



# The Bali Process

on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime

## Co-Chairs' Statement

### Sixth Annual Meeting of the Bali Process Trafficking in Persons Working Group

10 November, 2020

On 10 November 2020, the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Australian Border Force co-chaired the Sixth Annual Meeting of the Bali Process Trafficking in Persons Working Group (TIPWG). The meeting was held virtually and was attended by 65 participants from TIPWG member countries and international organisations.

Co-Chairs welcomed all attendees and acknowledged the TIPWG as an important mechanism for Bali Process members to share information, best practice and emerging trends. Co-Chairs acknowledged the added challenge of combating trafficking in persons during the COVID-19 pandemic and noted the importance of the TIPWG coming together to discuss these issues.

Members **discussed key outcomes from the recent Bali Process Workshop on the *Compendium of Good Practice Examples to Combat Exploitation in Supply Chains*** (Compendium) which took place on 5 November 2020. Members noted that Co-Chairs were accepting feedback on the draft Compendium and that the Compendium would be endorsed out of session.

Members heard from the International Organization for Migration, the International Labour Organisation and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on **challenges responding to trafficking in persons as recovery from COVID-19 begins**. Members reflected on the challenges in the region and acknowledged the positive initiatives of TIPWG members.

Members also heard presentations from the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement on partnerships in **supporting and protecting migrant workers during the COVID-19 pandemic**. Members noted the importance of government and non-government collaboration to protect migrant workers and other vulnerable cohorts during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Members also welcomed a presentation from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on their forthcoming **Global Trafficking in Persons Report 2020** and key trends in the Asia Pacific region. Members acknowledged the challenges facing the region and the need to work together to foster a harmonised regional response.

Members also discussed the draft **TIPWG Forward Work Plan 2020-22**. Co-Chairs provided an overview of the draft Forward Work Plan, including the proposed priority issues and action items. Members provided initial views on the draft Forward Work Plan and discussed opportunities to strengthen the priority issues further. Co-Chairs thanked members for their



# The Bali Process

on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime

contributions and welcomed further input from members ahead of seeking endorsement out of session.

Members welcomed an update from the ASEAN Lead Shepherd for Trafficking in Persons (Philippines) on key developments and priorities under the **ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Organised Crime (SOMTC) Working Group on Trafficking in Persons**. Members agreed on the importance of continued cooperation and coordination between the TIPWG and relevant regional bodies, including the ASEAN SOMTC Working Group on Trafficking in Persons.

Members also welcomed an update from the Bali Process Regional Support Office (RSO) on **key developments since the last Annual Meeting and discussed future priorities**. The RSO noted the role of technology in facilitating and countering trafficking in persons and highlighted their planning to host a roundtable on this issue in 2021. Members welcomed the opportunity to engage and collaborate on this important issue.

Co-Chairs invited updates from member countries on key issues and progress to combat trafficking in persons and related exploitation in the region. Members acknowledged the diversity in scope of work being done in the region to combat these crimes.

Co-Chairs thanked members for their continued engagement through the TIPWG and welcomed the continued support of members to strengthen the region's collective response to trafficking in persons.