



Co-Chairs' Statement
Third Annual Meeting of the Bali Process Trafficking in Persons Working Group
Bali, Indonesia, 25 May 2017

On 26 May 2017, the Bali Process Trafficking in Persons Working Group (TIPWG) met for the third time, in Bali, Indonesia. The meeting was co-chaired by the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Australian Attorney-General's Department, with participants from 18 Bali Process member countries and organisations.

Members welcomed **updates on recent meetings** of the Bali Process, including the 11th Ad Hoc Group Senior Officials Meeting and the Taskforce on Planning and Preparedness. Members also heard about planning for the Bali Process Government and Business Forum, to be launched in August 2017 in Perth, Australia. The Co-Chairs encouraged member countries to actively engage in the Forum, including through providing senior-level government representation at the meeting. Members looked forward to the outcomes of the Forum, and opportunities for the TIPWG to support initiatives of the Forum to effectively engage the private sector in combatting trafficking in persons.

Members also welcomed an update from New Zealand and Malaysia on the activities of the **Bali Process Working Group on Disruption of People Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons Criminal Networks**. This included an update on activities under the Disruption Working Group's second joint period of action, held from May to November 2017, and the beginning of the third joint period of action, which commenced in February 2017. Members commended the impressive results in the second joint period of action, leading to increasing operational cooperation between states and over 10 arrests – including the arrest of one of the most notorious people smugglers in the region. Members looked forward to the TIPWG continuing collaboration with the Disruption Working Group, and welcomed advice that many operations in the second and third joint periods of action have incorporated a follow the money approach.

Members heard from the Drafting Committee that developed the Bali Process policy guide and training module on **'Following the Money in Trafficking in Persons Cases'**, and a report on the Financial Footprints associated with human trafficking in Bali Process member countries. These materials respond to a direction from Ministers at the March 2016 Bali Process Ministerial Conference, and fulfil an action item in the TIPWG Forward Work Plan 2015-17.

Members agreed to recommend the Following the Money materials for endorsement at the 12th Bali Process Ad Hoc Group Senior Officials Meeting, to be held in late 2017. Members noted their sincere thanks to the countries and organisations represented on the drafting committee for their contribution. The co-chairs encouraged member countries to promote the guidance materials in their country, and to take up the opportunity of holding training workshops on the guide.

Members welcomed the new co-chairs of the **Bali Process Regional Support Office (RSO)** – Mr Toferry Primanda and Mr Michael Odgers – to their first meeting of the TIPWG. The RSO co-chairs provided an update on the RSO's activities over the last year, including development of the Regional Roadmap website, which fulfils an action item in the TIPWG Forward Work Plan 2015-17.

Members acknowledged the important role that the RSO plays in supporting the TIP Working Group to implement Ministerial priorities through delivery of projects and training. The Co-Chairs commended the work of the RSO in developing the online Regional Roadmap tool, and encouraged



members to share information about their experiences on the site, to fully utilize the potential of this valuable resource.

Members also welcomed an update from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on **regional trends and developments**, capturing key themes from the UNODC's 2016 Global Trafficking in Persons Report. The update highlighted some key challenges in combatting migrant smuggling and human trafficking in the Asia-Pacific region, including the lack of reliable data and research; the need for improvements in the quality of criminal intelligence and access to that information; and strengthened international cooperation.

Members also reflected on the Working Group's achievements in implementing its **Forward Work Plan 2015-17**, including: continued work to promote the use of the Bali Process policy guides through a range of activities, including distribution of the guides and delivery of training in a number of Bali Process member countries; and development of the Follow the Money guidance materials and the Regional Roadmap.

Members agreed to a range of priorities and action items for the TIP Working Group's **Forward Work Plan 2017 -19**, including:

- an ongoing focus on information sharing between members, including through annual meetings, regular newsletters, and use of the Regional Roadmap
- continuing to expand and promote the use of the Bali Process policy guides on *Criminalizing Trafficking in Persons* and *Migrant Smuggling, Identifying and Protecting Victims of Trafficking in Persons*, and *Following the Money in Trafficking in Persons Cases*.
- promoting effective engagement with the private sector and civil society, including considering how the Working Group may complement the work of the Bali Process Business and Government Forum
- continuing to build Bali Process members' capacity to use 'follow the money' tools in human trafficking cases
- strengthening member countries' capacity to combat labour and sexual exploitation, including promoting international best practice in combatting them in supply chains
- tackling corruption as a key facilitator of human trafficking, and
- strengthening international cooperation to support investigation of human trafficking.

The Co-Chairs noted that the updated Forward Work Plan would be circulated to members for written comments and endorsement following the meeting. The Co-Chairs will work with TIPWG members in 2017/18 to progress activities in support of the Work Plan objectives. The TIPWG will meet again in the first half of 2018.