

Panel on Constitutional Affairs

**Working Timetable for Public Consultation and Legislative Process
for the Two Electoral Methods for 2012**

Introduction

This paper sets out the working timetable for the public consultation and the legislative process for the two electoral methods for 2012.

Working timetable for public consultation and legislative process

2. The Chief Executive (CE) announced on 15 January the decision to slightly postpone the public consultation on the two electoral methods for 2012 from the first half of this year to the fourth quarter, so that the community could focus on dealing with the economic issues arising from the financial tsunami. We plan to commence the public consultation on the 2012 electoral arrangements in the fourth quarter of this year, which will last about three months.

3. After summarizing the views received, we will present to the Legislative Council (LegCo) the proposed amendments to Annexes I and II to the Basic Law and strive to obtain the endorsement of LegCo. The relevant amendments will need to receive the endorsement of LegCo, obtain the consent of the CE and be reported to the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress for approval or for the record. We hope that this process could be completed by no later than the fourth quarter of 2010.

4. There will be about one year's time between the fourth quarter of 2009 and the fourth quarter of 2010, which would be sufficient for dealing with the public consultation and the amendments to Annexes I and II to the Basic Law. We plan to deal with the local legislation, including the amendments to the "Chief Executive Election Ordinance" and the "Legislative Council Ordinance" between early and mid-2011.

Thereafter, we will deal with the relevant subsidiary legislation and the practical arrangements for the two elections, so that the fourth term CE election and fifth term LegCo election could be held smoothly in March and September 2012 respectively.

5. The detailed working timetable for the public consultation and the legislative process is at the Annex.

Conclusion

6. Based on the above-mentioned working timetable for the public consultation and the legislative process, the Hong Kong community will still have sufficient time to discuss and forge consensus on the electoral arrangements for 2012. We will continue to make preparations for the public consultation exercise and conduct internal studies on the subject. We will also listen to the views expressed within the community, which will serve as reference for conducting the public consultation in the fourth quarter of 2009.

7. Although the public consultation has been slightly postponed, the objective of the Government to determine the two electoral methods for 2012 within its tenure has not changed. The aim of the Government is to roll forward the electoral methods for 2012 to a mid-way point, so as to pave the way for implementing universal suffrage for the CE in 2017 and LegCo in 2020.

Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
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Working timetable for public consultation and legislative process

| <u>Date/Period</u> | <u>Work Procedure</u> |
|--|--|
| The fourth quarter..... of 2009 | (1) Commencement of the public consultation on the two electoral methods for 2012, which will last about three months |
| | (2) After summarizing the views received, to make public the Government's proposed package and the draft motions concerning the amendments to the methods for the selection of the Chief Executive (CE) and for the formation of the Legislative Council (LegCo) in 2012 |
| | (3) Putting forth to LegCo for scrutiny the Government's proposed package and the draft motions concerning the amendments to the methods for the selection of the CE and for the formation of LegCo in 2012 |
| By no later than the..... fourth quarter of 2010 | (4) Presenting to LegCo the motions for voting |
| | (5) The CE to give consent to the (Draft) Amendments endorsed by LegCo and to report to the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPCSC) |
| | (6) The NPCSC to consider and to approve/record the Amendments |

| <u>Date/Period</u> | <u>Work Procedure</u> |
|---|---|
| Early 2011..... | (7) Introduction of the Chief Executive Election (Amendment) Bill and the Legislative Council Ordinance (Amendment) Bill (“the Bills”) into LegCo |
| Mid-2011..... | (8) Upon passage of the Bills by LegCo, the Executive Council and the Electoral Affairs Commission to make relevant subsidiary legislation |
| | (9) LegCo to vet the subsidiary legislation |
| Starting from the third..... quarter of 2011 | (10) Making practical arrangements for the two elections to be held in 2012 |
| March 2012..... | (11) The fourth term CE election |
| September 2012..... | (12) The fifth term LegCo election |