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Statement Condemning Donald Tsang for Breaking Election Promises Pressing for Double Universal Suffrage in 2012 and the Abolishment of Functional Constituencies

On 15 October 2009, the Chief Executive Donald Tsang Yam-kuen in his policy address avoided the issue of constitutional reform in Hong Kong and the future of Hong Kong's democratization. On the following day, he remarked that the consultations on reforms in 2012 would not include reference to universal suffrage in Hong Kong in 2017 and 2020, and that the future of functional constituencies has to be considered by public consultation since they cannot be kept at present form.

We are greatly disappointed by Mr. Tsang's lack of commitment in constitutional reform towards democracy and the failure to provide a roadmap to universal suffrage. We condemn his betrayal to the Hong Kong people in his failure to adhere to his election promise in 2007 to resolve the issue of universal suffrage. We are also shocked by Mr. Tsang's implication that functional constituencies may be retained in some form in the fully elected legislature in the future.

We maintain that functional constituencies must be abolished, as they are wholly inconsistent with the spirit of equal and universal suffrage as envisaged in the Basic Law, and we remain firm in our stance to press for true double universal suffrage in 2012. We stress that any attempt to retain functional constituencies in the ultimate model for universal suffrage would be deceiving the Hong Kong public, in total disregard for the Basic Law and the core values of democracy and equality.

We thus urge Mr. Tsang to fulfill his election promises and to push for true democracy in Hong Kong. We further urge that Mr. Tsang conveys to the Central Government the will of the Hong Kong people, and press for the realization of double universal suffrage by the year 2012.

Executive Committee, Hong Kong University Students' Union 16 October 2009

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The Hong Kong University Students' Union Council Resolution Demanding Universal Suffrage and the Abolishment of Functional Constituencies by 2012

At the 10th Ordinary Council Meeting on 19 November 2009, the Hong Kong University Students' Union Council debated on the agenda regarding the future of constituency system of the Hong Kong Legislative Council. At the Council Meeting, the following motion was unanimously passed:

To demand the HKSAR government to implement universal suffrage for the 2012 Legislative Council elections, and to abolish all functional constituencies seats by the 2012 elections.'

We believe the resolution truly reflected the will of the students, and is consistent with the core value of democracy long cherished by the Union. We accordingly urge the Hong Kong SAR Government to implement universal suffrage and to abolish functional constituencies no later than 2012. We urge the Government to respect and give weight to the will of the Union, and that of the Hong Kong people.

Executive Committee, Hong Kong University Students' Union 19 November 2009