

# Measures to Strengthen Procurement Policies at the National, Regional and International Levels

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# Stewardship of Public Funds

- ▶ Public funds must be spent on the public good
  - ▶ This includes ensuring funds are not used to support practices or entities which are contrary to the public good
- ▶ The United States is the single largest purchaser in the world
  - ▶ \$600 billion USD in contracts alone last fiscal year
- ▶ The United States views our efforts to prevent human-trafficking in government contracts as part of our broad efforts on corporate responsibility
- ▶ Acquisition can be a catalyst for change

# Prohibitions on Activities Closely Associated with Trafficking in Persons

- ▶ Pro-actively using the flexibilities in procurement
- ▶ The United States' procurement regulations not only prohibit the use of forced labor in contracts, but also a number of practices closely associated with human trafficking within all solicitations and contracts
- ▶ Contractors, contractor employees, and their agents are prohibited from:
  - ▶ Destroying/confiscating immigration documents
  - ▶ Charging employees recruitment fees
  - ▶ Using misleading or fraudulent recruitment practices
  - ▶ Providing housing that fails to meet the host country standards
  - ▶ Failing to provide return transportation (when brought to a country for work)
  - ▶ Using recruiters who don't comply with local labor laws

# Additional Protections

- ▶ For contracts where over \$550,000 USD is performed overseas (for anything other than commercially available off-the-shelf items), contractors must certify they:
  - ▶ have implemented a compliance plan appropriate for the nature and scope of activities; and
  - ▶ have not discovered trafficking or prohibited activities in their supply-chain, after having conducted due diligence, or have taken appropriate remedial and referral action
- ▶ To encourage reporting, mitigating circumstances are considered
  - ▶ A contractor working to implement a compliance plan and awareness program, that identifies violations as a result of such actions, will be viewed more favorably

# Call to Action

- ▶ We strongly recommend all pro-actively use their procurement practices to prohibit the numerous activities that are so closely associated with human-trafficking in their contracts.
  - ▶ United States, along with the Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom created the [Principles to Guide Government Action to Combat Human Trafficking in Global Supply Chains](#) where the first principle that notes that “Governments should take steps to prevent and address human trafficking in government procurement practices.”
  - ▶ The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) was the first to adopt political commitments to prevent human trafficking in public procurement in its members states, as well as in its own institutional procurement of goods and services.
- ▶ We not only invite, but encourage all of you to work with us on this incredibly important effort.