

**Summary of the views expressed at
the Fourth Meeting of
the Committee on Governance and Political Development
of the Commission on Strategic Development
held on 26 May 2006**

(Translation)

The Chairman welcomed members to the fourth meeting of the Committee and indicated that the Committee would focus its discussion on the report prepared by the Government on the conclusions on discussions on the concepts and principles relating to universal suffrage.

Matters arising from the last meeting

Workshop on the “Review on the Role, Functions and Composition of District Councils” Consultation Document

2. In respect of the suggestion made at the last meeting that the Secretariat should organise a workshop after the release of the consultation document on the review on the role, functions and composition of District Councils, the Chairman reported that the Administration had released the public consultation document on 27 April. The Secretariat had distributed copies of the consultation document to members on the same day. The Secretariat would organize a workshop on 27 June for members to express their views on the consultation document.

Conclusions on discussions on the concepts and principles relating to universal suffrage

3. As agreed at the last meeting, the Committee should conclude its discussions on the concepts and principles relating to universal suffrage at this meeting. The Chairman said that the Committee would discuss the paper at the later part of the meeting.

Review of the schedule of meetings

4. A member suggested at the last meeting that the schedule of meetings of the Committee should be reviewed to avoid overlapping with the meeting dates of the House Committee and the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council. Taking into account the meeting dates of the Legislative Council, and having examined the feasibility of revising the schedule of meetings, the date of the 7th meeting was changed from 24 November 2006 to 23 November 2006. The Chairman said that the Secretariat had informed members of the change on 3 April 2006.

Conclusions on discussions on the concepts and principles relating to universal suffrage

5. The Committee generally agreed to the report prepared by the Constitutional Affairs Bureau on the conclusions on discussions on the concepts and principles relating to universal suffrage.

6. Some members put forward the following comments on the report:

- (a) A member opined that constitutional development should have due regard to the basic policies of the State regarding Hong Kong, including the principle of an executive-led system. In response, the Secretary for Constitutional Affairs agreed that apart from the principles governing constitutional development, it was also necessary to adhere to the basic policies of the State regarding Hong Kong in designing the model for the implementation of universal suffrage. The four principles on constitutional development set out in the report were reflected in the provisions of the Basic Law and the Explanations delivered by Director JI, whereas the principle of an executive-led system was realized through the various provisions of the Basic Law.
- (b) Some members pointed out that although “one-person-one-vote” was commonly adopted in overseas universal suffrage systems, there were also examples of one person having more than one vote. Members considered that our universal suffrage system could be

implemented either on a “one-person-one-vote” or “one-person-multiple-votes” basis as long as it was in accordance with the provisions of the Basic Law and the principle of universal and equal suffrage.

- (c) On the idea of first exploring the model for selecting the Chief Executive by universal suffrage, a member put forward a further justification in support of the proposal, i.e. a Chief Executive elected by universal suffrage would be conducive to realizing the principle of an executive-led system.
- (d) As the report had already mentioned the need to ensure that the interests of different sectors would be met when moving towards the formation of the Legislative Council by universal suffrage, a member considered it unnecessary to mention in the report that “some members had suggested that consideration should be given to safeguard the interests of the industrial and business sectors”.
- (e) Members had mixed views on the evolution of the functional constituencies and their role in the Legislative Council. A member opined that the paper should be revised to better reflect members’ views.
- (f) A member opined that apart from setting out the preliminary discussions of members on the transitional arrangements leading to the formation of the Legislative Council by universal suffrage, the report should also refer to the ultimate models for forming the Legislative Council by universal suffrage that had been discussed before, including the abolition of all functional constituency seats. As regards the option to allow members of functional constituencies to nominate candidates for election by universal suffrage, some members considered it acceptable as a transitional arrangement, whereas others considered it a possible model for universal suffrage ultimately.

7. Members agreed that the report should be revised in the light of the above views.

8. In addition, members raised some other related views:
- (a) A member enquired about the relationship between the principle of “facilitating the development of the capitalist economy” and universal suffrage. The Secretary for Constitutional Affairs explained that both the Sino-British Joint Declaration and the Basic Law had stipulated that the previous capitalist system of Hong Kong should remain unchanged. This principle was also reflected in the Explanation delivered by Director JI. It was therefore necessary to adhere to this important principle in designing the electoral system.
 - (b) A member considered that the principles of “balanced participation” and “electing all members of Legislative Council by universal suffrage” might be contradictory to each other, and that a bicameral system might not be able to resolve this contradiction. He suggested the Government to seek legal advice on whether a bicameral system was consistent with the Basic Law. The Secretary for Constitutional Affairs responded that it was difficult to seek any legal opinion at this stage when there was no specific proposal for a bicameral system. However, irrespective of the model to be adopted in the future, the ultimate aim of forming the Legislative Council by universal suffrage as stipulated in the Basic Law should remain unchanged.
 - (c) While agreeing that the model for selecting the Chief Executive by universal suffrage should be discussed first, a member opined that whether the selection of the Chief Executive by universal suffrage should take place first was a matter to be further explored. The Chairman agreed that the Committee could further discuss whether to first implement universal suffrage for the election of the Chief Executive.
 - (d) A member remarked that the Committee had not discussed the timetable for universal suffrage. The Chairman responded that both the Central Government and the SAR Government fully understood the aspirations of the public for universal suffrage and

were committed to attaining the ultimate aim of universal suffrage prescribed in the Basic Law. The progress of constitutional development hinged on whether a broad consensus could be reached among the Central Government, the SAR Government, the Legislative Council and the different sectors of Hong Kong community. The timetable for universal suffrage should be discussed after the roadmap was developed. Once a consensus on the design of the universal suffrage system was reached by the community, the roadmap and timetable for universal suffrage could be worked out.

