

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1302

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 26, 2007

Received, read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

AN ACT

To require the President to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to further the United States foreign policy objective of promoting the reduction of global poverty, the elimination of extreme global poverty, and the achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goal of reducing by one-half the proportion of people worldwide, between 1990 and 2015, who live on less than \$1 per day.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Global Poverty Act
5 of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) More than one billion people worldwide live
9 on less than \$1 per day, and another 1.6 billion peo-
10 ple struggle to survive on less than \$2 per day, ac-
11 cording to the World Bank.

12 (2) At the United Nations Millennium Summit
13 in 2000, the United States joined more than 180
14 other countries in committing to work toward the
15 United Nations Millennium Development Goals to
16 improve life for the world’s poorest people by 2015.

17 (3) The United Nations Millennium Develop-
18 ment Goals include the goal of reducing by one-half
19 the proportion of people worldwide, between 1990
20 and 2015, that live on less than \$1 per day, cutting
21 in half the proportion of people suffering from hun-
22 ger and unable to access safe drinking water and
23 sanitation, reducing child mortality by two-thirds,
24 ensuring basic education for all children, and revers-
25 ing the spread of HIV/AIDS and malaria, while sus-

1 taining the environment upon which human life de-
2 pends.

3 (4) On March 22, 2002, President George W.
4 Bush stated: “We fight against poverty because hope
5 is an answer to terror. We fight against poverty be-
6 cause opportunity is a fundamental right to human
7 dignity. We fight against poverty because faith re-
8 quires it and conscience demands it. We fight
9 against poverty with a growing conviction that major
10 progress is within our reach.”.

11 (5) The 2002 National Security Strategy of the
12 United States notes: “[A] world where some live in
13 comfort and plenty, while half of the human race
14 lives on less than \$2 per day, is neither just nor sta-
15 ble. Including all of the world’s poor in an expanding
16 circle of development and opportunity is a moral im-
17 perative and one of the top priorities of United
18 States international policy.”.

19 (6) The 2006 National Security Strategy of the
20 United States notes: “America’s national interests
21 and moral values drive us in the same direction: to
22 assist the world’s poor citizens and least developed
23 nations and help integrate them into the global econ-
24 omy.”.

1 (7) The bipartisan Final Report of the National
2 Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United
3 States recommends: “A comprehensive United
4 States strategy to counter terrorism should include
5 economic policies that encourage development, more
6 open societies, and opportunities for people to im-
7 prove the lives of their families and enhance pros-
8 pects for their children.”.

9 (8) At the summit of the Group of Eight (G-
10 8) nations in July 2005, leaders from all eight coun-
11 tries committed to increase aid to Africa from the
12 current \$25 billion annually to \$50 billion by 2010,
13 and to cancel 100 percent of the debt obligations
14 owed to the World Bank, African Development
15 Bank, and International Monetary Fund by 18 of
16 the world’s poorest nations.

17 (9) At the United Nations World Summit in
18 September 2005, the United States joined more
19 than 180 other governments in reiterating their
20 commitment to achieve the United Nations Millen-
21 nium Development Goals by 2015.

22 (10) The United States has recognized the need
23 for increased financial and technical assistance to
24 countries burdened by extreme poverty, as well as
25 the need for strengthened economic and trade oppor-

1 tunities for those countries, through significant ini-
2 tiatives in recent years, including the United States
3 Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and
4 Malaria Act of 2003, the Millennium Challenge Act
5 of 2003, the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initia-
6 tive, and trade preference programs for developing
7 countries, such as the African Growth and Oppor-
8 tunity Act.

9 (11) In January 2006, United States Secretary
10 of State Condoleezza Rice initiated a restructuring
11 of the United States foreign assistance program, in-
12 cluding the creation of a Director of Foreign Assist-
13 ance, who maintains authority over Department of
14 State and United States Agency for International
15 Development (USAID) foreign assistance funding
16 and programs.

17 (12) In January 2007, the Department of
18 State's Office of the Director of Foreign Assistance
19 added poverty reduction as an explicit, central com-
20 ponent of the overall goal of United States foreign
21 assistance. The official goal of United States foreign
22 assistance is: "To help build and sustain democratic,
23 well-governed states that respond to the needs of
24 their people, reduce widespread poverty and conduct
25 themselves responsibly in the international system."

