

Sri Lanka Proposal

Sri Lanka proposes the formation of sub groups/clusters to develop in a more focused manner practical solutions at operational levels to address the issues of illegal migration, people smuggling, trafficking in persons and related transnational crimes. It goes back to the basic premise upon which the Ad Hoc Group mechanism was re-tasked by the Bali Ministerial Meeting held in April to address comprehensively particular situations on a case by case basis upon the request of affected countries. The formation of sub groups within the framework of the Ad-Hoc Group of the Bali Process to address specific case loads may be constituted as follows:

- a) Thematic/Technical level Sub Groups i.e. Law Enforcement, Awareness raising, Harmonizing of legal systems, Capacity Building, intelligence Sharing etc and/or
- b) Sub Groups of Affected Countries i.e. source, transit and destination countries

Due to the interwoven nature of the issues at stake what is being proposed is a methodology which could be useful in addressing concerns of certain groups of countries within the Ad Hoc Group. Both types of sub groups could be open ended and report to the Ad Hoc Group on measures taken by them to address issues of concern. They should be formed voluntarily and maintain the informal and non binding spirit of the Bali process.

This is an initial concept for the consideration of the Ad Hoc Group. Sri Lanka is of the view that there are groups of affected countries within the Ad Hoc Group mechanism which could collaborate in the aforementioned manner. Once this process matures to a sufficient level the processes developed by respective sub groups could be used by the wider Ad Hoc group and other Bali Process countries as may be appropriate. The first such cluster/sub group could be convened to identify methods of cooperation in relation to Sri Lanka.