



PRESS RELEASE



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

JAMAICA TAKES OVER CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA

CALL FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO ASSIST “THE VULNERABLE, DISADVANTAGED AND THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS”

United Nations, 25 January 2005: Accepting the Chairmanship of the Group of 77 and China for 2005, Jamaica’s Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade K. D. Knight, called on the international community to address the systemic inequities in the international economic system to redress the balance that has worked against the interests of developing countries.

“From market access, to technology issues and financial flows, we need fairer rules and arrangements which provide better opportunities for the developing world. **For the vulnerable, disadvantaged and those with special needs, there should be special arrangements,**” he said.

“Poverty, hunger and disease are the common enemies of mankind. They must be addressed by the global community within the framework of international co-operation,” he added.

While handing over the Chairmanship of the Group to Jamaica, Qatar’s Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Ahmad bin Abdullah Al Mahmoud, said, “ We are particularly satisfied that adequate emphasis was placed on the need to increase resources that all donor countries should support the regional level activities of the United Nations system, especially in the least developed countries.”

Minister Abdullah Al Mahmoud recalled the ECOSOC Substantive Session held last year, and the Group’s initiative in negotiating a number of important resolutions and the Ministerial Declaration on LDCs, which

PAGE 2

highlighted the special needs of the vulnerable countries. “We urged the partners in development to honour their commitments towards the LDCs as included in the outcomes of different UN conferences and summits,” he added.

Commenting on the recently-held United Nations International Meeting held in Mauritius, he said, “We feel satisfied with the outcome of the International Conference to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, which was held in Mauritius... These countries are extremely vulnerable to external shocks and need special measures to enable them to achieve the MDGs.”

The United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) aims to galvanize international support for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 and the Almaty Programme of Action for Transit Transport Cooperation and the Barbados Programme of Action, particularly through awareness raising and advocacy work for the causes of these most vulnerable countries. The Office also conducts United Nations system coordination, monitoring, reporting and review in respect to the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Almaty Programme of Action in partnership with the United Nations system and multilateral organizations, civil society and the private sector.

For further information, please contact: **Nosh Nalavala**, Media Officer, United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (917) 367-2471, e-mail: nalavala@un.org. Website: <http://www.un.org/ohrlls/>

** *** **