



PRESS RELEASE



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

UN envoy calls for support to African regional stability fund

New York, 18 December 2006: The UN High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States has welcomed the signing of an agreement on stability and development by 11 African countries on Friday.

The Pact on Stability, Security and Development in the Great Lakes Region established a \$ 2 billion fund to finance humanitarian needs, rebuild conflict-affected areas, provide basic services, build infrastructure and promote democracy. Parties to the agreement will make mandatory contributions to the fund, which will be managed by the African Development Bank.

Nine of the 11 countries are Least Developed Countries (Angola, Burundi, the Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia) and five are Landlocked Developing Countries (Burundi, the Central African Republic, Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia).

“Eradicating poverty, fostering good governance, building social and physical infrastructure and providing basic services are all priorities under the Brussels Programme of Action for LDCs. Infrastructure development is also a priority under the Almaty Programme for Landlocked Developing Countries. Implementation of the pact will therefore be a major

contribution to the achievement of the objectives of the two programmes,” said Mr. Chowdhury.

He called upon developed countries and, in the spirit of South-South cooperation, other developing countries to support the efforts of the African countries by making contribution to the fund.

Mr. Chowdhury commended the African countries for taking bold action and committing their own resources to address pressing security and development concerns in the region.

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