

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(2)1007/12-13

(These minutes have been  
seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/HS/1/12

**Subcommittee on Poverty**

**Minutes of the second meeting  
held on Tuesday, 11 December 2012, at 2:30 pm  
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**

**Members present** : Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP (Chairman)  
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan  
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung  
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP  
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, SBS, JP  
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC  
Hon CHAN Kin-por, BBS, JP  
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, JP  
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che  
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC  
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung  
Hon WONG Yuk-man  
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming  
Hon Charles Peter MOK  
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen  
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, SBS, JP  
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP  
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki  
Hon KWOK Wai-keung  
Hon TANG Ka-piu

**Members absent** : Hon Albert HO Chun-yan  
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee, GBS, JP

**Public Officers : Item III  
attending**

Mr Mathew CHEUNG, GBS, JP  
Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Miss Annie TAM Kam-lan, JP  
Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Ms Jane LEE Sze-yan  
Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Poverty)

Ms Reddy NG Wai-lan, JP  
Principal Economist (4)  
Economic Analysis and Business Facilitation Unit  
Financial Secretary's Office

**Attendance by : Item III  
invitation**

Session One

The Against Elderly Abuse of Hong Kong

Mr Calvin CHIU  
Board Member

Alliance for Children Development Rights

Miss LAM Man-wa  
Community Organizer

New Territories Evangelical Ambassador

Mr Simon TAM  
Member

North District Employment Concern Group

Ms Venny KWOK  
Convener

Hong Kong Catholic Commission for Labour Affairs

Ms LAW Pui-shan  
Policy Research Officer

Labour Party

Mr TAM Chun-yin  
General Secretary

Sustainability Research Centre

晴女士

The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong

Mr WONG Kwai-yau  
Supervisor

Alliance for Universal Pension

Mr AU YEUNG Kwun-tung  
Organizer

Hong Kong Association for Democracy and People's  
Livelihood

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Mr YAM Kwok-tung  
Member of Kowloon City District Council

Oxfam Hong Kong

Mr Charles HO Chun-kit  
Policy Officer – Hong Kong Programme

The Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions – Social  
Affairs Committee

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Miss CHU Tin-lok  
Member

New People's Party

Mr Legward WONG  
Member of Yuen Long District Council

Concern Group of Women Poverty

Ms HO Foei-lin  
Representative

Mr LEUNG Kwok-tung

Eco-Feminist Cooperative Network

Ms HO Kin-kai  
Organizer

Hong Kong Women Workers' Association

Ms LAU Sing-ping  
Organizer

Kwai Chung Estate Labour Rights Concern Group

Mr WONG Yun-tat

Hong Kong Association for the Survivors of Women  
Abuse (Kwan Fook)

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Ms CHUNG Bik-mui

Academic for Universal Pension

Mr Nicholas CHAN Hok-fung  
Chairperson

Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of  
Hong Kong

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Miss CHEUNG Fan-lan  
Deputy Spokesperson of Welfare Services

League of Social Democrats

Mr WONG Ho-ming  
Executive Committee Member

Liberal Party

Mr Kenny YUEN  
Member, Executive Committee

New Arrival Women League

Ms YEUNG Mei  
Officer

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Ms Mariana CHAN  
Chief Officer

Session Two

Elderly Council of Tsuen Kwai Tsing District

Mr LAM Chi-chung  
Secretary

Kwai Fong Estate Elderly Rights Concern Group

Mr CHUNG Hau-ping  
Member

Chinese Grey Power

Ms LO Siu-lan  
Chairlady

Labour Rights Commune

Mr WONG Chi-kwan  
Member

Care-taker's Concern

Ms CHU Moon-chun  
Member

Grassroots Development Centre

Mr NG Kin-wing  
Committee Member

Mr CHAN Chung-yau

Concerning Grassroots Alliance

Ms CHAN Siu-kuen

Hong Kong Neuro-Muscular Disease Association

Mr LAU Wai-ming  
President

Ms Sae Sow Jintana  
Senior Organizing Officer

Concerning Urban Housing Rights Social Workers Alliance

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Mr LAI Kin-kwok  
Convenor

Mr KWOK Chung-man

Mr SO Chi-hong

The Lion Rock Institute

Mr Conrad KARAGEORGE  
Research Assistant

Tin Shui Wai Community Development Alliance

Mr KWONG Kin-shing  
Social Worker

天水圍爭取尊嚴生活權益會

Miss YEUNG Pui-yan

Hong Kong Christian Institute

Mr TANG Wing-fai  
Programme Secretary

**Clerk in attendance** : Mr Colin CHUI  
Chief Council Secretary (2) 4

**Staff in attendance** : Ms Catherina YU  
Senior Council Secretary (2) 4

Miss Karen LAI  
Council Secretary (2) 4

Miss Maggie CHIU  
Legislative Assistant (2) 4

Action

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**I. Applications for late membership**  
[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)293/12-13(01) to (03)]

The Subcommittee accepted the applications for late membership from Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen and Mr Charles Peter MOK.

