

MEDIA RELEASE

**Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade Addresses Trafficking in Persons at the 38th Annual Crime Stoppers International Conference**

**Panama City, 18 October 2017** – Today in Panama City, the Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade (TRACIT) participated in a session exploring actions to combat human trafficking and other forms of illicit trade.

*“Although governments bear the primary responsibility for combating trafficking in persons, the private sector has a critical role to guard against the exploitation of workers and ensure that human rights abuse ends,” said TRACIT Director of Programs Ulrika Bonnier. “Consumers are also increasingly aware and concerned about the conditions under which the goods that they buy are made. TRACIT promotes best practices and lessons learned across sectors to help protect supply chains from forced or trafficked labor.”*

The 38th Annual Crime Stoppers International Conference brought together business executives, government representative and law enforcement officials for three days of discussion under the theme: “Taking action against transnational crime.”

Ms. Bonnier is an international policy expert on corruption, illicit trade and human trafficking. She has authored a number of books, including *Trafficking in Persons and Corruption: Breaking the Chain*, published by the OECD in 2016. She participated in the session: “Unique approaches to combating human trafficking and other forms of illicit trade.” Other participants included: Christine Bourne, Caribbean Sales Coordinator, Sectus Technologies International; Nancy Rivard, President, Airline Ambassadors International; Nick Pailthorpe, EMEA Security Outreach, UBER; and Debra Mims, Chief Illicit Trade & Finance, US Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security.

*“We are highlighting the private sector’s proactive work that has been undertaken to push for fair labor conditions and address risks of human trafficking in supply chains,” said Ms. Bonnier. “Moving forward, we also need to look for new ways to leverage private sector information to address trafficking in persons.”*

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