

立法會

Legislative Council

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Paper for the House Committee meeting on 14 October 2016

Proposed arrangement for signification of membership of the Parliamentary Liaison Subcommittee

Purpose

This paper invites members to consider the membership size of the Parliamentary Liaison Subcommittee ("the Subcommittee") under the House Committee ("HC") and the procedure for members to join the Subcommittee.

Background

2. The need for the Hong Kong legislature to establish and maintain contacts with legislatures outside Hong Kong has always been recognized. Rule 34 of the House Rules provides for the formation of a Parliamentary Liaison Subcommittee under HC. The Subcommittee co-ordinates all parliamentary liaison activities between the Council and other parliamentary organizations outside Hong Kong. In developing good relationship with parliamentary organizations, members of the Subcommittee participate, on a regular basis, in receiving parliamentarians and delegations visiting Hong Kong, and take part in delegations on visits outside Hong Kong. Its terms of reference are in the **Appendix**.

3. Since the First Legislative Council ("LegCo"), friendship groups have been established with members of the legislatures of Australia, Canada, European Union, Japan and Singapore. While all LegCo Members are welcome to participate in the activities of friendship groups, the Subcommittee deliberates matters relating to parliamentary liaison and submits its recommendations to HC for endorsement.

Membership size and election procedure

4. The size of the Subcommittee and the procedure for electing members are determined by HC. Membership of the Subcommittee will last for the entire LegCo term. The respective membership sizes of the Subcommittee of the past five terms of LegCo are as follows:

- (a) First LegCo: nine members;
- (b) Second LegCo: a maximum of 12 members, but only nine members were elected;
- (c) Third LegCo: nine members;
- (d) Fourth LegCo: no limit on membership size, and the number of members ranged from eight to 10; and
- (e) Fifth LegCo: no limit on membership size, and the number of members ranged from eight to 12.

5. For the First to Third terms of LegCo, the election of members to the Subcommittee was by way of nominations at a HC meeting. In making the nominations, members would have regard to the need to ensure that the Subcommittee's membership was balanced and broadly representative of the membership of the Council. HC members would then elect the number of members to the Subcommittee from the nominees according to the membership size HC had determined.

6. As HC of the Fourth and Fifth LegCo decided that it was not necessary to set a limit on the membership size of the Subcommittee, no election was required. Members were invited to join the Subcommittee at a HC meeting either by a show of hands as in the Fourth LegCo, or by submission of a return to the Secretariat by the deadline specified in a circular issued to members, as in the Fifth LegCo. The arrangement had worked effectively.

Proposal

7. Having regard to the arrangement adopted by HC of the past two terms of LegCo, it is proposed that no limit on the membership size of the Subcommittee should be set for the Sixth LegCo. Members may join the Subcommittee by submission of a return to the Secretariat by the deadline specified in a circular to be issued to members.

8. The chairman of the Subcommittee will be elected by the Subcommittee from among its members at the Subcommittee's first meeting. The Subcommittee may also elect a deputy chairman. The Subcommittee of the past five terms all elected a deputy chairman.

Advice sought

9. Members are invited to consider and endorse the proposal set out in paragraph 7 above.

Council Business Division 4
Legislative Council Secretariat
7 October 2016

Parliamentary Liaison Subcommittee

Terms of Reference

- (1) To promote liaison and develop good relationship with parliamentary bodies in various territories;
- (2) To consider proposals for the formation of friendship groups with legislatures outside Hong Kong;
- (3) To deal with all matters pertaining to the activities of parliamentary friendship groups, including sending delegations on visits outside Hong Kong and hosting activities with delegations visiting Hong Kong; and
- (4) To make recommendations to the House Committee in respect of the above.