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Report of the Subcommittee on Poverty

Purpose

This paper reports on the deliberations of the Subcommittee on Poverty ("the Subcommittee").

Background

2. The Subcommittee was appointed by the House Committee ("HC") in October 2012 to study relevant policies and measures for easing the disparity between the rich and the poor as well as alleviating poverty, follow up the work of the Government's Commission on Poverty ("CoP") and make timely recommendations. The terms of reference and membership of the Subcommittee are set out in **Appendices I and II** respectively.

3. Approval was given by HC at its meeting on 15 November 2013 to extend the period of the Subcommittee's work until 18 January 2015 in accordance with rule 26(c) of the House Rules ("HR"). With further approval by HC at its meeting on 9 January 2015, the period of the Subcommittee's work has been further extended to 31 January 2016. The period of work has been extended for the third time to 30 April 2016 by HC at its meeting on 8 January 2016.

4. Since 5 November 2012, the Subcommittee has held a total of 39 meetings with the Administration and received views from deputations/individuals at 23 of these meetings. A list of the deputations/individuals which/who have given views to the Subcommittee is in **Appendix III**. The Subcommittee has completed two reports, one on poverty line and the other on working poverty, and forwarded them to CoP for consideration and response. In addition, a

delegation of the Subcommittee conducted a duty visit in 2013 to study the experience of Taiwan and Japan in alleviating poverty and the findings of the visit were discussed by the Subcommittee. The delegation's report, which contained the findings and the Subcommittee's deliberations, was subsequently prepared and a motion debate on the report was held at the Council meeting of 18 June 2014. The salient points of the aforesaid reports and the Subcommittee's deliberations on other issues are covered in this report. The subjects covered in the report are as follows:

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Paragraph numbers</u>
<u>Deliberation of the Subcommittee</u>	
(a) Poverty line	5 – 12
(b) Measures to alleviate poverty of different social groups	
(i) Working poverty and Low-income Working Family Allowance	13 – 17
(ii) Elderly poverty	18 – 22
(iii) Women in poverty	23 – 25
(iv) Persons with disabilities	26 – 32
(v) New-arrivals and single-parent families	33 – 37
(vi) Ethnic minorities	38 – 40
(vii) Needy students	41 – 46
(viii) Street sleepers	47 – 51
(c) Ways to alleviate poverty	
(i) Development of community economy and bazaars	52 – 56
(ii) Information technology for poverty alleviation	57 – 59
(iii) Promoting development of social enterprises	60 – 62
(iv) Comprehensive Social Security Assistance and basic social security	63 – 64
(v) Relationship between housing and poverty	65 – 67
(d) Work progress of Community Care Fund	68 – 72
(e) Recommendations	73

Deliberations of the Subcommittee

Poverty line

5. After the dissolution of the former CoP in 2007, CoP was reinstated in December 2012 with the setting of a poverty line as one of its main tasks. The Subcommittee prepared a report in May 2013 on poverty line ("the PL report") which put forward a number of recommendations for consideration by CoP.

Functions of poverty line

6. The PL report has recommended that CoP should set the poverty line with the ultimate goal of helping members of the public get out of poverty and improving their quality of living, instead of hiding the poverty problem, and should set specific targets for the elimination of poverty. According to the Administration, there are three major functions of the poverty line, viz. to gauge the poverty situation, to facilitate policy formulation and to review policy effectiveness. The poverty line is not meant to be linked directly to the eligibility criteria of various means-tested assistance programmes. It is not a "poverty alleviation" line. The poverty line is a tool for analysis which will enable the Administration to identify and target various groups of people in need, and analyze and monitor the effectiveness of government policy interventions over time.

Basis and number of poverty lines

7. The PL report has recommended that CoP should set three benchmarks for the poverty line. The lowest benchmark should be a subsistence living protection line based on the concept of disposable income. The middle benchmark should be a poverty line set at 60% of the median monthly household income ("MMHI"). The highest benchmark should be a poverty prevention line, set at 70% of the median household income. The Administration has advised that data of the disposable income are not collected by the Census and Statistics Department ("C&SD")'s General Household Surveys. To take into account the full expenditure pattern of households, up-to-date expenditure data will be required which will only be available in the Household Expenditure Surveys conducted by C&SD every five years. This will make it impossible for the Administration to compile poverty statistics on an annual basis for regular monitoring of the effectiveness of government policy interventions. The poverty line is set at 50% of MMHI before tax

and social benefits transfers (i.e. before government policy intervention). This definition is easy to understand and in line with the international practice adopted by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and local organizations, such as Oxfam Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Council of Social Service. However, there are limitations in the poverty line, e.g. only household income is counted while assets are not. With due regard to the limitations, the Administration will consider poverty alleviation measures based on the needs of different underprivileged groups and will not link the poverty line to the eligibility criteria of various means-tested social welfare schemes.

