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(4 pages in total)  
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13 January 2020

Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Complex,  
1 Legislative Council Road,  
Central, Hong Kong.  
(Attn: Ms Joanne MAK)

Dear Ms MAK,

**Panel on Constitutional Affairs**

**Motion passed at the meeting on 16 December 2019**

Thank you for your letter dated 17 December 2019. Our written response to the motion passed under agenda item IV "Briefing on the Chief Executive's 2019 Policy Address" at the meeting on 16 December 2019 is set out at the [Annex](#).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eiphie Chan', written over a vertical line.

( Ms Eiphie CHAN )

for Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

**Panel on Constitutional Affairs**

**Motion passed under agenda item IV  
“Briefing on the Chief Executive’s 2019 Policy Address”  
at the meeting on 16 December 2019**

This Panel urges the Government to expeditiously formulate a concrete work plan for promoting the achievement of the aim of dual universal suffrage as stipulated in the Basic Law, including:

- (1) relaying clearly to the Central Government the strong aspirations of Hong Kong people for implementing genuine dual universal suffrage;
- (2) gauging public opinions proactively and establishing a communication platform for constitutional development, so as to forge consensus within Hong Kong; and
- (3) conducting extensive public consultation and formulating a timetable for implementing dual universal suffrage and a roadmap for constitutional reform.

Moved by: Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan

**Government’s Response**

Universal suffrage of “one person, one vote” for selecting the Chief Executive (“the CE”) and electing all Legislative Council (“LegCo”) members is enshrined as an ultimate aim in the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China (“the Basic Law”). Article 45 of the Basic Law stipulates that the method for selecting the CE shall be specified in the light of the actual situation in the HKSAR and in accordance with the principle of gradual and orderly progress. The ultimate aim is the selection of the CE by universal suffrage upon nomination by a broadly representative nominating committee in accordance with democratic procedures. Article 68 of the Basic Law also stipulates that the method for forming the LegCo shall be specified in the light of the actual situation in the HKSAR and in accordance with the principle of gradual and orderly

progress. The ultimate aim is the election of all the members of the LegCo by universal suffrage.

2. According to the relevant Decisions of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress ("the NPCSC"), after the CE is selected by universal suffrage, the election of the LegCo of the HKSAR may be implemented by the method of electing all the members by universal suffrage. At an appropriate time prior to the election of the LegCo by universal suffrage, the CE elected by universal suffrage shall submit a report to the NPCSC in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Basic Law and the Interpretation by the NPCSC as regards the issue of amending the method for forming the LegCo. A determination thereon shall be made by the NPCSC. In other words, we shall first implement the selection of the CE by universal suffrage before the CE selected by universal suffrage and the HKSAR Government under his/her leadership can take forward the method for electing all LegCo members by universal suffrage.

3. According to the Basic Law and the relevant Interpretation and Decisions of the NPCSC, the successful implementation of universal suffrage for selecting the CE requires the endorsement of a two-thirds majority of all the members of LegCo, the consent of the CE, and the approval of the NPCSC. The HKSAR Government of the previous term spent a total of 20 months to deal with the relevant issue. Having conducted two rounds of extensive public consultation spanning seven months in total, the HKSAR Government of the previous term put forward a universal suffrage package for selecting the CE which is constitutionally in order, lawful, reasonable and rational. Unfortunately, it was voted down at the LegCo meeting on 18 June 2015 as it did not obtain support from a two-thirds majority of all members of the LegCo.

4. The HKSAR Government understands the aspirations of the community for universal suffrage. To achieve this aim, the community needs to engage in dialogues, premised on the legal basis and under a peaceful atmosphere with mutual trust, with a view to narrowing differences. The community needs to understand that the CE selected by universal suffrage, who has to be appointed by the Central People's Government ("CPG"), shall be accountable to the HKSAR as well as the CPG. This is the constitutional basis under the "One Country, Two Systems" principle which must not be neglected. If the community is unable to attain consensus on these principles, it will be difficult to

conduct any constructive discussion on the issue of constitutional development.

5. The HKSAR Government will act prudently, assess the situation carefully and do the best in creating a favourable social atmosphere to take forward political reform and carry out constitutional development in accordance with the Basic Law and the relevant Interpretation and Decisions of the NPCSC.

**Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau  
January 2020**