

Bali Process Business Forum in Perth, 24-25 August 2017

H.E. The Hon, Julie Bishop MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Australia

H.E. Mr. Retno L.P. Marsudi, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Indonesia

Mr. Andrew Forrest AO, the Australian Business Co-chair

Mr. Eddy Sariaatmadja, the Indonesian Business Co-chair

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to, at the very outset, thank the organisers for their very warm hospitality extended to my delegation. The Government of Pakistan appreciates the initiative of the Government of Australia of Bali Process.

2. It is well known that; human smuggling and trafficking has become a vast spreading phenomenon in today's world and is considered to be one of the fastest growing areas of international criminal activity. Human trafficking is an unjust and heinous crime against humanity which leads to serious human rights violations. Besides, there are health threats and socio-economic consequences in relation to the notion of human trafficking. Hence involvement of private sector in this important dialogue is very welcome.

3. Human trafficking is a form of modern day slavery that trades and exploits children, women and men each year, violating their basic rights to life, liberty and security. From an economic lens, human trafficking can be considered as an economic activity and a consequence out of a commoditized process that profits from human mobility. As businesses become more globalized and borders open, the transfer of people, both willing and forced, is becoming more widespread contributing to unprecedented growth of human trafficking.¹ Increasing levels of inequality, both globally and internally, encourage millions of disadvantaged individuals to migrate internationally and internally. As migrants search for more economic opportunities outside their homes, some end up in coerced work by the use of threat or deception.

4 In order to prevent human trafficking globally, efforts need to be extended beyond raising awareness campaigns to strengthening labor law enforcement and strengthening partnerships between governments, law enforcement, business enterprises and non-governmental organizations. As individuals living in poverty are more likely to be vulnerable to exploitation due to lack of access to jobs, education, legal protection, and awareness of trafficking. Therefore, they are also more likely to be preyed upon by traffickers from their desires to seek better

economic and social opportunities. Some of the important prevention activities to tackle the “push factors” of migration could be the provision of vocational training, access to microcredit and access to education for vulnerable children. The expertise, resources and efforts of many individuals, including governments and nongovernment entities in areas such as human rights, labor, employment and health, are needed to combat this multi-faceted crime and facilitate prevention, protection and prosecution.

5. The Government of Pakistan, has over the past few years taken several important steps to strengthen its criminal justice apparatus. Being aware of the complex legal, social and economic dimensions of transnational crime particularly trafficking in persons, corruption and money laundering, the Government has taken the following concrete measures to criminalize and punish these offences. As mentioned earlier, a Special Anti-Human Trafficking Unit has been set up in the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) whose motto is to “get the traffickers out of business”.

6. The Government of Pakistan is committed to eradication of human trafficking, which is a burning issue at national and international level. A steering committee has been established in Ministry of Interior to monitor and review combating efforts against human trafficking. Joint Secretary (Security) Ministry of Interior has been declared as focal point for coordination and exchange of information. The Federal Investigative Agency being the lead Agency has established Special Unit to be called Anti Trafficking Unit (ATU) at the Federal Investigative Agency Headquarters to deal all matters relating to human trafficking more effectively. To ensure country wide coverage of human trafficking, sub units of ATU have also been established in all Zonal Directorates of FIA at Karachi, Lahore, Rawalpindi, Peshawar and Quetta.

7. Pakistan also introduced the Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance (PACHTO) in 2002 and the Pakistan National Action Plan for Combating Human Trafficking in 2009. PACHTO is the first national law to recognise the need for protection of trafficked people and to criminalise trafficking for the purpose of “exploitative entertainment, slavery or forced labour or adoption in or out of Pakistan.” The Ordinance also provides a national definition for “human trafficking”.

8. PACHTO authorises the court to direct the competent authorities to provide compensation to victims, which may result in arrangements for shelter, food, medical treatment or financial compensation for the victim. The penalties for the crime of human trafficking vary from 7 to 14 years of imprisonment, depending on the perpetrator’s involvement. However, the law only covers cross-border human trafficking and does not address internal trafficking.

9. According to the National Action Plan adopted in 2009, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) acts as National Rapporteur on human trafficking

and coordinates anti-trafficking actions in Pakistan. As part of its anti-trafficking efforts, the Anti-Human Smuggling Wing of FIA created Anti-Human Trafficking Circles (previously known as ‘Passport Circles’) in 16 major cities of Pakistan. In addition, ‘Anti Human Trafficking Units’ have been established at the Provincial Police Headquarters, FIA Headquarters and FIA Zone Headquarters and a ‘Human Trafficking Information System’ has been installed. The FIA has also sponsored public awareness campaigns, especially in the Punjab province, and organised training modules for law enforcement officials on how to investigate trafficking cases and treat victims.

10. With regard to the phase 2 activities foreseen in Pakistan, following an assessment mission in the inception phase to determine the current situation in the country, the planned activities will be presented to the relevant anti-trafficking actors in the country and aligned with their priorities. The main focus, however, will be basic training for various target groups to emphasize the difference between trafficking and smuggling and increase awareness of THB, and first steps towards the development of standard procedures for the referral of victims.

11. Pakistan and Australia have a well-established mechanism on Border Protection Transnational Crimes through Joint Working Group Meetings. The next meeting of Joint Working Group is scheduled to be held in Australia where in-depth discussions on all these areas will be done.

12. In July 2017 - a four-year joint initiative by the European Union (EU) and UNODC, was launched in Islamabad, known as the Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants (GLO.ACT), In addition to the project, a public awareness campaign on the topic has also been launched, co-funded by Australian Government Department of Immigration and Border Protection and the United States Department of State.

13. A new Anti-Cyber Crime Unit to deal with internet-related crimes has also been established. The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) of Pakistan has achieved significant success in curbing high-level corruption. It has recovered huge sums of ill-gotten money running into billions of Rupees.

14. We deeply appreciate Australia’s support to the Government of Pakistan in our efforts against money laundering, particularly in FATF.

15. I am confident that this regional approach will prevent human traffickers from their nefarious designs and contribute to improving lives of the people of the region.