

Alii and Good day to you madam co-chairs and on behalf of the President and Vice President of the Republic of Palau thank you for giving us the opportunity to address the honorable ministers and honored guests. We also would like to convey our condolence our thoughts and prayers to the people of Indonesia for the recent earthquake incident that has affected the Indonesian people.

The Republic of Palau would now like to thank you the co-chairs Honorable ministers from Indonesia and Australia for the invitation to attend this excellent conference, thank you to the IOM for the assistance that allowed for a delegate from Palau to attend this very important meeting and to the host the Indonesian People for the wonderful hospitality and excellent accommodations.

On a personal note this is my first time to attend this Bali Process Conference and it has been an eye opener as well as a wealth of information that I cannot wait to take back home and implement what may to further improve my country's ability to fight against Human Smuggling, Human Trafficking and transnational crime.

The republic of Palau would like to announce that in our domestic efforts to preventing people smuggling and human trafficking we continue to seek improvements to our local capacity to combat Human Trafficking and I would like to share some of our progress achieved within this year:

- An Anti-Human Trafficking Working Group was created by Presidential Order to come up with strategy to address or fight and eliminate incidences of Human Trafficking in our Republic of Palau. The members of the working group were representatives of the Faith Based Organizations (a Catholic Priest), Representatives from the Business Sector, NGOs, Civil Society, the Prosecutors Office, Representative from Police, Immigration, Labor Department and from the Vice President and Minister of Justice's Office. The group meets at least once a month and went to work immediately and a strategic Plan was devised and implemented. This year alone the working group established the following:
  - Palau Created an anti-Human Trafficking office with main focus on raising awareness on what Human Trafficking is and what it looks like.
  - The office has improved the receiving, investigations and the prosecution of HT cases. Three convictions for HT crimes have been achieved within the past six months and the latest convict was sentenced to a 25 year jail term.
  - The office has also assisted HT Victims by providing for their livelihood, achieving their due compensation and have completed their reintegration and in some cases their repatriation.

- Dedicated Human Trafficking investigators have also been assigned on a full time basis to aggressively investigate reports of people smuggling, Human Trafficking and associated transnational criminal activities.
- Funding for the support and assistance of victims of Human Trafficking has also been secured through the legislative process and now the program is funded.
- Palau through these improvements and experiences have come to understand Human Smuggling and Human Trafficking is a global threat to our countries, our people and to our guests who migrate to our countries the organized criminal elements that prey on human suffering is not contained by jurisdictions but rather operates trans Nationally or is multi-jurisdictional.
- To this end Palau continues looking forward to improving networks with regional counterparts in intelligence, enforcement and even improve capacity by sharing skills, engage in relevant training as well as learn best practices from the counterparts in the region. It is only in this sense of a cooperative multi-jurisdictional information sharing and coordinated enforcement effort will Palau and the region be effective in eliminating people smuggling, human trafficking and the related transnational criminal

activity. Palau's Anti-Human Trafficking Working Group continues to assess and implement improvements to Palau's Human Trafficking counter strategy.

- Palau is thankful to the International Office on Migration for providing to us the Global Compact's 23 Objectives and their associated commitment and action. Palau is also thankful to the co-chairs for holding this Bali Process meeting on combating People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and related Trans National Crimes.
- Palau is looking forward to attending future Bali Process conferences and aims to be a more active participant in the working groups to contribute to the further development of strategies as well as learn from the working groups on how to be more effective in country as well as be an active regional partner in the fight against People Smuggling, Human Trafficking and related trans national crime. Once again thank you co-chairs for this opportunity, and thank you to the people of Bali for the excellent hospitality and for sharing your beautiful county with us. Thank you.