8. Regarding the number of poverty lines, the Administration has advised that, apart from setting the main poverty line at 50% of MMHI, it does not rule out the option of taking data corresponding to other percentages, such as 40%, 60% and 70%, as reference in the future. On the other hand, the Government Economist ("GEcon") and C&SD will analyze the data based on the framework agreed by CoP, which includes adopting the concept of "relative poverty" based on an income-based approach, and setting the main poverty line at half of MMHI, so as to identify the various characteristics (e.g. social, economic, housing conditions and district characteristics) of households below the poverty line, and conduct detailed analysis on specific groups such as the working poor, poor elderly, households receiving the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ("CSSA"), single-parent families, new-arrivals, etc. This will facilitate the Administration's formulation of targeted poverty alleviation initiatives.

Measures that should be counted in "post-policy intervention household income"

9. The PL report has recommended that CoP should not incorporate public housing benefits as part of the cash income in the calculation of the poverty line, because given that the location of the public housing has a considerable bearing on its market rent, if the public housing benefits are evaluated with this approach, the poverty rate of public housing tenants in urban areas will be substantially underestimated. Concerns have been raised that if CoP incorporates public housing benefits in the calculation of the poverty line, the size of the poor population will be substantially reduced, thus begging doubts about CoP tempering with the figures to understate the size of poor population.

10. The Administration has advised that one of the functions of the poverty line is to assess the effectiveness of government policy intervention on the poverty situation of Hong Kong, and the public housing policy is one of the most important intervention points and most effective policy for assisting low-income families. CoP is exploring the methodology to quantify public housing benefits. CoP will exercise great care in handling the issue and make careful consideration. In addition, upon the setting of the poverty line, the Administration will release to the public the figures before and after policy intervention by the Administration. Therefore, there is no question of CoP understating some figures. Nevertheless, the most important point is what methodology can best measure the effectiveness of the policy. Although the effectiveness of the policy can be reflected in quantitative changes, what the Administration pursues is not increase or decrease in quantity, but really helping the underprivileged and the low-income people in Hong Kong.

First poverty line and updating

11. Following the publication of the first official poverty line (which is set at 50% of MMHI) at the CoP Summit on 28 September 2013, the Subcommittee has been briefed on the updated poverty line and the Hong Kong poverty situation¹. Some members consider that the existing poverty line cannot truly reflect the poverty situation in Hong Kong as it does not take account of the disposable cash income. According to the Administration, the setting of the poverty line is generally in line with the international practice and there are limitations in the poverty line analytical framework ("the framework"), such as defining poverty based on household income only and not incorporating in the framework poverty alleviation impact of public rental housing ("PRH").

12. The Administration has also advised that CoP discussed in April 2016 the GEcon's proposals for enhancing the framework, including that of incorporating the PRH's poverty alleviation impact into the main analysis. CoP considers that there is no pressing need to enhance the framework and refine the poverty rates and relevant statistics compiled according to the current framework. The proposals involve technical

¹ According to the Administration, the number of the poor population and the poverty rate in 2014 stood at 1 324 800 and 19.6% respectively. After policy intervention (recurrent cash) (such as the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance, Old Age Living Allowance, Old Age Allowance, financial assistance for students, the Work Incentive Transport Subsidy, Disability Allowance), the size of poor population reduced to 960 000 while the poverty rate fell to 14.3% in 2014.

issues that require further study and discussion. In the long run, CoP will continue to review the application of the current framework, and explore enhancement proposals and recommendations. Noting that C&SD will release the results of the 2014-2015 Household Expenditure Survey in the second quarter of 2016, CoP has agreed to produce an additional poverty line on expenditure for reference in the 2015 Poverty Situation Report to compare poverty situations defined in terms of household income and expenditure. Households that are poor in terms of both income and expenditure can then be identified. This enables poverty alleviation policies to better focus on those most in need.

