective regional cooperation at the operational level is imperative in the fight against human trafficking. In particular, RCP's should work to develop best practice in law enforcement cooperation and victim protection, and facilitate the development of anti-trafficking legislation.
- Given that human trafficking represents an exploitative fraction of international migration, collective international efforts towards better governance of international migration could contribute significantly to countering human trafficking.
- Effective action to prevent and combat trafficking in persons requires a comprehensive international approach in the countries of origin, transit and destination based on shared responsibilities, particularly for victim repatriation by protecting the internationally recognised human rights of victims. Therefore governments and other stakeholders should work collectively to identify sources of funding for victim repatriation and support.