**II. Confirmation of minutes**  
[LC Paper No. CB(2)292/12-13]

2. The minutes of the meeting held on 5 November 2012 were confirmed.

**III. Poverty line**  
[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)293/12-13(04) to (09), CB(2)323/12-13(01) to (02) and CB(2)359/12-13(01) to (18)]

Action

3. The Subcommittee deliberated (index of proceedings attached at **Annex**).

**IV. Date of next meeting and items for discussion**

4. Members agreed that the Subcommittee should discuss the subject of "Elderly in Poverty" at the next meeting.

*(Post meeting note: The next meeting of the Subcommittee would be held on Tuesday, 22 January 2013 at 10:45 am.)*

**V. Any other business**

5. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 5:57 pm.

Council Business Division 2  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
19 April 2013



**Proceedings of the second meeting of the  
Subcommittee on Poverty  
on Tuesday, 11 December 2012, at 2:30 pm  
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**

<b>Time marker</b>	<b>Speaker(s)</b>	<b>Subject(s)</b>	<b>Action required</b>
<i>Agenda item I – Applications for late membership</i>			
000217 - 000300	Chairman	The Subcommittee's acceptance of the applications for late membership from Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen and Mr Charles Peter MOK.	
<i>Agenda item II – Confirmation of minutes</i>			
000301 - 000316	Chairman	Confirmation of minutes of meeting of 5 November 2012.	
<i>Agenda item III – Poverty line</i>			
000317 - 001028	The Against Elderly Abuse of Hong Kong Chairman	In support of following the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development ("OECD") to set the poverty line at 50% of the median monthly domestic household income ("MMDHI"). The line would serve as a tool for the Government to formulate policies and evaluate the effectiveness of its poverty alleviation measures.	
001029 - 001300	Alliance for Children Development Rights Chairman	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)359/12-13(01)]  Concerns about how to draw up the poverty line; what function the line would serve in monitoring the Government's measures in combating poverty; and suggestions on measures to support the long-term development of children from low-income families.	
001301 - 001535	New Territories Evangelical Ambassador Chairman	In support of setting the poverty line at 50% of MMDHI and urging the Government to offer subsidies to low-income families.	
001536 - 001747	North District Employment Concern Group Chairman	In support of setting several poverty lines at a range from 40% to 60% of MMDHI; and urging the Government to introduce the Low-income Working Family Subsidy as suggested by Oxfam to alleviate the hardship faced by grass-roots workers.	
001748 - 002000	Hong Kong Catholic Commission for Labour Affairs Chairman	In support of -  (a) setting an official poverty line at 50% of MMDHI plus several poverty lines (from 40% to 60%) as tools for monitoring the poverty	

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		<p>situation and evaluating government's measures; and</p> <p>(b) setting up a dedicated committee to coordinate measures on poverty alleviation by different bureaux/departments.</p>	
002001 - 002251	Labour Party Chairman	<p>Presentation of views as follows -</p> <p>(a) in support of following the European Commission to set the poverty line at 60% of MMDHI as a tool for formulating policy to assist low-income people and assessing the effectiveness of Government's poverty alleviation measures;</p> <p>(b) another line on absolute poverty should be drawn up to keep track of the number of people living below minimum subsistence as benchmark for formulating immediate measures to help the needy; and</p> <p>(c) in calculating the MMDHI, rental expenses and social security assistance payments should not be included as part of the income.</p>	
002252 - 002513	The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong Chairman	<p>Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)293/12-13(06)]</p> <p>Before an official poverty line was drawn up, a tentative poverty line might be set at 50% of MMDHI. A pledge should also be made on the target of reducing the poor population in the next five years. The Administration should collect statistics on entry poverty rate and exit poverty rate to better understand the poverty situation and formulate measures accordingly.</p>	
002514 - 002729	Alliance for Universal Pension Chairman	<p>Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)359/12-13(03)]</p> <p>Views that the Administration should map out a feasible model for universal retirement protection, instead of merely setting a poverty line.</p>	
002730 - 002938	Hong Kong Association for Democracy and People's Livelihood Chairman	Views on the need for setting poverty lines at three levels to measure: the population not able to afford the essential needs of individuals/families; the relative poor; and the households at high risk of falling into poverty.	
002939 - 003152	Oxfam Hong Kong Chairman	<p>Presentation of views as follows -</p> <p>(a) advocacy of setting one poverty line to monitor the effectiveness of government's measures and</p>	