Measures to alleviate poverty of different social groups

Working poverty² and Low-income Working Family Allowance

13. In its duty visit, the delegation of the Subcommittee has studied the experience of Taiwan and Japan in tackling working poverty. The visit findings and a comparison with Hong Kong have been presented to the Subcommittee in its discussion of working poverty. Considering the current support by the Administration for low-income working households inadequate, the Subcommittee requests the Administration to alleviate the poverty of these households by providing them with cash subsidies. It calls on the Administration to expeditiously draw up a proposal to provide a territory-wide low-income family allowance with family income and family size as major factors to be taken into account.

14. The Subcommittee had prepared a report on working poverty which was forwarded to CoP in December 2013 for consideration. As stated in that report, the Subcommittee has passed a motion³ calling on the Administration to observe the following principles in introducing the low-income family allowance:

² According to the Administration, after policy intervention (recurrent cash), the number of poor households, the size of the poor population and the poverty rate of non-Comprehensive Social Security Assistance working poor households in 2014 were 136 200, 459 100 and 7.9% respectively.

³ The Subcommittee dealt with the motion at its meeting on 22 November 2013. Seven members (including the Chairman who cannot vote as he does not have an original vote) were present at that time. The motion was passed with five votes in favour of it and one abstention.

- (a) allowance at 100% should be payable on the basis of a household income equivalent to 50% of MMHI in the territory, and progressively reduced with the increase of household income until it reaches 75% of MMHI⁴;
- (b) in addition to the basic allowance, extra support should be given to individual family members in need of support, including school children under the age of 21, people with disabilities, people with chronic illness, elderly people with special needs and school children with learning disorders; and
- (c) the application procedure should be simplified and the asset test should be abolished⁴.

15. In response to the Subcommittee's requests, the Administration has proposed to introduce a Low-income Working Family Allowance ("LIFA") tied to employment and working hours to encourage self-reliance and break the vicious cycle of inter-generational poverty.

Level of allowance for low-income working families

16. Regarding the level of allowance put forward in paragraph 14(a) and (b), the Administration has advised that the design of LIFA aims to provide assistance for needy low-income working families, including those having income below or slightly higher than 50% of MMHI. LIFA's objectives are to encourage employment, promote self-reliance and help alleviate inter-generational poverty. Each eligible child⁵ of a LIFA family will receive an additional Child Allowance of \$800 per month. To help needy elderly people, the Administration has implemented various social security measures such as Old Age Living Allowance, and CoP has launched a public consultation exercise on retirement protection in December 2015. At the same time, a host of Community Care Fund ("CCF") programmes have been implemented to

⁴ At its meeting on 24 March 2014, the Subcommittee discussed its delegation's draft report on the duty visit. Mr TAM Yiu-chung, Dr Priscilla LEUNG and Mr Frankie YICK had reservations on principle (a) and the part regarding abolition of asset test in principle (c). After the meeting, Mr Abraham SHEK and Mr LEUNG Che-cheung expressed to the Secretariat the same reservations as those expressed by the above three Members. Mr CHAN Kin-por also expressed to the Secretariat that he was against principle (a) and the part regarding abolition of asset test in principle (c).

⁵ According to the Administration, an eligible child has to be aged below 15, or aged between 15 and 21 receiving full-time education (but not post-secondary education).

assist the needy. The Administration has conducted a review on the eligibility criteria for Disability Allowance ("DA") and will implement measures set out in paragraph 27 below.

17. As regards the abolition of asset test put forward in paragraph 14(c), the Administration has advised that to ensure that limited public resources will be put on those families most in need, an income test and an asset test will be introduced for LIFA, but the thresholds will be more generous.

*Elderly poverty*⁶

Application for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance on a household basis

18. Some members are concerned that some needy elders are ineligible for applying for CSSA because of the requirement to apply for CSSA on a household basis. Under this requirement, needy elders can apply on their own only if their children sign a statement (commonly known as the "bad son statement") stating that they will not provide financial support to their parents even though they live together. The Subcommittee has passed a motion⁷ calling on the Administration to, inter alia, expeditiously scrap the requirement of "bad son statement" under the CSSA system, so as to allow elderly persons in poverty to apply for CSSA on an individual basis.

19. According to the Administration, the general requirement for applying CSSA on a household basis is to encourage family members to render assistance and support to each other. In addition, CSSA is funded by the government revenue and it should be provided for those most in need. Income-earners should take up the responsibility of supporting their family members who have no financial means, instead of transferring the responsibility to taxpayers. Nevertheless, the Social Welfare Department ("SWD") may allow an elderly person in need to apply for CSSA on his or her own under special circumstances, for example, where an elderly applicant has poor relationship with his or her family members or there are special reasons that children of an applicant cannot provide support for him or her.

