



PRESS RELEASE



UN OFFICE OF THE HIGH REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES,
LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

UNITED NATIONS UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL
CALLS FOR INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION ON ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

THERE IS A GROWING LINK BETWEEN ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT, SAYS
CHAIRMAN OF GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

United Nations , 24 March 2005: At an Open Forum for Partnerships to discuss the issue of protecting the environment in Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, Anwarul K. Chowdhury called for a renewed commitment by the international community to prevent environmental degradation in Least Developed Countries as stated in the Brussels Programme of Action. “The Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States are contributing the least to the emission of greenhouse gases, while they are the most vulnerable and have the least capacity to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change,” he said at the United Nations today. The Forum was organized by UN-OHRLLS.

Speaking to member states, representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the Chairman of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Leonard Good said that there was a growing link between environment and development. He said that the Global Environment Facility had 431 projects with an investment of \$1.1 billion in 49 Least Developed Countries and 260 projects with a financial undertaking of \$425 million in 41 Small Island Developing States. “While GEF has an Island Biodiversity work programme focused on SIDS, mitigation of greenhouse gases has been a priority in Least Developed Countries,” he added.

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Mr. Good said that the LDC Fund had been set up and indicated that the Least Developed Countries should push for more funding. “GEF is now focusing on several different environmental issues, for example issues relating to water. The Small Island Developing States have the perfect opportunity to get involved,” he said.

Concluding the Forum, Mr. Chowdhury said, “I feel that LDCs would benefit a great deal from the small grants programme envisaged by GEF, as well as from the LDC Fund. The Governing Council of GEF can take a lead in this.”

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