



Draft of Plan of Action
For
Alleviating Poverty in Asia

Drafted by the Expert Group Designated by
The Secretariat of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA)
Pursuant to Article 9 of the Tehran Declaration

Tehran

August 2007

RECALLING article 9 of the APA Tehran Declaration concerning “the adoption of a decision to set up a working group in the Islamic Republic of Iran to study and draw up a plan of action for ... proposing mechanism for the eradication of poverty by 2015 as set by the United Nation;

INSPIRED by the Charter of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) to enhance Asian economic situation through cooperation and integration;

SUPPORTING the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), particularly the first Goal i.e. reducing by half the portion of people living on less than a dollar a day by 2015,

EPHASIZING that Poverty alleviation is a necessary imperative for the economic and social development of Asian countries;

AFFIRMING that durable international peace and security cannot be achieved without a successful and comprehensive program for poverty alleviation;

COGNIZANT of the fact that Asia has played a great role in the advancement of the world economy and has achieved some success in poverty reduction in the last 10 years;

CONCERNED that despite the increasing economic growth in Asia in recent years, still about two-thirds of world poor population live in this Continent; they suffer from malnutrition, poor health, unhealthy water and unemployment;

ACKNOWLEDGING that economic growth in many Asian countries has led to poverty reduction, but the increasing gap between urban and rural areas indicates that such growth has little impact on living condition of poor people in the rural areas;

PAYING DUE ATTENTION to the situation of the people living on the margins of cities and those in rural areas as the most vulnerable segments of society;

EMPHASIZING the need to facilitate active engagement of marginalized people in economic activities;

AFFIRMING that poverty is a complicated and multidimensional challenge with internal and external aspects that necessitates an international and concerted cooperation;

UNDERLYNING that poverty is a global problem and its solution relies on coordination between international and national anti-poverty programs in each Asian country;

To formulate policies and strategies to alleviate poverty in Asia, at both regional and continental levels, we, the members of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), approve the establishment of a “Body” with the following mandates:

To adopt joint appropriate policies and programs for materialization of Millennium Development Goals (MDG), particularly with regard to poverty alleviation and combating hunger,

To encourage all Asian countries to adopt and implement a comprehensive national strategy to reduce poverty with due attention to sufficient budget allocation in human resources and social safety nets for poor populations;

To mobilize participation of public and private institutions such as corporations, non-governmental organizations, financial institutions and prominent figures in anti-poverty programs,

To share best practices regarding poverty alleviation and greater capacity-building for economic development in Asian countries,

To take measures to advance economic growth with greater focus on labor intensive projects in order to provide poor workers greater access to job and income,

To adopt policies and measures for drawing foreign and domestic investments in job creation,

To provide technological and financial aid for rural development,

expansion of hand crafts and small businesses in less developed areas,

To invest in infrastructure and big construction projects such as railroads, dams and highways which creates jobs and thereby helps to improve the living situation of poor people,

To share experiences in granting small credits for job creation and poverty reduction,

To share experiences and information in the field of education and training skills for self employment in deprived areas,

To take necessary measures for the security of labor and capital in order to encourage entrepreneurship and job creation policies,

To adopt common policies for the movement of labor within Asia, with the goal of facilitating the movement of skilled workers in a legal and transparent way by establishing a networking mechanism for exchange of information on labor movements,

To grant a greater role to public in service sectors such as transportation, post and communication,

To adopt effective and transparent legal systems, to combat corruption, and to facilitate investment in human resources and infrastructure for more job creation in less developed areas,

To adopt decentralized policies for delegating administrative and financial authority to local communities in order to secure their effective participation,

To enhance the roles, accountability and management capacity of local bodies in human resources allocation and implementation programs in favor of poor,

To encourage public and private sectors to invest in education and health in rural areas,

To share experiences in the field of agriculture such as irrigation systems, seed improvement and plant diseases,

To adopt common policies for easy access to drinking water and health improvement of rural environment,

To expand social security networks for improving living conditions of vulnerable groups particularly elderly, disabled and female headed household,

To share experiences in the field of reproductive health, family planning child mortality rate and improving maternal health,

To adopt common policies for combating infectious disease among poor people and preventing contagious and dangerous diseases such as HIV/AIDS,

To pay serious attention to foreign debt problems of some Asian countries by adopting appropriate measures to reduce debt in long term,

To facilitate and promote tourism among Asian countries, by utilizing educational and information dissemination networks particularly at public level,

To attract investment to develop necessary infrastructure for tourism, especially in lesser know areas in order to create jobs for poor people,