1 **SEC. 3. DECLARATION OF POLICY.**

2 It is the policy of the United States to promote the
3 reduction of global poverty, the elimination of extreme
4 global poverty, and the achievement of the United Nations
5 Millennium Development Goal of reducing by one-half the
6 proportion of people worldwide, between 1990 and 2015,
7 who live on less than \$1 per day.

8 **SEC. 4. REQUIREMENT TO DEVELOP COMPREHENSIVE**
9 **STRATEGY.**

10 (a) STRATEGY.—The President, acting through the
11 Secretary of State, and in consultation with the heads of
12 other appropriate departments and agencies of the Gov-
13 ernment of the United States, international organizations,
14 international financial institutions, the governments of de-
15 veloping and developed countries, United States and inter-
16 national nongovernmental organizations, civil society orga-
17 nizations, and other appropriate entities, shall develop and
18 implement a comprehensive strategy to further the United
19 States foreign policy objective of promoting the reduction
20 of global poverty, the elimination of extreme global pov-
21 erty, and the achievement of the United Nations Millen-
22 nium Development Goal of reducing by one-half the pro-
23 portion of people worldwide, between 1990 and 2015, who
24 live on less than \$1 per day.

25 (b) CONTENTS.—The strategy required by subsection
26 (a) shall include, but not be limited to, specific and meas-

1 urable goals, efforts to be undertaken, benchmarks, and
2 timetables to achieve the objectives described in subsection
3 (a).

4 (c) COMPONENTS.—The strategy required by sub-
5 section (a) should include, but not be limited to, the fol-
6 lowing components:

7 (1) Continued investment in existing United
8 States initiatives related to international poverty re-
9 duction, such as the United States Leadership
10 Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act
11 of 2003, the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003, the
12 Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, and
13 trade preference programs for developing countries,
14 such as the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

15 (2) Improving the effectiveness of development
16 assistance and making available additional overall
17 United States assistance levels as appropriate.

18 (3) Enhancing and expanding debt relief as ap-
19 propriate.

20 (4) Leveraging United States trade policy
21 where possible to enhance economic development
22 prospects for developing countries.

23 (5) Coordinating efforts and working in co-
24 operation with developed and developing countries,

1 international organizations, and international finan-
2 cial institutions.

3 (6) Mobilizing and leveraging the participation
4 of businesses, United States and international non-
5 governmental organizations, civil society, and public-
6 private partnerships.

7 (7) Coordinating the goal of poverty reduction
8 with other development goals, such as combating the
9 spread of preventable diseases such as HIV/AIDS,
10 tuberculosis, and malaria, increasing access to pota-
11 ble water and basic sanitation, reducing hunger and
12 malnutrition, and improving access to and quality of
13 education at all levels regardless of gender.

14 (8) Integrating principles of sustainable devel-
15 opment into policies and programs.

16 (d) REPORTS.—

17 (1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than one year
18 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
19 President, acting through the Secretary of State,
20 shall transmit to the appropriate congressional com-
21 mittees a report that describes the strategy required
22 by subsection (a).

23 (2) SUBSEQUENT REPORTS.—Not less than
24 once every two years after the submission of the ini-
25 tial report under paragraph (1) until and including

1 2015, the President shall transmit to the appro-
2 priate congressional committees a report on the sta-
3 tus of the implementation of the strategy, progress
4 made in achieving the global poverty reduction objec-
5 tives described in subsection (a), and any changes to
6 the strategy since the date of the submission of the
7 last report.

8 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

9 In this Act:

10 (1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-**
11 **TEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional com-
12 mittees” means—

13 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and
14 the Committee on Appropriations of the House
15 of Representatives; and

16 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations
17 and the Committee on Appropriations of the
18 Senate.

19 (2) **EXTREME GLOBAL POVERTY.**—The term
20 “extreme global poverty” refers to the conditions in
21 which individuals live on less than \$1 per day, ad-
22 justed for purchasing power parity in 1993 United
23 States dollars, according to World Bank statistics.

24 (3) **GLOBAL POVERTY.**—The term “global pov-
25 erty” refers to the conditions in which individuals

1 live on less than \$2 per day, adjusted for purchasing
2 power parity in 1993 United States dollars, accord-
3 ing to World Bank statistics.

Passed the House of Representatives September 25,
2007.

Attest: LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk.