



PCSD's Response to the Green Paper on Constitutional Development
For submission to the Legislative Council

14th September 2007

The Hong Kong People's Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) is submitting the following points as our official feedback on the government's Green Paper for Constitutional Development.

1. The People' Council believes that Hong Kong is ready for universal suffrage for the election of the Chief Executive and all legislative council members in 2012. The Council also believes that universal suffrage underpins and guarantees the pursuit of sustainable development.
2. It is PCSD's view that in the balancing of the three key interest areas of sustainable development, i.e. Social, Economic and Environment, public participation is the only means to make people's choice legitimate and sensible.
3. From international experience over the past decade, an institutional framework for fair and broad-based participation is the fourth pillar of sustainable development because it gives a fair share for each of us to express our views, and make our choices. The most effective form of civic participation must be guaranteed by a constitutional structure through universal suffrage.
4. In the making of public policies for Hong Kong society, there is a higher public aspiration for meaningful participation in policy-making. Examples include the protection of our harbour area, nature and heritage conservation, major town planning projects etc. Whether or not policy makers and politicians listen to public's voice very much depends on the accountability of their political decisions. Without votes to act as check and balance over policy makers, transparency and accountability cannot be exercised in the fullest sense.



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5. PCSD reckons fair participation in democratic election is one of the foremost important steps in the establishment of transparency and accountability in public governance.
6. The most direct way to institutionalize people's representation on policy making is to have the Chief Executive to be elected by universal suffrage and the Legislative Council to be fully-elected by universal suffrage.
7. Under the Basic Law, Hong Kong is to attain the ultimate aim of universal suffrage, so the people of Hong Kong has legitimate rights to cast votes. However, ten years after the handover of sovereignty, Hong Kong still lacks a road map and a precise timetable for our fellow citizens to be able to exercise our rights.
8. PCSD reckons that universal suffrage in Hong Kong is indispensable to the maintenance of societal harmony. With a fully elected Chief Executive and Legislature, the controversy over who can represent the voice of people can be minimized, if not eliminated.
9. Thus, universal suffrage can put public policy making and unnecessary controversies in perspective. It is our view that universal suffrage to good governance, and hence the attainment of sustainable development.

In conclusion, PCSD wishes to emphasize that it is important for Hong Kong society to install the right mechanism and institutionalize universal suffrage. For we know nothing is possible without people, nothing is lasting without institutions.

It is our firm belief that Hong Kong society is mature enough to implement universal suffrage in 2012. We should not let ourselves be caught up in assumptions and details that may cause further delay. If there is a will, there is a way.