⁶ After policy intervention (recurrent cash), the size of the poor elderly population and the poverty rate in 2014 were 0.29 million and 30% respectively. CoP agreed in April 2016 to conduct additional analysis of poverty situation by the age of household heads so as to better gauge the poverty situation of the elderly.

⁷ The motion was passed at the Subcommittee meeting on 22 January 2013.

Retirement protection for the elderly

20. In its duty visit to study the experience of Taiwan and Japan in alleviating poverty, the delegation of the Subcommittee notes that retirement protection is regarded as a right rather than welfare in Japan, the delegation is impressed by Japan's universal retirement protection scheme to which the government, employers and employees are required to contribute. The delegation has been advised that government expenditure on social security payments, including pension payments, has been on the rise due to increase in the elderly population in Japan.

21. The delegation notes that the Japanese government has decided to increase the national sales tax to, inter alia, provide additional funds for the scheme. The general public in Japan accepts using government revenue to maintain the scheme as they consider that the contributions of the elderly to society should be duly recognized. The delegation is of the view that in considering retirement protection for the elderly, the Government should follow values of the retirement protection system in Japan which stems from respecting elderly persons.

22. In discussing the issue of elderly poverty, the Subcommittee has passed a motion⁷ calling on the Administration to, inter alia, reform the Mandatory Provident Fund ("MPF") system, conduct an overhaul of the system of providing care for the elderly and provide retirement protection for all people in Hong Kong. According to the Administration, CoP launched on 22 December 2015 a six-month public engagement exercise on retirement protection. Apart from addressing the core issue on whether the "regardless of rich or poor" principle or the "those with financial needs" principle should be adopted to provide better protection for the elderly, the consultation document also reviews the operation of the MPF and the other pillars⁸.

⁸ The current retirement protection system in Hong Kong comprises the following four pillars that are complementary to one another in serving the needs of different groups of elderly:

- (a) publicly-funded social security schemes;
- (b) mandatory contributions to the Mandatory Provident Fund ("MPF") schemes, as well as other occupation-based retirement schemes;
- (c) voluntary contributions to the MPF schemes, retirement savings-related insurance, etc; and
- (d) public housing, healthcare and welfare services, family support and personal assets (e.g. self-owned properties).

*Women in poverty*⁹

23. The Administration has advised that over the years, it has taken forward and improved a range of measures to help and encourage women get employed and become self-reliant, while in parallel it has also continued to invest in education and create job opportunities. In addition to strengthening employment services as well as training and retraining services, it has improved child care and after-school care services and promoting family-friendly employment practices so as to help release women to join the workforce. Suitable financial assistance will also be provided to encourage employment.

24. Some members consider that the provision of child care services, which is a major factor for releasing women labour force, is seriously inadequate. These members urge the Administration to put more efforts in enhancing child care services, after-school care services, as well as training and retraining services with an aim to lift more women out of poverty. The Administration is also requested to substantially increase the number of places for child care services, particularly that of whole-day kindergartens and after-school care services.

25. According to the Administration, it has been providing subsidies for non-governmental organizations ("NGOs") to run a variety of child care services for children below the age of 6 to support parents, including single parents, who are unable to take care of their children temporarily because of work or other reasons. To remove the barriers for women to enter or stay in employment and to further respond to the community demand for child care services, the Administration will launch a series of measures to enhance child care services helping women balance their work and family commitments. In addition, the Administration will commission a consultancy study to advise on the long-term development of child care services with a view to providing services that meet the needs of the families in Hong Kong. The views of the service sector and different stakeholders will also be gauged in the course of the study.

Persons with disabilities

Recurrent cash benefits for persons with disabilities

26. The Subcommittee has been informed of the poverty situation of

⁹ According to the Administration, before policy intervention, the number of poor females and the poverty rate in 2014 were 705 400 and 20.1% respectively. After policy intervention (recurrent cash), the corresponding figures were 513 100 and 14.6%.

persons with disabilities¹⁰. Noting that the recurrent cash items (e.g. DA, CSSA) are effective in alleviating the poverty situation of persons with disabilities, some members call on the Administration to enhance DA and allow persons with disabilities to apply for CSSA on an individual basis rather than on a household basis. The Administration is also requested to provide a living allowance for carers of persons with disabilities.