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		to keep track of the demographic change of the poor population; and  (b) in support of following OECD to set the poverty threshold at 50% of MMDHI, for the reason that the Census and Statistics Department had collected most data based on the same calculation method, and such a model could provide a simple yardstick to monitor poverty.	
003153 - 003402	The Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions - Social Affairs Committee Chairman	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)359/12-13(04)]  In support of drawing up two poverty lines: one to be drawn up based on the concept of absolute poverty and to provide protection for subsistence; and the other line to be drawn up based on the concept of relative poverty and be set at 50 % or 60% of MMDHI.	
003403 - 003542	New People's Party Chairman	Expressing the view that the poverty line should be set above 50% of MMDHI to better reflect the poverty situation; and that poverty alleviation measures should aim to equip low-income people with skills to escape poverty by themselves.	
003543 - 003822	Concern Group of Women Poverty Chairman	Views that the poverty line should be set at 60% of MMDHI; and representatives from the disadvantaged be invited to give views at meetings of the Commission on Poverty ("CoP").	
003823 - 004054	Mr LEUNG Kwok-tung Chairman	Disappointment at the Government's means-tested welfare schemes which had given rise to family conflicts and divided the society.	
004055 - 004323	Eco-Feminist Cooperative Network Chairman	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)359/12-13(05)]  (a) the poverty line should be drawn up as early as possible;  (b) the poverty threshold should be higher than the level of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ("CSSA") payment; and  (c) women poverty should be addressed when drawing the poverty line; and a comprehensive approach (including education and housing policies) should be adopted in combating poverty.	
004324 - 004614	Hong Kong Women Workers' Association Chairman	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)359/12-13(06)]	

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		<p>(a) in support of setting several poverty lines (at a range from 40% to 60% of MMDHI) to keep track of the poverty situation; and</p> <p>(b) in drawing up the poverty level, the number of dependents in the household and family members' ability to eliminate poverty should be taken into account.</p>	
004615 - 004825	Sustainability Research Centre Chairman	<p>Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)359/12-13(02)]</p> <p>Views that an official poverty line could not help much in combating elderly poverty and calling for adopting an approach which emphasized sustainable development to foster the well-being of elders.</p>	
004826 - 005043	Kwai Chung Estate Labour Rights Concern Group Chairman	In support of drawing up several poverty lines for formulating poverty alleviation measures and the view that the poverty threshold should be higher than the CSSA level.	
005044 - 005314	Hong Kong Association for the Survivors of Women Abuse (Kwan Fook) Chairman	<p>Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)359/12-13(07)]</p> <p>Concerns about the poverty faced by single parent families, especially those new arrivals not meeting the seven-year residence requirement of social security schemes. The requirement should be relaxed by the Government in formulating policy concerning poverty.</p>	
005315 - 005522	Academic for Universal Pension Chairman	Views that drawing up a poverty line marked a good beginning but the Administration should be cautious in setting the threshold.	
005523 - 005729	Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong Chairman	In support of drawing up a poverty line as an official reference for identifying the most needy group for assistance, understanding the poverty situation and formulating policies to combat poverty in the long run.	
005730 - 005947	League of Social Democrats Chairman	In support of drawing up two poverty lines, one to be set at the monthly expenditure for the basic daily necessities of an individual or a household; and another at the threshold of 50% of MMDHI to measure relative poverty.	

