



PRESS RELEASE



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

ADDRESS THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF VULNERABLE COUNTRIES
TO MAKE THE MDGs SUCCESSFUL

CHAIRMAN OF THE LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
URGES MEMBER STATES

United Nations, 10 February 2005: Addressing the United Nations General Assembly during a discussion on the Millennium Project Report, Ambassador Alounkeo Kittikhoun, Permanent Representative of the Lao PDR and Chairman of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries, urged the member states to focus on Goal 8 of the Millennium Development Goals. “In the implementation of MDG Goal 8 addressing the special needs of LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, a special set of measures and indicators should be applied to quantify the progress. Without addressing the urgent needs of the three most vulnerable groups of countries, which comprise almost half of the international community, the millennium development goals will not be achievable,” he said.

Referring to the mandate of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, he called on the members to “pro-actively involve the Office in the MDG review process.”

Mr. Kittikhoun said that the section on Global Partnership for Development under Goal 8 was the weakest part of the report. “In our view, the global partnership for development should be considered in a broader and more comprehensive manner. The trends should capture the broad aspect of international cooperation, including official development assistance, debt relief, international trade, technical assistance, private capital and so on.”



PAGE 2

The implementation of the Millennium Development Goals should be closely linked to the international efforts aimed at implementing the Brussels Programme of Action for LDCs, Almaty Programme of Action for LLDCs, and the Barbados Programme of Action for SIDS. “The Almaty Programme of Action and recent UN General Assembly resolutions,” he said in his capacity as Chairman of the Group, “recognized that lack of territorial access to the sea, remoteness and isolation from international major markets, prohibitive transit transport costs, heavy dependence on transit services and condition of transit neighbours, smallness of their markets, are the main developmental constraints for landlocked developing countries.”

He concluded by asking the member states to undertake necessary measures to ensure that the special needs of the most vulnerable segment of the international community receive due attention during the High-Level Segment on the Millennium Development Goals at the upcoming Summit in September.

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