



PRESS RELEASE



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

UN Envoy welcomes Lithuanian and Estonian support for Least Developed Countries

New York: 24 January 2007: UN Under-Secretary-General for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) Mr. Anwarul K Chowdhury on Wednesday praised the Governments of Lithuania and Estonia for their contributions to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) training programme, which is designed to improve the participation of poorer countries in the global multilateral trading system.

Lithuania and Estonia recently donated CHF 46,087 (US \$40,000) and CHF 15,000 (US \$12,000) to the Doha Development Agenda Global Trust Fund, respectively, with the specific aim of improving the understanding of WTO 'rules and regulations' among economically vulnerable countries. This is the second contribution received from Estonia. In 2002, Estonia granted CHF10, 293 (US \$8.2) to the Global Trust Fund.

"These contributions are timely and will undoubtedly improve the negotiating capacity of these resource-strapped countries. The WTO is an important vehicle for LDCs to articulate their views on both regional and global trading practices, but often a lack of sufficient capacity has constrained their input into this process," Mr. Chowdhury said.

The UN Envoy added that it was important that other countries followed suit and provided the necessary support to the LDCs, 'so that globalization benefits all and not just a few countries'.

In a statement released on Wednesday, WTO Director General Pascal Lamy said he was pleased that both countries had shown a commitment to supporting poorer countries.

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