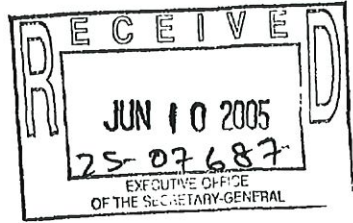


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Note to the Secretary-General

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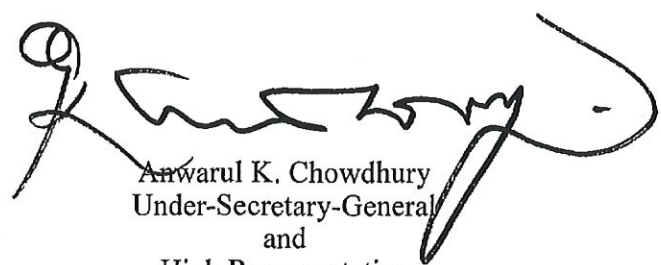
As your advocate for the poorest and most vulnerable members of the international community, we in the UN-OHRLLS very much expect that the outcome of the September Summit would effectively reflect the international community's determination to address the special needs of these countries, particularly in the context of Goal 8 of the Millennium Development Goals. A wide range of advocacy efforts have been and are being carried out by our Office in various multilateral fora as well as at bilateral levels to ensure that those most urgent needs feature on the top of the international agenda.

Taking place in the heels of the recent agreement by the European Union to significantly increase aid to developing countries, next month's G8 Meeting in Gleneagles will hopefully deliver concrete and immediate actions, under the leadership of the United Kingdom, to make the achievement of the MDGs by the poorest countries a reality.

As you undertake your forthcoming trips to meet with the world leaders and push for a substantial increase in development assistance for MDGs, in particular so as to reach Goal 8 targets by 2015, I would like to take this opportunity to suggest that you urge them to simultaneously fulfill the commitment undertaken by all development partners under the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries to **reach the 0.2% target of ODA to LDCs**. This objective could be achieved by allocating an adequate portion of overall ODA to these 50 neediest countries, 34 of which are in Africa. In this way the donors' development assistance would be rightly devoted to reaching the twin targets of 0.7% with 0.2% devoted to LDCs.

I would like to let you know also that I have taken the initiative to write to the Permanent Representatives to the UN of the major donor countries advocating on ODA allocation for LDCs and inviting each of them to set a positive example by putting in place the necessary resources and support measures to lift more than a billion of our fellow men, women and children out of poverty.

I am enclosing a chart on aid from OECD DAC countries to LDCs that shows the percentage of contribution to LDCs. I hope you will find it useful for your purposes.


Anwarul K. Chowdhury
Under-Secretary-General
and
High Representative

10 June 2005