



Co-Chairs' Statement

Bali Process Consultation Workshop on the Policy Guide on Following the Money in Trafficking in Persons Cases, Bali, Indonesia, 23-24 May 2017

The Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Australian Attorney-General's Department co-chaired the *Bali Process Consultation Workshop on the Policy Guide on Following the Money in Trafficking in Persons Cases* in Bali, Indonesia, from 23-24 May 2017.

The workshop was a *Bali Process Trafficking in Persons Working Group* (TIP Working Group) event, to review and finalise the policy guide and a related training module. The workshop was attended by 91 participants, including from 37 countries and 3 international organisations of the Bali Process. The workshop was opened by Salman Alfarisi, Acting Director General for Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia and Dr Helena Studdert, Australian Consul-General to Bali, Indonesia.

The policy guide and training module respond to a direction from the March 2016 Bali Process Ministerial Conference. Recognizing the importance of targeting the financial incentives for transnational crime, Ministers recommended that the TIP Working Group develop regional guidance on this issue.

The TIP Working Group established a drafting committee to develop the guidance materials, co-chaired by the Indonesian Attorney-General's Office and Australian Attorney-General's Department, and comprised of members with relevant expertise from: Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Bangladesh Police, Philippines Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thai Anti-Money Laundering Office, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The committee met three times between September 2016 and February 2017 to draft the policy guide and training module.

The policy guide is a voluntary and non-binding reference on regional best-practice approaches to using anti-money laundering and asset recovery tools to combat trafficking in persons. It is aimed at police, prosecutors, and financial intelligence units from Bali Process member countries. The new policy guide is the fifth in a series of regional best-practice guides developed by Bali Process members.

Workshop participants also reviewed the report *Financial Footprints: An Analysis of Financial Investigations to Combat Trafficking in Persons in the Asia Pacific Region*. The report was commissioned to enhance understanding of the financial flows related to trafficking in persons in Bali Process member countries, and to inform development of the policy guide and training module. The report provides an overview of key global literature on the financial flows associated with trafficking in persons, and recent global experiences in using financial tools in combatting trafficking in persons. It also analyses responses to a questionnaire, including case studies, from 19 Bali Process member countries. The draft policy guide, training module and report were circulated to Bali Process members and observers for written comments in advance of the workshop.

The workshop finalised the consultation process on the policy guide and training module. Participants reviewed and discussed the draft materials and shared their experiences, including through case studies, practical exercises, and a panel discussion with representatives of Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand and Thailand. Participants agreed that the policy guide, training module and *Financial Footprints* report were useful resources to assist to practitioners use anti-money laundering tools and techniques to strengthen their response to trafficking in persons.

Some key themes from discussion at the workshop included:

- the need to capture data and develop reporting to establish an evidence base about the methods that trafficking in persons networks are using to launder their money;
- the importance of inter-agency cooperation, including with financial intelligence units, to support successful investigation and prosecution outcomes in trafficking in persons cases;
- strategies to improve international cooperation between countries to trace the flow of illicit profits and obtain financial evidence; and



- the benefits of engaging the private sector's expertise and knowledge to detect financial flows associated with trafficking in persons.

Participants noted that the workshop occurred in the context of an increasing international focus on the financial flows associated with trafficking in persons. This includes exploring the possibility of cooperation with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and FATF style Regional Bodies. Participants recognised that it will be important for the Bali Process to link into and complement other international and regional processes looking at the intersection of money laundering and trafficking in persons.

Participants also identified ways to promote the use of the policy guide and training module at the national level. This included sharing the materials with domestic agencies and using them as awareness-raising and training tools. The TIP Working Group was encouraged to promote the use of the guide among Bali Process member states, including through delivery of training, and translating the materials into regional languages and uploading them to the Bali Process website. The Co-Chairs welcome nominations from countries that have already expressed interest in hosting training workshops on the materials – including Cambodia, the Maldives, Mongolia, Palau and Papua New Guinea – and encouraged others to leverage this opportunity.

Participants agreed to recommend the draft Policy Guide, including revisions agreed to incorporate comments, for the endorsement of the TIP Working Group at their meeting on 25 May 2017.