

**For information
18 June 2012**

Legislative Council Panel on Constitutional Affairs

**The Initial Report of the
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
of the People's Republic of China under the
United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

Purpose

This paper informs Members of the latest development regarding the initial report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ("the report").

Background

2. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ("the Convention") has entered into force for the People's Republic of China ("PRC"), including the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ("HKSAR"), since 31 August 2008. The purpose of the Convention is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity.

3. In accordance with Article 35 of the Convention, each State Party undertakes to submit to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, for consideration by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ("the Committee"), an initial report on measures taken to give effect to its obligations thereunder within two years after the entry into force of the Convention for the State concerned. In this regard, PRC submitted the initial report (including HKSAR's part) to the United Nations in August 2010. HKSAR's report sets out in detail the administrative, legal and other measures that it has taken to implement the Convention and the resulting progress achieved.

Public Consultation

4. In line with the established practice for preparation of reports for other United Nations conventions, the Labour and Welfare Bureau (“LWB”) prepared an outline of the HKSAR’s initial report for public consultation on the basis of the relevant reporting guidelines issued by the Committee. The outline set out the broad subject headings and individual topics to be covered in the report. Following consultation with the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee (“RAC”), the report outline was widely issued to stakeholders, including the Legislative Council (“LegCo”), groups of persons with disabilities, parent groups and non-governmental organisations (“NGOs”) of the rehabilitation sector, and was made available to the general public on the LWB’s website and at all the Public Enquiry Service Centres of the Home Affairs Department (“HAD”).

5. Members of the public were invited to submit their views during the period from 17 February to 31 March 2010 on the implementation of the Convention in the HKSAR in respect of the topics set out in the outline, and to suggest any additional topics that they considered should be included in the report. The HKSAR Government and the RAC jointly convened a public consultation session on 12 March 2010 for interested parties to express their views. The LegCo Panel on Constitutional Affairs also discussed the report outline with the Administration and deputations at its meeting on 19 March 2010.

6. Having carefully considered the views and comments received during the public consultation, we incorporated issues raised by commentators, together with the respective responses of the HKSAR Government where applicable, in finalising the report.

7. Following submission of the initial report under the Convention (including HKSAR’s part) to the United Nations by the Central People’s Government in August 2010, we have distributed the report to relevant stakeholders, including the LegCo, members of RAC, groups of persons with disabilities, parent groups and NGOs of the rehabilitation sector. The report has also been made available at the Public Enquiry Service Centres of HAD and public libraries. Electronic version of the report can also be downloaded from LWB’s website (<http://www.lwb.gov.hk/UNCRPD/eindex.html>). We have also produced the Braille version of the report to facilitate reading by persons with visual impairment.

8. On the other hand, civil societies and NGOs can also submit their opinions on implementation of the Convention in HKSAR to the Committee

direct. Relevant submissions have been uploaded onto the website of the United Nations (<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/CRPDIndex.aspx>).

The Hearing of the Report

9. The Committee has tentatively scheduled to consider the PRC's report (including HKSAR's part) from 18 September to 19 September 2012 at its eighth session in Geneva, Switzerland. Representatives of the HKSAR Government will attend the hearing as part of PRC's delegation to answer questions which may be put to them by members of the Committee. Following receipt of the concluding observations of the Committee, we will brief the Panel on the subject matter and the Administration's response to the recommendations of the Committee.

Advice Sought

10. Members are invited to note the latest development regarding the report.

**Labour and Welfare Bureau
June 2012**