



**adidas statement of support**

**Bali Process Government and Business Forum, Nusa Dua, Indonesia**

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Regrettably, research has shown there are more slaves today than in any other time in history. Human rights violations continue unabated because actors around the world with the power to address issues are allowing them to continue. Most states have legislative frameworks to safeguard against slavery, yet we know there are 40.3 million people enslaved in the world today, of which 16 million men, women and children are working in the private sector.

We truly believe that acting as a responsible business – one which is fully committed to respecting human rights across our value chain – will contribute to lasting economic success. Whilst we have a long and strong track record in sustainability, we are constantly striving to improve our performance. We do so by engaging and collaborating with our stakeholders and consumers to find creative and lasting solutions.

One such example is our partnership and commitment to the Bali Process Government and Business Forum (GABF). In this regard, we welcome the Acknowledge, Act and Advance Recommendations (AAA Recommendations) that clearly set out a roadmap for both business and government to contribute to the eradication of these transnational crimes. And there are positive actions every business enterprise can take.

At adidas we have a robust human and labour rights program which was founded in the 1990s, developed around a set of Workplace Standards, which incorporate core international labour rights and human rights conventions. Standards that our suppliers are contractually bound to uphold. Since then we have transparently dealt with issues around forced labour, child labour and migrant labour and these are issues we continue to acknowledge and address through our Modern Slavery Outreach Program, which addresses risks in our upstream supply chain, through targeted capacity building for suppliers and by focusing on agricultural commodities such as cotton, natural rubber and leather.

But to improve supply chain transparency and implement ethical recruitment practices, it demands partnership based solutions. These include, for example, government involvement of both sending and receiving countries to regulate intermediaries and employment agencies such that no worker pays for a job and is thus excluded from the potential of abuse and extortion at the hands of unethical employment agencies.



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At adidas, the modern slavery outreach program fits into our broader efforts to systematically address the human rights impacts of our business operations and to drive transparency in our supply chain. The seriousness with which we apply ourselves to these goals is reflected in our performance ranking in benchmarks such as KnowTheChain where we ranked no. 1 of 20 apparel and footwear brands that were assessed on forced labour and the 2017 Corporate Human Rights Benchmark where we ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Apparel sector and 5<sup>th</sup> of the 98 global brands that were assessed. Our efforts have also been recognized by civil society, through the Stop Slavery Award 2017 where we were adjudged outstanding achievers and were recognized for the transparency of our audits, strong responsible sourcing guidelines and our approach to trace higher-risk supply chains.

We are committed to ensuring fair, safe and healthy working conditions for workers in the supply chain but this can only be achieved through collective action and shared responsibility. There are many disengaged companies and poorly-engaged governments. This does not serve the common goal of eradicating modern slavery. We believe that governments that share a common interest and concern over modern slavery in relation to global supply chains must work collectively with businesses and civil society to effect change.