

China's Proposal for Poverty Reduction and Development

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**Dear colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen, friends,**

Since the end of World War II, peace and development have become the themes of the times. In this context, it has become the most important historical task facing the developing world to eliminate poverty and achieve development. At the Millennium Summit of the United Nations held in 2000, world leaders solemnly adopted the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with poverty reduction as the primary goal, heralding a large-scale anti-poverty campaign all over the world. With the joint efforts of various countries and regions in the last 15 years, great achievements have been made in the global poverty reduction cause: one billion people have shaken off poverty, the proportion of population in extreme poverty has been more than halved and the living standards of more poor people have been raised. In addition, positive progress has been made in many areas, including poverty reduction, universal education, prevention and treatment of malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases, access to clean drinking water and improvement of living conditions in slums, among others.

Over the past three decades, as the world's biggest developing country, China has been advocating and promoting poverty reduction and development around the globe. Through practical poverty reduction actions, China has made great contributions and accumulated valuable experience in reducing world poverty. Former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has said on several occasions, that the implementation of the MDGs cannot get where it is today without China's outstanding performance. In the past 15 years, China has achieved or basically achieved 13 MDG indicators. From 1990 through 2011, China's poor population (living on less than \$1.25/day) decreased by 439 million, giving a big boost to global poverty reduction. Since 2004, China's grain output has been growing for 11 consecutive years, feeding roughly 20% of the world's population with less than 10% of its arable land. Moreover, China has vigorously promoted health, education and other livelihood projects. Since 2000, it has provided safe drinking water to a total of 467 million rural residents, and the net enrollment rate of primary school-age boys and girls has remained

above 99%. Thanks to the concerted efforts of the Chinese government, all walks of life and cadres and the masses in poverty-stricken areas as well as the active assistance from the international community, the infrastructure in China's poor areas has been significantly improved and steady progress has been made in social undertakings. We have made the nine-year free compulsory education universal, established the subsistence allowance system, achieved nationwide coverage of new cooperative medical service and basic coverage of endowment insurance. Poverty alleviation and development has played a vital role in promoting the rapid economic growth, political stability, national unity, border peace and social harmony of China.

China has scored tremendous achievements in poverty reduction in a short time and attained the goal of poverty reduction of the MDGs ahead of schedule. As a result, the country has not only received widespread attention and appraisal from the international community, but more importantly, it has offered a feasible, proven proposal for global poverty reduction and development. To sum it up, China's proposal for poverty reduction is an anti-poverty path with Chinese characteristics based on our national conditions, active explorations and extensive practice. In China, it is an essential requirement of socialism and an important historical mission of the Communist Party of China (CPC) to eradicate poverty, improve people's livelihood and achieve common prosperity. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, especially the adoption of the reform and opening-up policy, China has ushered in a new era of fight against poverty. Specifically, **we have always adhered to the following five measures:** **First**, we have adopted the policy of reform and opening-up to ensure sustained, stable economic growth while continuously unveiling social policies conducive to the development of poor areas and the impoverished population, thus laying the ground for large-scale poverty reduction. **Second**, we have upheld government leadership, incorporated poverty alleviation and development into China's overall development strategy and advanced it as a strategic task. We have pooled resources to launch large-scale special poverty-relief campaigns and implemented development plans for women, children, the disabled and ethnic minorities. **Third**, we have implemented the plan of development-oriented poverty reduction to reduce poverty through development and regarded development as the fundamental way to address poverty. Meanwhile, we have aroused the initiative of the poverty alleviation objects and improved their own development capacity so that they can play a leading role in poverty reduction. **Fourth**, we have engaged social forces in poverty alleviation and made full use of the advantages of the socialist system. We have established a grand pattern of poverty alleviation featuring the joint promotion by the government, society and market. We have mobilized as many people as possible and built a social poverty alleviation system with a diverse range of subjects, including government and Party organs at all levels, developed eastern provinces and cities, democratic parties, All China

Federation of Industry and Commerce, enterprises, the army, the armed police force, social organizations and people from various circles. **Fifth**, we have combined universal and special preferential policies and integrated the development-oriented poverty reduction system with the social security system. Based on universal preferential policies, we have paid special attention to and been particularly concerned about the poor population by implementing special preferential policies to ensure they are fully supported.