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005948 - 010154	Liberal Party Chairman	<p>Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)359/12-13(08)]</p> <p>In support of drawing up a poverty line through which the Government could make reference for enhancing its measures to tackle elderly poverty, working poor; and inter-generational poverty.</p>	
010155 - 010417	New Arrival Women League Chairman	<p>Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)359/12-13(09)]</p> <p>In support of setting the poverty threshold at 60% of MMDHI; and in drawing up the poverty line, essential household expenditures such as housing costs should be taken into account.</p>	
010418 - 010617	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service Chairman	<p>Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)359/12-13(10)]</p> <p>In support of setting one official poverty line as a tool to keep track of the poverty situation and the threshold should be set at 50% of MMDHI. Upon the drawing up of the line, the Administration should formulate measures to reduce poverty with specific targets and review the effectiveness of the measures annually.</p>	
010618 - 011154	Chairman Administration	<p>The Administration's response that -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the poverty line was an important tool for gauging Hong Kong's poverty situation and assessing the effectiveness of poverty alleviation policies. The drawing up of a poverty line had signified the current Government's political courage to tackle problems of poverty;</li> <li>(b) CoP had a preliminary understanding of overseas experience in setting poverty lines. CoP aimed to work out a preliminary proposal for poverty line within 2013;</li> <li>(c) CoP would consider policies relating to poverty alleviation; and</li> <li>(d) CoP would take into account deputations' views expressed at the meeting in considering poverty alleviation policies.</li> </ul>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
011155 - 011608	<p>North District Employment Concern Group Chairman The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong Administration</p>	<p>North District Employment Concern Group's view that as low-income earners could not benefit from many of the measures introduced by the Administration, CoP should seriously consider providing subsidy for them.</p> <p>The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong's view that -</p> <p>(a) before an official poverty line was set, the Administration could use the income level at less than half of MMDHI to define poverty, thereby implementing measures to help the needy; and</p> <p>(b) CoP should also look into the problems of social mobility and inter-generational poverty.</p> <p>The Administration's response that -</p> <p>(a) the suggestion of providing subsidy to low-income people was open to discussion, and the Work Incentive Transport Subsidy ("WITS") Scheme would be further enhanced to help the grass-roots; and</p> <p>(b) CoP not only placed emphasis on supporting the underprivileged but also on enhancing social mobility. CoP's Education, Employment and Training Task Force, Societal Engagement Task Force and Special Needs Groups Task Force would play a role in this regard.</p>	
011609 - 012010	<p>Sustainability Research Centre Chairman The Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions Social Affairs Committee Administration</p>	<p>Sustainability Research Centre's enquiry on the government's expenditure on welfare and education in 2011 and 2012 and whether the Administration would, aside from financial assistance, provide other forms of assistance to the needy and the elderly in enhancing their self-reliance.</p> <p>The Administration's response that -</p> <p>(a) for every \$100 of government's spending, \$23 attributed to education and \$19.3 to welfare; and</p> <p>(b) CoP's Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund Task Force would further promote the development of social enterprises, which could help promote employment of elderly and other underprivileged groups.</p>	

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		<p>The Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions Social Affair Committee's view that the poverty line should serve the purposes of facilitating studies on the impact of Hong Kong's industry and economic structure on the income level of Hong Kong people and formulation of welfare policies with a view to improving the livelihood of the community at large.</p> <p>The Administration's concurrence that a multi-faceted economic structure and upward mobility would have a positive impact on poverty alleviation.</p>	
012011 - 012325	<p>Oxfam Hong Kong Chairman Hong Kong Association for Democracy and People's Livelihood Administration</p>	<p>Oxfam Hong Kong's view that -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) CoP should work out a timetable for drawing up the poverty line as soon as possible; and</li> <li>(b) while different percentage of MMDHI could be used as reference for evaluating effectiveness of poverty alleviation policies, there should only be one poverty line to reflect the overall poverty situation in Hong Kong.</li> </ul> <p>Hong Kong Association for Democracy and People's Livelihood's view that -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) there should be a higher income limit for WITS; and</li> <li>(b) the application procedures for future poverty alleviation schemes should be more user-friendly and the Administration should assist applicants in completing the application forms.</li> </ul> <p>The Administration's response that -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) CoP would endeavour to expedite its study on poverty line as far as practicable; and</li> <li>(b) the Administration would collaborate with relevant frontline organizations and provide necessary assistance to service users.</li> </ul>	
012326 - 012620	<p>Concern Group of Women Poverty Chairman Mr LEUNG Kwok-tung Administration</p>	<p>In response to Concern Group of Women Poverty's view on inviting stakeholders to join CoP's discussion on poverty line, the Administration explained that CoP and its relevant Task Forces would listen to views of stakeholders and the public.</p>	

