

Distinguished Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me first to express my gratitude for convening this important roundtable.

My remarks focus on the state of poverty and inequality in developing and least developed countries.

Today, humanity faces two interrelated forms of inequality: inequality within nations and inequality between the developed and developing worlds.

The distribution of wealth continues to expand in favor of those with greater power, while the structure of the global political economy has, rather than alleviating poverty, itself become an obstacle to its eradication.

In our region, geo-economic rivalries underlie many conflicts and even domestic instabilities.

I firmly believe that poverty in today's world has taken on a more complex and alarming face.

Economic sanctions have affected the lives of millions, transforming the nature of poverty itself. Poverty has shifted from a manageable exception to a widespread and persistent condition.

Today, in Gaza, the issue is no longer simply hunger or deprivation — food itself has been turned into a weapon.

In the Islamic Republic of Iran, we have sought to strengthen livelihood resilience, public health, and free education in order to mitigate the effects of such sanctions.

Demographic transitions and evolving individual values have also generated new social and employment challenges.

The shift from “survival values” to “self-expression values” has reshaped younger generations’ outlook on work and society.

In the area of population ageing, poverty, loneliness, and family fragmentation in traditional societies have created a more distressing image of elderly poverty than that found in industrialized nations.

Artificial intelligence and new technologies, while offering tremendous opportunities, have also introduced new dimensions of inequality — for access to these tools remains deeply uneven among nations and social groups.

At the same time, the global dependence on the dollar and the existing financial order continues to generate structural vulnerabilities.

We believe that establishing a regional Asian currency, such as ASIO, could lay the groundwork for enhanced economic cooperation, inclusive growth, sustainable employment, and poverty reduction across the region.

Finally, I wish to address the challenge of environmental degradation.

The unintended consequences of certain countries' environmental policies, pursued to secure their own interests, have imposed severe costs on others.

It is our expectation that this forum — and indeed the United Nations system as a whole — will help elevate environmental protection from the national to the regional level, fostering shared responsibility and joint action.

Thank you.