

立法會

Legislative Council

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Paper for the House Committee meeting on 12 October 2012

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, matters relating to parliamentary liaison are discussed by the Subcommittee which proposes its recommendations to HC for endorsement.

Membership size and election procedure

4. The term of membership of the Subcommittee is for the entire LegCo term as liaison activities may take place during the summer recess. The respective membership sizes of the Subcommittee of the past four 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; and
- (d) Fourth LegCo: 10 members.

5. As regards the procedure for electing members of the Subcommittee, HC of the first to third terms adopted the same election procedure. 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. A valid nomination would be made orally by a member, seconded by at least one other member who was not the member being nominated, and accepted by the member being nominated. If there were more nominations than the places available, an election by a show of hands would be conducted. A member might vote for as many nominees as the number of places and no more, and the nominees who get the highest numbers of votes would be declared elected. In cases where a nominee would have been elected but for there being one or more other nominees having been given the same number of votes, a separate poll would be taken in respect of that nominee and such other nominee(s) in accordance with the system of election mentioned above until all the remaining place(s) was/were filled.

6. At the HC meeting of the Fourth LegCo held on 10 October 2008, members agreed that it was not necessary to set a limit on the membership size of the Subcommittee. Members were invited to join the Subcommittee at the HC meeting on 17 October 2008 by a show of hands without the need for nomination and election. 10 members joined the Subcommittee.

Proposal

7. Having regard to the arrangement adopted by HC of the Fourth LegCo, it is proposed that no limit on the membership size of the Subcommittee should

be set for the Fifth 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 four 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
11 October 2012

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.