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		In response to Mr LEUNG Kwok-tung's enquiry about the commitment of the former Government to solve poverty problems, the Administration explained that the former Government had followed up and implemented the vast majority of the 53 recommendations made by the former CoP.	
012621 - 012927	Academic for Universal Pension Chairman League of Social Democrats Administration	<p>Academic for Universal Pension's enquiry on whether the Administration would implement a non-means-tested universal retirement protection scheme and whether an independent task force would be formed to study universal retirement protection.</p> <p>League of Social Democrats' view that issues relating to universal retirement protection should not be studied by CoP as, instead of confining to people living in poverty, the entire community was entitled to retirement protection.</p> <p>The Administration's response that CoP's Social Security and Retirement Protection ("SSRP") Task Force would consider issues relating to retirement protection and social security.</p>	
012928 - 013417	Liberal Party Chairman New Arrival Women League Administration Miss CHAN Yuen-han	<p>Liberal Party's view that CoP would not be able to implement effective poverty alleviating measures unless the Government changed its mind-set.</p> <p>New Arrival Women League's view that -</p> <p>(a) no suitable training programme was available for new-arrivals. Employees Retraining Board ("ERB") should review its programmes and provide training programmes to help newly-arrived women acquire academic qualifications, thereby enhancing their employability; and</p> <p>(b) one-stop induction programme should be offered to new-arrivals to help them acquaint themselves with Hong Kong.</p> <p>The Administration's response that -</p> <p>(a) the setting of a poverty line reflected the Government's commitment to tackle poverty; and</p> <p>(b) ERB had organized programmes specifically for new-arrivals. Child care services were provided to help working parents.</p>	



<b>Time marker</b>	<b>Speaker(s)</b>	<b>Subject(s)</b>	<b>Action required</b>
		Miss CHAN Yuen-han's view that the Administration should accede to some deputations' request for a road map and timetable for the introduction of a universal retirement protection scheme.	
013418 - 014400	Break		
014401 - 014857	Chairman Elderly Council of Tsuen Kwai Tsing District	Views that the wide disparity between the rich and the poor was attributed to the pro-rich policies of the Government and that measures should be rolled out to boost the development of small businesses.	
014858 - 015149	Kwai Fong Estate Elderly Rights Concern Group Chairman	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)359/12-13(11)]  Views and concerns about elderly poverty and the need for the implementation of universal retirement protection.	
015150 - 015351	Chinese Grey Power Chairman	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)359/12-13(12)]  View that the Government should set up an inter-departmental committee to implement universal retirement protection within its current term.	
015352 - 015652	Labour Rights Commune Chairman	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)359/12-13(13)]  Not much expectation on the reinstated CoP in combating poverty and advocacy of universal retirement protection as the way forward to tackle the problem.	
015653 - 020001	Care-taker's Concern Chairman	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)323/12-13(02)]  View that the Government should implement universal retirement protection to alleviate elderly poverty. The launch of universal retirement protection should be overseen by an independent dedicated committee but not under the auspices of CoP.	
020002 - 020312	Grassroots Development Centre Chairman	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)359/12-13(14)]  Against putting universal retirement protection under the purview of CoP; and urging the launch of universal retirement protection within the current term of the Government.	

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020313 - 020432	Mr CHAN Chung-yau Chairman	Dissatisfaction at the introduction of the Old Age Living Allowance ("OALA") without dropping the means-test requirement and urging the Government to draw up the poverty line expeditiously.	
020433 - 020811	Concerning Grassroots Alliance Chairman	In support of drawing up an official poverty line, and expecting the Administration to seek reference from the line for measures offering genuine assistance to the disadvantaged.	
020812 - 021136	Hong Kong Neuro-Muscular Disease Association Chairman	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)359/12-13(15)]  Expressing the view that poverty also related to disabilities; giving suggestions on measures to alleviate poverty faced by persons with disabilities; and the need for immediate poverty alleviation measures to ease the financial hardship of the poor.	
021137 - 021503	Concerning Urban Housing Rights Social Workers Alliance Chairman	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)359/12-13(16)]  (a) poverty indicators should take into account the proportion of rental in a household's income and the number of cohabitants without kinship ties; and  (b) in support of drawing up one poverty line to keep track of the poverty situation while other poverty indicators as reference.	
021504 - 021717	Mr KWOK Chung-man Chairman	View that the Administration should address the poverty issue from the perspective of demographic change and formulate short, medium and long-term measures accordingly.	
021718 - 022105	Mr SO Chi-hong Chairman	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)293/12-13(07)]  In support of setting an official poverty line and allocating more manpower and resources to combat poverty.	
022106 - 022402	The Lion Rock Institute Chairman	Presentation of views [LC Paper No. CB(2)293/12-13(08)]  Expressing the view that poverty should be measured absolutely and was against an official poverty line derived from MMDHI.	

