

Eradicating Poverty - We Are Acting

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Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I come from Jingzhou, China. It is a great honour to be here today to share with you the experiences about poverty eradication.

"Poverty Impedes Development". Ending poverty, improving people's livelihoods and achieving common prosperity are prerequisites to build a prosperous society of China. On behalf of the Chinese government, President Xi Jinping made a solemn promise to the world in 2015, China will lift 70 million the most impoverished population out of poverty by 2020.

Over the years, in obedience to the instructions of President Xi, we made great progress on the targeted poverty alleviation programs, which were focused on individuals, with accurate arrangement and precise use of funds. By the end of 2016 in Jingzhou, people living under extreme poverty (\$2.2 a day) dropped to 156,000 from 409,000, and the reduction rate reached to 61.8%. Jingzhou wrote a grand chapter in the cause of poverty alleviation in China

To end poverty, boosting confidence are put in the first place. The impoverished population is not only the target people to end poverty but also the main force to become prosperous. I used to work in Wuling and Dabie Mountain Area, where China's impoverished population is concentrated. I was not only concerned about their tough life but also about their lack of confidence. After I was dispatched to Jingzhou, my priority was to actively advocate the targeted poverty alleviation programs introduced by the Chinese government. I presented the government's concrete proposals and successful cases by different means to boost their confidence and empower themselves to proactively take initiatives, so that they can lead them own out of poverty.

To end poverty, it is essential to establish a mechanism of joint cooperation among all sectors of society. An important characteristic of poverty alleviation in China is to widely mobilize all sectors of society. Poverty reduction is led by the central government and it is the first responsibility of provincial and local government. At present, we have 1,545 working groups to the field in Jingzhou, at all government levels with 4,900 staff, accounting for 15% of the total civil servants in the city. I am assisting an impoverished farmer in Zaolin Village, Mashan Township. His name is Luo Daquan. I encouraged them to raise crayfish in the rice field, through which his household annual income improved by \$2,900 last year.

To end poverty, the key lies in infrastructure. We relentlessly increased infrastructure investment, by enhancing the central water supply system in order to ensure a 100% safety of drinking water. We upgraded the power grid to secure stable and reliable voltage. We also undertook upgrading household to ensure everyone has a house to settle in. We strengthened the social protection systems and ensured medical coverage for people living in poverty. Over recent two years, we raised RMB 400 million to improve school facilities in small villages, and invested heavily in faculty training, which aims to give every child access to high quality education. This will eventually stop the intergenerational transmission of poverty.

To end poverty, increasing income is the founding pillar. Development is the key solving all social problems and it is the most effective solution to end poverty. We helped the poor areas with industrial development, including agriculture processing, farming, PV power generation and e-commerce. My government contributed RMB 180 million for the construction of 218 distributed PV power stations in 300 poverty-stricken villages, so that each village can enjoy an annual net income of RMB 50,000. In recent years, we prioritized the e-commerce network in rural areas so village people can sell goods via Alibaba and other e-commerce companies. At present in Jingzhou, 1,003 peasant households have lifted themselves out of poverty through e-commerce, accounting for 10% of the total out-of-poverty households.

To end poverty, government takes the ultimate responsibility. For those people who are fully or partially deprived of employment ability, the government provided them all with the lowest living allowance (\$2.2 a day per person) to ensure no one is left behind. We also improved the short-term aid program. In the most lake and mountainous regions of fragile ecosystem, the government invested RMB 480 million to relocate and resettle 2,416 impoverished households.

Ladies, gentlemen and friends,

With the guidance of President Xi, the Municipal Government of Jingzhou City has endeavoured to end poverty in all its forms. Despite the need of improving the level of social protection mechanism, likelihood of re-entering poverty again after exit, and the government has financial constrain, we are confident and committed that millions of people will escape poverty and improve their livelihoods on schedule.

Thank you all.