



# PRESS RELEASE



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

## **UN envoy says South-South Cooperation should focus on vulnerable countries**

**United Nations, 29 May 2007:** The UN High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, Mr. Anwarul K. Chowdhury, has said that South-South Cooperation, just like North-South Cooperation, should keep at its centre the special needs of the three most vulnerable countries and the implementation of their respective programmes of action.

Speaking at the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN High Level Committee on South-South Cooperation, Mr. Chowdhury said that South-South Cooperation has expanded to include not only economic and technical sectors, but also security, good governance, health and the environment.

“South-South Cooperation is changing the landscape of international relations particularly in trade, financial flows and regional integration. Developing countries have a broad range of areas to act on, from investment and infrastructure to the sharing of technological advances and best practices in development,” he said, adding that in many cases, the best lessons in tackling development challenges could only be learnt from other developing countries.

Mr. Chowdhury however emphasized that South-South Cooperation is not a substitute for, but complementary to, North-South cooperation.

“It is necessary that the UN system targets the countries in special need as the primary beneficiary of South-South Cooperation.... Let us also add that triangular cooperation mechanism should pay additional attention to the implementation of [their] Programmes,” he said in reference to the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, the Almaty Programme of Action for the Landlocked Developing Countries, and the Mauritius Strategy for the Small Island Developing States.

Mr. Chowdhury said he was delighted that the progress report on South-South Cooperation had recorded a number of South-South activities in favour of the three groups of vulnerable countries supported by the industrialized countries, particularly Japan.

He called on the UN System to respond better to the growing demands for a more effective

South-South cooperation.

“I believe that there is a need for greater coherence and coordination in the implementation of multilateral South-South cooperation programmes in order to derive maximum impact from the tremendous increase initiatives undertaken not only by United Nations organisations, but also by Member States and an increasing number of non-State partners, such as the private sector, civil society and informal networks,” he said.

Speaking at the same event, the UNDP Administrator, Mr. Kemal Dervis, said UNDP would strengthen South-South Cooperation between middle income developing countries and the Least Developed Countries, particularly in the area of private sector development.