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022403 - 022731	Tin Shui Wai Community Development Alliance Chairman	<p>Presentation of views as follows -</p> <p>(a) in support of following the European Commission's model to set the poverty line at 60% of MMDHI;</p> <p>(b) in support of setting a second poverty line with a view to preventing high-risk families from falling into poverty; and</p> <p>(c) calling for the introduction of Low-income Working Family Subsidy.</p>	
022732 - 023051	天水圍爭取尊嚴生活權益會 Chairman	In support of setting one poverty line at 60% of MMDHI and a second poverty line to prevent high-risk families from falling into poverty; opposing the inclusion of welfare and subsidized services in the calculation of income; and urging the Administration to make pledges on reducing the poverty population and work out long-term measures to combat poverty.	
023052 - 023358	Hong Kong Christian Institute Chairman	Concerns about the composition and scope of work of the reinstated CoP, urging the Administration to roll out concrete measures to combat poverty such as the Low-income Working Family Subsidy; and in support of setting the poverty line at 60% of MMDHI.	
023359 - 023729	Administration Chairman	<p>The Administration's response that -</p> <p>(a) the current Government was committed to alleviating poverty. Various Task Forces under CoP, which comprised members from different sectors, would study specific areas of concern in detail; and</p> <p>(b) CoP's SSRP Task Force would study issues relating to the setting of a poverty line. It would refer to relevant statistics and expert advice as well as views of the community in its study. The aim was to work out a preliminary proposal for poverty line within 2013.</p>	
023730 - 024056	Miss CHAN Yuen-han Chairman Administration	In response to Miss CHAN Yuen-han's concerns, the Administration indicated that short and medium-term measures would be considered to help the needy. The enhanced WITS and OALA were some examples.	