Today, over 700 million people worldwide are still living in poverty. The developing world is especially confronted with severe challenges in terms of hunger alleviation, women and children health, and sustainable development. Also, different countries and regions have achieved different progress in realizing the MDGs, with the least developed countries seeing little improvement particularly. Poverty, along with a variety of derivative problems such as hunger, disease and social conflicts, are still thorny issues in many developing countries. Therefore, it will be a long-term and arduous task to achieve the goal of global poverty reduction and sustainable development for the entire world. During the UN Sustainable Development Summit 2015, the participating countries stood at a higher level and adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, an ambitious, future-oriented great plan. With poverty reduction as the primary goal, these countries showed to all the people in the world their determination and confidence in eliminating poverty and achieving common development hand in hand. After the agenda was adopted, Chinese President Xi Jinping promptly called on the international community to “increase the concerted efforts to jointly implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achieve cooperation and win-win results”. During the G20 Hangzhou Summit last year, the participating countries developed an action plan to implement the 2030 Agenda for the first time ever.

Today, China is taking a leading role in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. By integrating its grand goal of deepening the reform on a full scale and building itself into a moderately prosperous society with the 2030 Agenda, China has put forward the strategy of taking targeted measures in poverty alleviation, again contributing a Chinese proposal to the international poverty reduction and development cause. The proposal includes a complete set of system, including the poverty elimination goals, responsibilities, policies, investments, mobilization, supervision and assessment. Based on the current poverty standards, one crucial goal is to lift China’s entire poverty-stricken rural population in rural areas and all poverty-stricken counties out of poverty by 2020, so as to address the problem of overall regional poverty in the country. It also means that, by then, China will solve the historical problem of absolute poverty and realize the poverty reduction goal as prescribed in the 2030 Agenda 10 years in advance, continuing to lead global poverty reduction efforts.

To take targeted measures in poverty alleviation, the key lies in the assignment of responsibility. We take advantage of our socialist system in pooling our resources to solve major problems by: first, building a governance structure featuring the synergetic efforts of party secretaries at the village, township, county, municipal and provincial levels, as well as the implementation of an accountability system level by level; and second, dispatching residential working groups to the poverty-stricken villages to strengthen organizational development in grassroots poverty alleviation work. So far, nearly 130,000 village working groups, consisting of more than 400,000 people, have been sent to the villages, realizing full coverage of poverty-stricken villages in China. Meanwhile, a total of 130,000 first secretaries have also been dispatched to these villages.

To take targeted measures in poverty alleviation, “six targeted steps” shall be our major moves, i.e. targeted poverty alleviation population, targeted project arrangements, targeted use of capital, targeted measures for each household, targeted dispatch of poverty alleviation workers, and targeted results of poverty elimination. This is to ensure that the benefits of various policies can rest with the target population, and that the fruit of development can be shared among all our people.

To take targeted measures in poverty alleviation, a fundamental requirement is to implement policies in a discriminatory manner. The core of targeted poverty alleviation is policy implementation based on different demographic profiles and geographic locations, different poverty-inducing factors and different types of poverty. In line with the analysis of poverty causes, we should develop targeted measures and persist in discriminatory policy implementation to ensure that different households and people can benefit from our poverty alleviation funds and policies consistently. At the same time, we will effectively link the poverty alleviation and development policies with other ones, including those related to the subsistence allowance, medical assistance, eco-migration, dilapidated house rehabilitation, education assistance, disaster relief and assistance to the disabled persons. According to the different situations of the poverty-stricken population, we will take different measures to help them, such as through production and employment support, relocation and resettlement, eco-conservation, education-based poverty alleviation, and basic living allowance policies.

To take targeted measures in poverty alleviation, mobilizing the whole society should be an important foundation. Poverty alleviation is a shared responsibility of the society and also the bottom-line work of the Party and governments. Based on the improvement of east-west cooperation as well as fixed-point poverty alleviation mechanism of the Party and government offices

and state-owned enterprises, we will further mobilize and unite all the social forces to support, encourage and help the non-publicly owned enterprises, social organizations and individual citizens to participate in poverty alleviation in flexible and varying forms.

To take targeted measures in poverty alleviation, strict assessment and supervision provides an important guarantee. The assessment mechanism should be rigorous so as to guide the Party and government office leaders in poverty-stricken areas to concentrate their major efforts on crucial poverty alleviation tasks. Moreover, a restraint system should also be implemented to strengthen the self-discipline of poverty-stricken counties by clearly stipulating the actions which are mandatory, prohibited, or encouraged. The exit mechanism should also be under strict regulation, with rigorous, formal and transparent poverty exit standards, procedures and verification methods being formulated.

