

**Recommendations for the Election of the Representation for the Insurance Sector in
the Hong Kong Legislative Council 2016**

The Hong Kong Legislative Council is imperative in building and maintaining constant stream of communication between the public and the Government. Its representation should speak for the Hong Kong general public, stands up for their interests and voices out for their concerns. We strongly believe members of the LegCo should be elected by a 'one person one vote' system. Yet, the openness of the election process of some of the seats under the existing functional constituency framework is doubtful. Whether or not that 'elected' member is a true representation of the voices of the functional group is questionable as most of these members are elected from a limited base by a limited number of voters.

The Insurance sector is one of the functional constituencies that remained to employ a 'corporate' vote approach, i.e. each of its vote represents the insurance company, NOT the individuals who work in the sector (for your information, the accounting professionals and medical professionals deploy 'one person one vote' system).

In view of such, we propose to broaden the voting base for the insurance sector from existing 135 corporate votes to individual votes. Members of all insurance and insurance-related professional organisations should have the right to vote. Our proposed eligible voters include:

(1) Insurance Agents

To be an insurance agent, a person must be appointed by an insurer and registered with the [Insurance Agents Registration Board \("IARB"\)](#) set up by [The Hong Kong Federation of Insurers \("HKFI"\)](#). *OUR PROPOSAL: any insurance agent, owner and technical representative who has a qualified registration with the IARB will have voting right.*

(2) Insurance Brokers

An insurance broker can seek authorization from the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance under section 69 of the [Insurance Companies Ordinance \(Cap.41\) \("ICO"\)](#) or apply to become a member of a broker body approved by our Office under section 70 of the ICO. The chief executive and technical representatives of an insurance broker must also be properly registered. At present, there are two approved bodies of insurance brokers in Hong Kong, namely [The Hong Kong Confederation of Insurance Brokers \("HKCIB"\)](#) and [Professional Insurance Brokers Association \("PIBA"\)](#). *OUR PROPOSAL: all registered brokers of the above organisations will have voting right.*

(3) Actuaries

The Actuarial Society of Hong Kong (ASHK) is a professional body with the largest number of practicing actuaries in Hong Kong. It has strict membership criteria. Applicants must be nominated and have acquired respective actuarial professional qualifications and recognitions. *OUR PROPOSAL: the associate members, fellow members and honorary members of ASHK will have voting right.*

(4) The back-office and supporting staff employed by insurance and insurance related companies

Back-office and supporting staff working for insurance and insurance related companies may have attained substantial professional knowledge through different insurance-related public exams: Fellowship of the Chartered Insurance Institute (CII), Fellow, Life Management Institute (FLMI), the Australian and New Zealand Institute of Insurance and Finance Certified Insurance Professional (ANZIIF CIP). *OUR PROPOSAL: any person with any of the above qualification will have voting right.*

(5) Others

Other insurance-related organizations that have a systematic membership mechanism, should be entitled to voting rights. We hope all practitioners in the insurance sector (with or without qualifications/ membership) could have the right to vote. Yet, under the functional constituency framework there must be precise definitions on the entitlement of the individual representation. *OUR PROPOSAL: encompasses at best a broader base for our profession.*

(6) Corporate

The corporate votes of the existing functional constituency for insurance sector under-represent the voices of our members. Corporate votes can be remained only if the voting base be broadened, i.e. from corporate to individual.

We believe our proposal is able to broaden the voting base to attain a better representation of the insurance profession, allowing the Legco election to achieve towards a universal suffrage approach.

In additional to the above, we would like to propose changing the entrance criteria for candidates from existing 5 corporate nominations to a certain number of individual nominations. The diversity will provide better choices for voters.

Yours sincerely,
Insurance agents group – Insurance ARISE
Actuaries group – Act Voice