

Legislative Council Panel on Constitutional Affairs

Green Paper on Constitutional Development

At the meeting on 7 September, we informed members of the measures we have taken to consult the public on the options, roadmap and timetable for implementing universal suffrage for the Chief Executive and the Legislative Council (LegCo) since the issue of the Green Paper on Constitutional Development on 11 July (LC Paper No. CB(2)2664/06-07(01)). This paper provides an update on our further efforts to listen to public views on the issue.

2. We have been consulting the community widely and systematically through a variety of channels to encourage response to the issue of universal suffrage, and to listen to the views of different sectors of society on the Green Paper. We have already attended the meetings of all 18 District Councils. Moreover, aside from the one held on 21 August, we have arranged three more regional forums in September to hear the views of various groups and personalities at the district level. A total of more than 770 district personalities attended the regional forums.

3. We have attended meetings with LegCo functional constituency sectors and Election Committee subsectors (e.g. a professional coalition and the construction, insurance and textile sectors), as well as forums organized by various organizations. So far, we have attended about 30 seminars, forums and meetings organized by residents' groups, professional bodies and concerned sectors. We will continue to attend more of these functions in the coming few weeks.

4. Moreover, we attended three special meetings of the LegCo Constitutional Affairs Panel held on 10, 12 and 14 September respectively to listen to the views of over 150 deputations on the issue of universal suffrage. Following the first open forum on 24 August, another one was held on 4 September to facilitate the public to express their views to the Government direct. A total of about 450 people attended the two open forums.

5. We will continue to meet different sectors to listen to their views and concerns about the issue of universal suffrage, and encourage members of the public and different organizations to put forth their views before close of the public consultation period on 10 October.