



PRESS RELEASE



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

**UNITED NATIONS OFFICIAL CALLS FOR REMOVAL OF ALL EXISTING TARIFF AND
NON-TARIFF BARRIERS TO PRODUCTS OF LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES**

**HIGH REPRESENTATIVE OUTLINES SIX-POINT PROGRAMME
AT SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE**

United Nations, 31 May 2005: At the Fourteenth Session of the High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation, 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 today called on developing countries to “keep in focus the special needs of the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.”

He outlined six areas of action for developing countries:

- Removal of all existing tariff and non-tariff barriers to the markets of developing countries for the products of Least Developed Countries and support them to overcome their supply-side constraints;
- Facilitate and improve transit transport by all modes of communications for Landlocked Developing Countries;
- Increase foreign direct investment (FDI) flows to Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States;

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- Double the present technical assistance, training, research and educational facilities and scholarships provided to Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States;
- Provide greater support to the social sector development in the Least Developed Countries, with special attention to health, with a focus on HIV/AIDS, education, population issues and women's empowerment;
- Cooperate in establishing food security for Least Developed Countries.

Mr. Chowdhury mentioned that a recent survey indicated a high level of emphasis on South-South approaches to development in 40 per cent of the total UNDP country programmes, most of which are countries in special needs.

In achieving food security, the FAO Special Programme for Food Security brings together experts from developing countries to work with farmers in Least Developed Countries' rural communities.

Speaking on behalf of the European Union, Ms. Elisabeth Colotte, Secrétaire de Légation of the Ministry for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Action of Luxembourg, said, "The European Union believes that in the context of the Monterrey Consensus as well as in the context of the Millennium Declaration, the Brussels Programme of Action for the LDCs, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Almaty Programme of Action for the LLDCs as well as the recent Mauritius Strategy; South-South cooperation has proven to be a crucial factor for development."

From its side, the European Union is resolved to honour the commitments reflected in these programmes, she added.

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She called upon the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation to support developing countries to align the south-south agenda with the MDGs, thereby “establishing mechanisms for more effective implementation of policies, agreements and action plans with special emphasis on Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.”

Mr. Chowdhury noted that in recent years an increasing number of countries in the South had reached higher stages of development and were effective players in the global economy. “These countries have the means the resources to further promote South-South cooperation to support the disadvantaged countries.”

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