



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department

Second Annual Meeting of the Bali Process Working Group on Trafficking in Persons Bangkok, Thailand, 18 May 2016 Co-Chairs' Statement

The Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Kemlu) and Australian Attorney-General's Department (AGD) co-chaired the second meeting of the *Bali Process Working Group on Trafficking in Persons* in Bangkok on 18 May 2016. Opening remarks were delivered by Ms Kanchana Patarachoke, Deputy Director General for the Department of International Organisations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr Andy Rachmianto, Director for International Security and Disarmament, Kemlu, and Mr Chris Collett, Assistant Secretary, Transnational Crime Branch, AGD.

Decisions and Recommendations for Future Action

1. Co-chairs acknowledged the current global context, of unprecedented levels of displacement and mobility of persons, and the continuing importance of regional cooperation to combat transnational crimes like trafficking in persons (TIP) and related transnational crimes, such as money laundering and other economic crimes. Co-chairs reaffirmed the value of the Working Group as a mechanism for Bali Process members to shape a regional approach to combating TIP.
2. Co-chairs welcomed the participation of the Australian Bali Process SOM Co-Chair, His Excellency Mr Andrew Golezinowski, who provided an update on outcomes from the 2 February 2016 Bali Process Ad Hoc Group Senior Officials' Meeting, and the 23 March 2016 Bali Process Ministerial Conference. In particular, co-chairs noted the objectives in the *Bali Declaration on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime* agreed to by Ministers, to strengthen criminal justice responses to TIP in our region. Ministers agreed an effective criminal justice response requires appropriate criminal laws, international criminal cooperation amongst countries, support for victims and capacity building for law enforcement, including to target the illicit profits of transnational crime. Co-chairs noted that these objectives are supported in the Working Group's Forward Work Plan 2015-17, and will continue to be prioritised in 2016-17.
3. Co-chairs welcomed presentations to inform future Working Group activities, on how States can effectively engage with NGOs and the private sector to combat TIP and protect and assist victims, from: Ms Cristina Sevilla, Executive Director, Action Against Violence & Exploitation (ACTVE), Philippines, and Ms Margaret Stuart, Corporate and External Relations Manager, Nestle Oceania.
4. Co-chairs noted progress on implementation of the Working Group's *Forward Work Plan 2015-17*, agreed following the Working Group's first meeting in March 2015, including:
 - a. The Working Group's first regional event – the *Regional Symposium on Labour Trafficking*, held in March 2015. The symposium was co-chaired by Thailand and Australia and attended by 117 people,

including officials from 35 Bali Process member countries, and representatives from international organisations, the private sector and academia. This event fulfilled a Ministerial direction to the Working Group to consider the impacts of labour trafficking on Bali Process member countries, and supported the Working Group's priority of building law and justice officials' understanding of, and capacity to respond to, this form of trafficking.

- b. The delivery of a range of capacity building training workshops and presentations by Working Group members on the *Bali Process Policy Guides* on criminalising TIP and migrant smuggling, and identifying and protecting victims of TIP. These activities are consistent with the Working Group's ongoing priority to expand and promote the use of the policy guides in the region, and to deliver related capacity building training.
 - c. The establishment of a regular mechanism for sharing information on regional trends and best practice approaches to TIP, through circulation of Working Group newsletters.
 - d. The Working Group's second regional event – the *Bali Process Following the Money Forum*, held on 16-17 May 2016. The Forum was co-chaired by Thailand and Australia and attended by 88 participants from 30 Bali Process member countries and 5 international organisations. The event supported the Working Group's focus on strengthening members' capacity to implement effective anti-money laundering and asset recovery law and policy frameworks, to help disrupt the financial incentive for TIP.
5. The Working Group agreed to the following priorities for 2016-17, which will be reflected in an updated Work Plan:
- a. **Expanding the promotion and use of the Bali Process policy guides** by law and justice officials in Bali Process member countries, through related training and other opportunities.
 - b. **Developing guidance tools**, including on indicators of trafficking for law and justice officials. This will complement the Bali Process Policy Guides on Identification and Protection of Victims of Trafficking, with concrete tools for use by relevant officials (including law enforcement, immigration and labour officials).
 - c. Continuing to **share information on regional trends and best practice** approaches to TIP, including through Working Group newsletters.
 - d. Implementing **outcomes of the Bali Process Following the Money Forum**, including:
 - i. conducting analysis of the business models and methods used to launder the proceeds of TIP in Bali Process member countries to increase understanding of capacity building gaps
 - ii. compiling data on Bali Process member countries' capability to combat TIP and disrupt the associated illicit profits, including on: legislative and policy frameworks, the operational capacity of investigators and prosecutors, and use of formal and informal international crime cooperation mechanisms
 - iii. developing practical regional guidance materials on using anti-money laundering tools and networks to support investigation and prosecution of TIP
 - iv. developing a regional training module on using anti-money laundering tools and networks to support investigation and prosecution of TIP, and
 - v. promoting Bali Process members' participation in formal and informal networks that share information and build capacity to support officers in tracing and recovering criminal assets.

- e. Promoting **effective engagement with the private sector and NGOs** to combat TIP and protect and assist victims, including support for the proposed Bali Process Business Dialogue.
- f. Continuing **cooperation with the Bali Process Working Group on Disruption of Criminal Networks** involved in People Smuggling and TIP.
- g. Oversighting the Regional Support Office in developing a **Regional Roadmap** for States on Effective Law and Policy Frameworks to Combat Trafficking in Persons– a resource that will assist states in implementing international standards on TIP, monitor progress and share practices.

The Co-Chairs will convene the next meeting of the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons in 2017.