



# PRESS RELEASE



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

**UN Under-Secretary-General Underscores Need to Forge Global Partnerships  
For Development at UN Meeting in Kazakhstan**

**Members Focus on Indicators to Measure Progress of  
Landlocked Developing Countries**

**Almaty, Kazakhstan, 31 March 2005:** The United Nations Under-Secretary-General and the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, Anwarul K. Chowdhury, while concluding an interactive 3-day High Level Meeting in Almaty, Kazakhstan today, underscored the need to forge global partnerships for development and implement the priorities of the Almaty Programme of Action.

“I will bring the outcome of this Meeting to the Conference of African Ministers for Transport and Infrastructure in Addis Ababa next week. The issues that were raised here would be of relevance to the African Meeting, particularly the one relating to indicators to measure progress,” he said.

The representatives of the International, Regional and Sub-regional organizations issued a Communiqué today requesting the Office of the High Representative to assist with coordination efforts, including the technical cooperation programme. They made a commitment to support the full and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action; address the special needs of landlocked developing countries by establishing an efficient transit transport system; continue to extend technical assistance to landlocked developing countries; and, develop a set of criteria for financing, taking into account benefit accrued from projects of poverty alleviation, rather than commercial considerations.

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The Communiqué stressed the importance of establishing common indicators to monitor progress towards an efficient transport system. The representatives called for an annual review of progress made and lessons learned.

Mr. Chowdhury indicated that the Communiqué would be an input to the September Summit that will review the progress in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. “The outcome of this Meeting represents a major contribution towards implementing Goal 8 of the Millennium Development Goals,” he added.

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