- (e) On the process of taking forward the election of the Chief Executive and the Legislative Council by universal suffrage, a member considered that the composition of the nominating committee was the most controversial issue in the design of the universal suffrage system for selecting the Chief Executive, the Committee should devote at least one meeting to discussing this issue.
- (f) A member opined that the Government should attach importance to the grooming of political talent in the face of the implementation of universal suffrage for the election of the Chief Executive and the formation of the Legislative Council. Another member took the view that the Government should consider using District Councils as a platform for grooming political talent in the context of the review on the role, functions and composition of District Councils. In addition, a member suggested to review the practice of allowing members of the Legislative Council to take up seats at District Councils concurrently.

9. The Chairman made the following comments:

- (a) Members generally agreed to the report prepared by the Government on the conclusions on discussions on the concepts and principles relating to universal suffrage. The Government would revise the report in the light of the comments raised by members and distribute the finalised report to members for retention. He

encouraged members to continue to put forward their views by post or email outside the meetings. Upon receipt of the written submissions, the Secretariat would arrange circulation to other members and uploading to the Commission's website to facilitate exchange of views among members.

- (b) The conclusions on discussions on the concepts and principles relating to universal suffrage would form the basis for the Committee to discuss in the second half of 2006 the possible models for selecting the Chief Executive and forming the Legislative Council by universal suffrage. Members might first discuss at the next meeting the models for selecting the Chief Executive by universal suffrage, including the composition and operation of the nominating committee, to be followed by examining models for forming the Legislative Council by universal suffrage.
- (c) It was expected that the Committee would conclude its discussion on the possible models for selecting the Chief Executive and forming the Legislative Council by universal suffrage by early 2007.
- (d) The Secretariat would organize a workshop on 27 June 2006 for members to express their views on the consultation document on "Review on the Role, Functions and Composition of District Councils".

10. The attendance list is attached.

Secretariat to the Commission on Strategic Development
July 2006

策略發展委員會
管治及政治發展委員會第四次會議
2006年5月26日

Fourth Meeting of
the Committee on Governance and Political Development
of the Commission on Strategic Development
26 May 2006

出席人士

Attendance List

主席 :
Chairman :

The Chief Executive

行政長官

官方委員 :
Official Members :

Head, Central Policy Unit
Director, Chief Executive's Office

中央政策組首席顧問
行政長官辦公室主任

非官方委員 :
Non-Official Members :

Mr CHAN Tak-lam, Norman, S.B.S., J.P.
Mr CHAU How-chen, S.B.S., J.P.
Prof CHENG Kwok-hon, Leonard
Mr CHEUNG Chi-kong
The Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, S.B.S., J.P.
Mr CHOW Yick-hay, B.B.S., J.P.
Mr CHOW Yung, Robert
Mr FUNG, Daniel R., S.B.S., J.P.
Mr HOO, Alan, S.B.S., J.P.
Prof KUAN Hsin-chi
Mr LAU Nai-keung
Prof LEE Chack-fan, S.B.S., J.P.
The Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
The Hon LEE Wing-tat

陳德霖先生, S.B.S., J.P.
周厚澄先生, S.B.S., J.P.
鄭國漢教授
張志剛先生
張學明議員, S.B.S., J.P.
周奕希先生, B.B.S., J.P.
周融先生
馮華健先生, S.B.S., J.P.
胡漢清先生, S.B.S., J.P.
關信基教授
劉迺強先生
李焯芬教授, S.B.S., J.P.
李卓人議員
李永達議員

Dr LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla
Mr LIE-A-CHEONG Tai-chong, David
Mr LUI Tim-leung, Tim, J.P.
Mr MOK Hon-fai
Mr TAM Kwok-kiu, M.H.
The Hon TIEN Pei-chun, James, G.B.S., J.P.
Dr WANG Xiao-qiang
Mr WONG Wai-yin, Zachary
Dr ZHOU Ba-jun

梁美芬博士
李大壯先生
雷添良先生, J.P.
莫漢輝先生
譚國僑先生, M.H.
田北俊議員, G.B.S., J.P.
王小強博士
黃偉賢先生
周八駿博士

列席

In Attendance

Secretary for Constitutional Affairs
Deputy Secretary for Constitutional Affairs (1)

政制事務局局長
政制事務局副秘書長(1)

因事未能出席

Apologies

Mr CHAN Chung-bun, Bunny, B.B.S., J.P.
Prof CHEN Hung-ye, Albert, J.P.
Mr CHEN Nan-lok, Philip, S.B.S., J.P.
Mr CHOW Charn-ki, Kenneth
Ms CHOW, Wendy
Ms FONG, Janie
Ms KO Po-ling, M.H.
Dr LO Chi-kin, J.P.
The Hon MA Lik, G.B.S., J.P.
Mr NG Sze-fuk, George, B.B.S., J.P.
The Hon SHEK Lai-him, Abraham, J.P.
Mr SZE Chin-hung, Jerome, J.P.
Miss TAM Wai-chu, Maria, G.B.S., J.P.
Mr WONG Kong-hon, S.B.S., J.P.
Mr WONG Ying-ho, Kennedy, B.B.S., J.P.
Mr YU Kwok-chun, S.B.S., J.P.

陳振彬先生, B.B.S., J.P.
陳弘毅教授, J.P.
陳南祿先生, S.B.S., J.P.
鄒燦基先生
周君倩女士
方文靜女士
高寶齡女士, M.H.
盧子健博士, J.P.
馬力議員, G.B.S., J.P.
吳仕福先生, B.B.S., J.P.
石禮謙議員, J.P.
施展熊先生, J.P.
譚惠珠女士, G.B.S., J.P.
黃光漢先生, S.B.S., J.P.
黃英豪先生, B.B.S., J.P.
余國春先生, S.B.S., J.P.