



PRESS RELEASE



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

UN OFFICIAL EMPHASISES COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

ROLE OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS HIGHLIGHTED

New York, 20 May 2005: At the 2005 UNA-USA Model United Nations Conference, 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 highlighted the cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations that lead to progress in coordinating various initiatives and maximizing impact.

Addressing young delegates from over 150 schools, Mr. Chowdhury said in New York today, “The central role of the United Nations in setting the framework for international action has been crucial.”

“It has been amply demonstrated,” Mr. Chowdhury explained, “that regional organizations make significant contribution towards the promotion of economic and social development, as well as peace and security.”

Underscoring the role of regional development banks, Mr. Chowdhury said that the banks “foster economic growth and fight poverty in the ir regional member countries.”

He said that the banks mainstream dialogue with developing countries, civil societies, the private sector, and other stakeholders into its operations. “The African, Asian and Latin American development banks are becoming “heavyweights” in regional development financing,” he added.

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The High Representative referred to the African Development Bank as an important source of funding to its regional members, as they strive to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). “The Bank has recently launched a number of new initiatives; to assist countries achieve the MDGs for water and sanitation, the Bank has embarked on its Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative; adopted new strategies to promote private sector development; provided technical support to the New Partnership for Africa’s Development’ (NEPAD) African Peer Review Mechanism; and, assisted post-conflict countries with their reconstruction efforts.”

Mr. Chowdhury briefed the student-delegates on the work of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

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