Shanghai Conference
on
Scaling Up Poverty Reduction

Statement

by
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Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, the Global Conference on Poverty Reduction is going to close. The conference yielded expected results with the joint efforts of representatives from all over the world. Here, on behalf of the Chinese Government, I would like to extend my whole-hearted congratulations on the success of this conference.

The Global Conference on Poverty Reduction in Shanghai is a high-level and large-scale event in the history of global poverty reduction effort, which shows the progress and rich results in the global endeavor to alleviate poverty and demonstrates the strong aspiration and determination of the human society in jointly conquering poverty. The conference also provides countries with an excellent opportunity to extensively exchange experience of poverty reduction and share the results of successful anti-poverty activities. It shows that any country, large or small, rich or poor, strong or weak, can be documented into the anti-poverty history of the mankind, as long as it proceeds from its own national conditions and created its own successful experience in the practice of poverty reduction.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Chinese Government and people have long since made unremitting efforts in reducing and eliminating poverty. The Chinese Government conducted large-scale poverty reduction and development in rural areas in a planned and orderly manner. After decades of hard work, we are now able to provide adequate food and clothing for the poor and found a way of poverty reduction featured by “government leadership, social participation, self-reliance, and development-oriented poverty reduction”.

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This fits in well with the actual situation in China and is a significant step in China's development history. It not only promotes the sustained, rapid, coordinated and sound development of the national economy, as well as the social stability, national unity and border security, but also contributes a lot to the global poverty reduction.

It is the Chinese Government's consistent goal to reduce and eliminate poverty and achieve common prosperity. At the beginning of this century, the Chinese Government explicitly set the goal of building a well-off society in an all-round way in the first two decades of the 21st century. We will have greater determination and take stronger measures to this end. This is the solemn commitment of the Chinese Government to all Chinese people and also the implementation of the UN Millennium Development Goals and of the consensus reached at the Global Conference on Poverty Reduction.

We will speed up the development and the reform, creating a sound macro-environment for poverty reduction. Economic development and institutional innovation offer an important material foundation and institutional guarantee for poverty reduction. The Chinese Government will, as always, take development as its top priority, and the deepening of reform, the basic driving force so as to increase China’s overall national strength and promote its development. It will view employment as the prerequisite of survival and adopt active employment policies. It will put the challenges facing the agricultural sector, rural areas and farmers on the top of its agenda, help increase the grain output and income of farmers, and gradually bridge the urban and rural gap.
We will stick to the approach of people-oriented, comprehensive, coordinated and sustainable development, giving more weight to the poverty reduction effort. The development experience in many other countries shows that the chronic problems such as the gap between the poor and the rich, the increase of the unemployed, and the widening of the gap between the rural and urban areas will undoubtedly lead to exacerbated social problems, stagnant economic and social progress, and even social turbulence and backsliding.

According to the requirement of balancing urban and rural development, balancing development among regions, balancing economic and social development, balancing development of man and nature in a harmonious way, and balancing domestic development and opening wider to the outside world, we should continue to incorporate poverty reduction into the overall economic and social development planning, increase input through diversified sources, encourage people from all walks of life to be engaged in poverty reduction and accelerate the development in poor areas.

We will accelerate the poverty reduction process unswervingly to raise the living standard of poor people. We will adhere to the development-oriented poverty reduction policy, respect the major role of the poor in poverty reduction and development, and encourage and support poor people with working capability to start up their own businesses or find jobs. We will also accelerate the development of various social undertakings in poor areas and improve the social security and assistance system. The legitimate rights of the vulnerable groups such as women, children, the disabled and those infected with HIV/ AIDS will be protected so far to create conditions for them to participate in the social life on an equal footing. We will try our best to help most of the poor people live a well-off life by 2020.
Ladies and Gentlemen:

Hunger and poverty are serious challenges facing the world today. Developing countries shoulder both the task of economic growth and poverty reduction. China is a developing country with a large population, facing exceptionally grave challenges and arduous tasks.

China’s poverty reduction is an important part of the global anti-poverty combat. The Chinese Government emphasizes self-reliance and hard work. While reducing poverty mainly by relying on ourselves, we should also, as always, actively conduct international cooperation and exchanges on poverty reduction. For years, the Chinese Government has successfully cooperated with international organizations such as the World Bank as well as some other countries and non-governmental organizations.

Here, on behalf of the Chinese government, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to countries, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and individuals who helped China with its poverty reduction work. And I hope that such cooperation and communication will further develop and play an even bigger role in China’s anti-poverty effort.

It is a consensus among all countries that poverty reduction is conducive to growth and peace. Poverty reduction needs not only the hard work of developing countries but also the joint efforts of the developed countries and international organizations. The Chinese Government favors and supports the efforts of international organizations and bilateral agencies to take the poverty reduction in developing countries as their major objective and task. It also calls on the developed countries to increase assistance to
developing countries, expand trade, mutual investment and exchange of
development experience with developing countries, and explore new ways of
South-North cooperation. The Chinese Government will gradually increase,
within its own capacity, its development assistance to other developing
countries, actively honor its commitment to global poverty reduction and
make contribution to the world anti-poverty combat.

Thank you.