



H.R. 1302 – Global Poverty Act of 2007

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 1302 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Adam Smith (D-WA) on March 1, 2007. The bill was ordered to be reported from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, as amended, by unanimous consent, on July 31, 2007.

H.R. 1302 is expected to be considered by the House of Representatives on September 25, 2007.

SUMMARY

H.R. 1302 requires the President, acting through the Secretary of State, 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.”

The strategy is required to address goals in areas including: improving the effectiveness of development assistance, expanding debt relief, leveraging United States trade policy, mobilizing and leveraging the participation of businesses, and coordinating the goal of poverty reduction with other goals, such as combating the spread of preventable diseases.

BACKGROUND

*H.R. 1302 uses the following terms for classifying global poverty as defined by the World Bank:

Extreme Global Poverty: conditions in which individuals live on less than \$1 per day, adjusted for purchasing power parity in 1993 United States dollars, according to World Bank statistics.

Global Poverty: conditions in which individuals live on less than \$2 per day, adjusted for purchasing power parity in 1993 United States dollars, according to World Bank statistics.

According to the World Bank, more than one billion people worldwide live on less than \$1 per day, and another 1.6 billion people live on less than \$2 per day.

The United Nations Millennium Development Goals include the goal of reducing by one-half the proportion of people worldwide, between 1990 and 2015, that live on less than \$1 per day, cutting in half the proportion of people suffering from hunger and unable to access safe drinking water and sanitation, reducing child mortality by two-thirds, ensuring basic education for all children, and reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS and malaria, while sustaining the environment upon which human life depends.

According to the findings in H.R. 1302, the United States joined more than 180 other governments at the United Nations World Summit in September 2005 in reiterating their commitment to achieve the United Nations Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

COST

A cost estimate from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) was not available at the time of publication.

STAFF CONTACT

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