Subcommittee on Subsidiary Legislation Made under the New Companies Ordinance

List of follow-up actions arising from the discussion at the meeting on 27 February 2013

The Administration is requested to take follow-up actions in addressing the views or concerns expressed by members, as follows:

Companies (Disclosure of Company Name and Liability Status) Regulation

- 1. To clarify the disclosure requirement on company name and liability status on the website of a company, including
 - (a) the requirement on websites shown through applications of smart phones and other mobile electronic devices ("Apps"); and
 - (b) the requirement on websites specifically set up for particular products/business/activities of a company, or jointly set up/shared by several companies or by the subsidiaries of the same company.
- 2. To provide information on the legislation/regulation of overseas jurisdictions with regard to the disclosure requirements on company name and liability status on company websites and Apps; and to review whether the disclosure requirement should be extended to Apps.
- 3. To address the issue about domain name registration in relation to disclosure of company name on websites.

Companies (Directors' Report) Regulation

- 4. To consider issuing guidelines/practice notes on the disclosure requirement, in particular the new requirement for companies to provide information on equity-linked agreements entered into by the company that subsist at the end of a financial year of the company under section 6(2) of the Regulation.
- 5. With regard to provision of information on reasons for resignation of directors under section 8(1)(b) of the Regulation –

- (a) to provide information on the legislation/regulation of overseas jurisdictions and case precedents in Hong Kong stipulating similar requirement; and
- (b) to review the use of the references of
 - (i) "a notice of" with a view to facilitating compliance by the company and the director tendering resignation;
 - (ii) "reasons for disagreement" which has the effect of restricting the scope to matters concerning disagreement between a director and the board of the company and excluding other matters that relate to the affairs of the company; and
 - (iii) "summary of the reasons" to avoid selective or biased presentation of the reasons by the company in the directors' report.
- 6. To review the drafting of section 9 of the Regulation in the Chinese text to achieve consistency in drafting with section 470 of the new Companies Ordinance.

Council Business Division 1
<u>Legislative Council Secretariat</u>
5 March 2013