

Human Rights Council – 42nd session

Item 3: Clustered Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery and the Working Group on the use of mercenaries

9 September 2019

Australian Statement

Australia thanks the Special Rapporteur for her presentation and welcomes her report on the current and emerging features of contemporary forms of slavery.

Eliminating modern slavery by 2030 requires systemic responses that address underlying inequalities in societies, commerce and law enforcement, including the disproportionate impact on women and girls. This needs concerted action, across and among governments, international agencies, business and civil society.

To this end, Australia engages with partner countries to build strong law, policy and operational frameworks to tackle modern slavery and support vulnerable workers domestically and internationally.

Under Australia's new *Modern Slavery Act*, approximately 3,000 large companies, charities and other entities will report annually on action to address modern slavery risks in their global operations and supply chains. In a world first, the Australian Government, as one of the largest procurers in the country, will also report.

In our region, we work collaboratively with governments, the private sector and civil society to implement the Bali Process Government and Business Forum's *Acknowledge, Act and Advance* recommendations to improve supply chain transparency and ethical recruitment and employment. The Bali Process, co-chaired with Indonesia, will also take forward a blueprint on working with the financial sector to combat slavery.

Australia continues to contribute to the Alliance 8.7 partnership's collective efforts to accelerate action on SDG 8.7 through the Global Coordinating Group.

We would welcome the SR's views on particular arrangements or strategies to best harness the work of partnerships such as Alliance 8.7 in the fight against modern slavery.

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