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024057 - 024854	Dr Fernando CHEUNG Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung Chairman Administration	<p>Dr Fernando CHEUNG's view that as poverty line was not a new concept and deputations had made specific recommendations on poverty line e.g. setting the poverty line at disposable income level or at certain percentage of MMDHI, CoP should speed up its work on setting a poverty line.</p> <p>Dr CHEUNG's enquiry on when in 2013 the poverty line could be drawn up.</p> <p>Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung's enquiry on the timetable for drawing up the basis of forming the poverty line and when the Administration would provide its response to the concerns raised at the meeting.</p> <p>The Administration responded that its aim was to work out a preliminary proposal for poverty line within 2013.</p>	
<i>Agenda item IV – Date of next meeting and items for discussion</i>			
024855 - 025218	Chairman Miss CHAN Yuen-han Dr Fernando CHEUNG	<p>Members agreed that the subject of "Elderly in Poverty" should be discussed at the next meeting.</p> <p>The Chairman's suggestion of overseas duty visit to study the experience of poverty alleviation.</p>	
<i>Agenda item III – Poverty line</i>			
025219 - 030022	Miss CHAN Yuen-han Dr Fernando CHEUNG Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung Chairman Administration	<p>Miss CHAN Yuen-han's remarks that the public generally considered the current asset limit for OALA unacceptable. Instead of reviewing the asset limit one year after its implementation, the Administration should conduct the review as early as possible.</p> <p>Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung's enquiry on the timetable for reviewing OALA.</p> <p>The Administration responded that it would conduct a holistic review on OALA one year after its implementation, and the required data for the review would be available by then.</p> <p>Dr Fernando CHEUNG's concern that the publicity on OALA, which was launched before the Finance Committee's approval of the funding proposal concerned, might mislead the elders.</p>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		Concerning Dr CHEUNG's enquiry on when the Administration would take forward the Chief Executive ("CE")'s pledge in his manifesto to allow elders to apply for CSSA on a personal basis, the Administration explained that CoP's SSRP Task Force would discuss issues related to the CSSA Scheme.	
030023 - 030309	Tin Shui Wai Community Development Alliance Chairman Administration	Tin Shui Wai Community Development Alliance's call for CoP to conclude the study on poverty line by June 2013 and come up with a proposal for the provision of subsidy for low-income people.  The Administration's response that its aim was to work out a preliminary proposal for poverty line within 2013 and it would endeavour to complete the work as early as practicable.	
030310 - 030622	天水圍爭取尊嚴生活權益會 Chairman Administration	天水圍爭取尊嚴生活權益會's view that -  (a) the Administration should explain to the public the basis on which the poverty line was set; and  (b) the existing support for low-income earners should be amalgamated into subsidy policy for low-income families. One-stop services should be provided to them.  The Administration's response that it would continue to enhance the provision of services and the Administration would try to improve the user-friendliness of various services.	
030623 - 030814	Mr SO Chi-hong Chairman Administration	Mr SO Chi-hong's view on the application of data in setting the poverty line.	
030815 - 030906	Mr KWOK Chung-man Chairman	Mr KWOK Chung-man's view that as a member of CoP, the Subcommittee Chairman should monitor the drawing up of a poverty line.	
030907 - 031205	Hong Kong Neuro-Muscular Disease Association Chairman Administration	Hong Kong Neuro-Muscular Disease Association's view that short-term measures should be introduced to help persons with disabilities tide over financial hardship. Setting the poverty line at disposable income level would preclude persons with disabilities who had to shoulder heavy expenses for medical treatment/equipment from falling outside the welfare safety net.	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		The Administration's explanation on the support for persons with disabilities under various schemes and the review of Disability Allowance under the Social Security Allowance Scheme.	
031206 - 031503	Concerning Urban Housing Rights Social Workers Alliance Chairman Administration	Concerning Urban Housing Rights Social Workers Alliance's view that a poverty line should be drawn up as early as possible and household expenditures should also be taken into account in setting the poverty line.  The Administration's response that its was one of CoP's priorities to set the poverty line.	
031504 - 031810	Concerning Grassroots Alliance Chairman Administration	Concerning Grassroots Alliance's view that -  (a) poverty alleviation measures should be simple and easy to understand so that needy groups would be able to know whether they were eligible for the assistance;  (b) some CSSA recipients had worked hard to make more income in order to pay debt. Instead of deducting the allowance payable to them because of an increase in their income, the Administration should provide incentive to encourage them to continue to work hard; and  (c) assistance should be rendered to elders living in private housing who were in financial difficulties.  In response to Concerning Grassroots Alliance's enquiry about whether actions would be taken to help the grassroots before a poverty line was drawn up, e.g. launching a scheme similar to Scheme \$6,000, the Administration explained that it was collecting views for the preparation of CE's 2013 Policy Address and the 2013-2014 Budget. The Administration would consider views from deputations and other members of the public.	
031811 - 032015	Mr CHAN Chung-yau Chairman Administration	Mr CHAN Chung-yau's enquiry about when an independent universal retirement protection committee would be set up and the completion time of the study on poverty line.  The Administration's reiteration that CoP's SSRP Task Force would study issues relating to retirement protection and would aim to work out a preliminary proposal for poverty line within 2013.	

<b>Time marker</b>	<b>Speaker(s)</b>	<b>Subject(s)</b>	<b>Action required</b>
032016 - 032452	Grassroots Development Centre Chairman Care-taker's Concern Administration	<p>The views of Grassroots Development Centre and Care-taker's Concern that retirement protection was a social security issue rather than a poverty issue and their call for the establishment of an independent universal retirement protection committee.</p> <p>Grassroots Development Centre's view that the Administration should present a road map, timetable and a proposal for setting up a universal retirement protection system within five years.</p> <p>The Administration's reiteration that the Government attached great importance to the subject of retirement protection and CoP's SSRP Task Force would study the subject matter in depth.</p>	
032453 - 032839	Chairman	<p>The Chairman's view that -</p> <p>(a) there should be at least three benchmarks to measure poverty. The lowest benchmark should correspond to an income level that maintained subsistence living. The middle benchmark, representing the poverty line, should be set at 60% of median wage. The highest benchmark should represent a poverty prevention line; and</p> <p>(b) individuals living below the poverty prevention line would be those who must rely on the Administration's support to live above the poverty level. The Administration should help them enhance their earning ability so that they would not fall below the poverty line. For those living below the poverty line, the Administration should provide a subsidy in order to bring their income up to the poverty line level.</p>	
032840 - 032859	Chairman	Closing remarks	