

Statement by:
Ahmad Rajabi

Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran

On
"Rural Development"
before
the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting of CSD-17
in New York, 24,February, 2009

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Madam Chair;

At the outset, I associate myself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Sudan on behalf of G-77 and China on rural development. I would like to express my appreciation to the Secretary-General for the report on theme of rural development.

Rural development is a key to success in implementing of internationally agreed development goals including MDGs, particularly in developing countries. In rural areas, poverty, hunger and malnutrition continue to impose hard living conditions on people. Millions of handicraft makers face more and more difficulties in providing their basic needs, including materials and financial resources, to continue to work. According to the Secretary-General's report, more than one billion people live in rural areas. Majority of them grapple with poverty in developing countries. Emerging of poverty in rural areas remind us of our commitment to sustainable development goals, and their follow up process. To this end, it is essential for alleviation of poverty in rural areas:

1. To rectify of nomadic settlements, as well as, preservation and enhancement of their economic capacities;
2. To expand fishing activities, such as the development, maintenance and improvement of fishing ports;
3. To prepare of the necessary grounds for implementation of "Education for All" program; enhancement of the health and living standards, education and training opportunities for all the rural and nomadic communities;
4. To develop and expand of the comprehensive social security system, and to make it pervasiveness and effective;
5. To distribute fairly the incomes and implementation tax incentive policies;

6. To promote employment, capacity building, enhancement of social participation and education of vocational and living skills;
7. To enhance the participation of NGOs and charity and non-profit organizations in poverty eradication programs,
8. To identify orphans and the families under the poverty line, and to implement of social, financial and cultural support for the aforementioned people by the responsible organizations and institutions within the social security system;
9. To guarantee the provision of, and access to health care and treatment services;
10. To enhance the productivity and livelihood of the nomadic and rural communities, and to create job opportunities;
11. To increase the coverage of social insurances, with special emphasis on the nomads, villagers and urban employees;
12. To provide special insurance for the women who are in charge of supporting the family, and people without a guardian, particularly children;
13. To enhance of the psychological health and hygiene services and to, expand social assistance services to strengthen the family foundation and to enhance the capabilities of the vulnerable people and social groups;
14. To provide access to basic energy, water, sanitation and agriculture infrastructures and services in order to improve the living conditions of the rural communities,
15. To strengthen the resilience of rural areas, in particular, rural houses and settlements against natural disasters,
16. To promote the use of modern energy services including modern biomass services to reduce the indoor and outdoor pollutions,

Madam Chair, I hope that the Commission will be able to identify set policy options and practical measures at all levels on in a manner that contribute significantly to alleviation of poverty.

Thank you, Madam Chair