In order to make targeted poverty alleviation efforts, we have also carried out poverty identification work across China. In 2014, we already set up files for over 90 million poverty-stricken people and more than 29 million poor households in 128,000 poverty-stricken villages of 832 counties around the country. To solve the problem of “who should be helped”, we managed to determine the regional distribution of poverty-stricken population, preliminarily analyzed their basic characteristics, causes for poverty and needs for poverty alleviation, and answered the question of “who they are”, “where they are” and “how they get into poverty”. To solve the problem of “who should offer help”, we sent first secretaries and residential working groups to poverty-stricken villages to strengthen the frontline poverty alleviation forces. To solve the problem of “how we should help”, we analyzed the causes for poverty in each household and village, identified the accurate way of poverty alleviation, developed a plan to help them cast off poverty, and determined the assistance measures. To solve the problem of “how they can throw off poverty”, we set up clear poverty exit standards, procedures and verification methods, and strictly regularized the poverty exit process so as to ensure the poverty-stricken population, villages and counties can overcome poverty in a stable and well-organized manner.

Dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, friends,

China’s proposal for poverty reduction is not confined to the livelihood of Chinese people, but benefits people all over the world. To meet the practical needs of the developing countries, China has constantly innovated on its models of cooperation and provided assistance within its available resources to other developing countries, especially the least developed countries, with no political strings attached to help them get rid of poverty. Over the past 60 years,

China has offered approximately 40 billion RMB in aid to 166 countries and international organizations and constructed more than 2,700 turn-key products. Over 600,000 aid workers have been dispatched overseas and more than 700 of them have sacrificed their lives for the development of other countries. China has announced seven times that it would cancel the matured debts associated with the outstanding governmental interest-free loans of the heavily indebted poor countries and the least developed countries. Meanwhile, China has actively offered medical assistance to 69 countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and Oceania, trained over 12 million talents for the recipient countries and helped over 120 developing countries implement the MDGs.

Since the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was issued, China has been driving international development with its proposal for poverty reduction and development, actively implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and making efforts to establish a new type of international exchanges and cooperation on poverty reduction that focuses on win-win cooperation. In 2015, the Chinese government introduced a series of new initiatives to help the developing countries develop their economy and improve the livelihood of their people: first, setting up the “South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund” with an initial 2 billion USD provided to help the developing nations implement the Post-2015 Development Agenda; second, increasing investment in the least developed countries to 12 billion USD by 2030; third, forgiving governmental zero-interest loans that matured at the end of 2015 of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and Small Island Developing States; fourth, supporting developing countries with an initiative in the name of “six 100 projects” in the next five years, including 100 poverty reduction projects, 100 agricultural cooperation projects, 100 aid for trade projects, 100 ecological conservation & climate change projects, 100 hospital & clinical establishment projects and 100 school & training establishment projects; and fifth, providing developing countries with 120,000 training places in China and 150,000 scholarships, training 500,000 professional technicians for them and establishing the Institute of South-South Cooperation and Development. We proposed the initiative of jointly building the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, initiated or jointly initiated the New Development Bank and the Silk Road Fund, proposed the establishment of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, and supported the improvement of infrastructure connectivity in the developing world. All these initiatives will inject new vitality into poverty reduction and development worldwide. Looking forward, we will further implement the *Outline on Strengthening Poverty Reduction Cooperation between China and the African Union* and the *East Asia Cooperation Initiative on Poverty Reduction*, the demonstration poverty reduction projects, which managed by IPRCC, are implementing in east Asia countries, for the first time the Chinese poverty

reduction plan directly used to the poverty reduction in other developing countries, China's poverty reduction achievements directly benefit the neighbors, benefit the local people's livelihood. We will further leverage various platforms and opportunities such as the International Poverty Reduction Center in China (IPRCC), propel poverty reduction experience exchange with Africa, Latin America and Asia, and voice China's opinions, offer China's proposals and contribute China's wisdom in the field of international poverty reduction and development. We will facilitate the exchange and sharing of extensive poverty reduction experience among the developing countries while drawing upon the success stories and best practices regarding poverty reduction around the world and making new progress in cooperation on international poverty reduction.

Poverty is a challenge facing all mankind. To address poverty, the government should pay high attention to this problem and take effective poverty reduction measures based on actual conditions so as to benefit the poor while strengthening mutual learning through international exchanges and cooperation. We are willing to enhance cooperation on poverty reduction and development with the other developing countries and international organizations to share poverty reduction experience and contribute to poverty reduction. We will introduce more innovative poverty reduction mechanisms and policies through international exchanges and cooperation in poverty reduction. Revolving around South-South cooperation, we will promote the exchange and sharing of China's experience in development-oriented poverty reduction, especially China's proposal for targeted poverty alleviation to make new contributions to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Thank you.