27. According to the Administration, the inter-departmental working group co-ordinated by the Labour and Welfare Bureau has completed the review of the eligibility criteria for DA. The Administration will implement the following recommendations of the working group:

- (a) improve the existing medical assessment arrangement for DA; and
- (b) invite CCF to introduce pilot schemes to provide a living allowance for low-income carers of persons with disabilities, raise the maximum level of disregarded earnings for recipients with disabilities under the CSSA Scheme, and provide an additional grant for eligible recipients of higher DA who are in paid employment. The Labour Department ("LD") will invite NGOs to assist in following up the employment support provided for job seekers with disabilities.

28. As regards the suggestion of application for CSSA on an individual basis by person with disabilities, the Administration explains that families constitute the core units of a community, hence members of the same family should render assistance and support to each other. Based on this principle, CSSA applicants, including persons with disabilities who live with their families, are required to submit applications on a household basis.

¹⁰ In 2013, after recurrent cash policy intervention, there were 120 300 poor households with members with disabilities, involving 147 400 persons with disabilities and representing a poverty rate of 29.5% for those with disabilities. The corresponding figures before policy intervention were 190 000 households, 226 200 persons with disabilities and 45.3%. Specifically, the Government's recurrent cash benefits lifted 78 800 persons with disabilities out of poverty and reduced the corresponding poverty rate by 15.8 percentage points.

Employment support for persons with disabilities

29. The Subcommittee has been advised that the Administration's policy objective on promotion of employment of persons with disabilities is to assist persons with disabilities in getting prepared for employment, taking up productive jobs in society on the basis of their abilities, developing their potential and achieving self-reliance, with a view to fostering social integration and building a caring and supportive society. The Administration will continue to provide assistance for persons with disabilities and their employers through various measures and initiatives.

30. Some members take the view that the Administration's policies and measures in this regard are going backwards. They call on the Administration to formulate concrete policies to promote employment of persons with disabilities as well as review the existing policies in this regard. These members consider that the Commissioner for Rehabilitation ("C for R") has the responsibility to coordinate different government bureaux/departments ("B/Ds") to improve the welfare of persons with disabilities. Noting that the Equal Opportunities Commission is considering putting forward a proposal that a statutory duty or requirement be imposed for the provision of reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities, these members hope that C for R will facilitate putting in place the relevant legislation.

31. Some members have expressed concern about whether the Administration has any policies for achieving the 2% target rate of employing persons with disabilities, such as requesting B/Ds to create some posts for hiring a certain number of persons with disabilities. These members call on the Administration to formulate policies to promote positive discrimination.

32. The Administration has advised that it welcomes persons with disabilities to apply for government jobs, and has put in place suitable facilitating measures to ensure that applicants with disabilities who meet the basic entry requirements can compete with other applicants on equal footing, thereby allowing people, able-bodied or disabled alike, to have equal access to job opportunities in the Administration. Whilst considering that the establishment of an employment quota system is neither appropriate nor necessary, the Administration will continue with its efforts in implementing the facilitating measures and consider if suitable refinements will be required.

*New-arrivals*¹¹ *and single-parent families*¹²

33. The Subcommittee has been advised that the Administration is concerned about the service needs of new-arrivals from the Mainland and single-parent families. Various measures have been implemented to relieve their adaptation problem and enhance their capability to be self-reliant.

34. Some members take the view that there is a need to resume the operation of the former Post-Migration Centres ("PMCs") and single-parent centres, given that these centres have helped foster a sense of mutual support among new-arrivals and single parents. These members also consider that the wide scope of services provided by the Integrated Family Service Centres ("IFSCs") cannot meet the specific needs of new-arrivals and single parents. These members call on the Steering Committee on Population Policy ("SCPP") to carry out planning for the provision of specific support for new-arrivals and single-parent families.

35. According to the Administration, IFSCs provide better coordination of family services to meet multiple needs of new-arrivals and single-parent families in a holistic manner. There is no plan to resume the operation of PMCs and single-parent centres. SCPP plans to conduct public consultation to collect the community's views on various population issues.

36. Noting that the poverty rate (32.4%) of new-arrival households after policy intervention (recurrent cash) is much higher than the overall average (14.3%), some members urge the Administration to implement specific measures to help these households alleviate poverty. Child care services should be reviewed to facilitate newly-arrived women to take up employment. These members are also concerned about the serious problem of discrimination against new-arrivals which may arise from misunderstandings about new-arrivals. The Administration is urged to eliminate discrimination against new-arrivals swiftly before the situation worsens.

¹¹ According to the Administration, after policy intervention (recurrent cash), the number of poor new-arrival households and the poverty rate in 2014 were 83 900 and 32.4% respectively.

¹² According to the Administration, after policy intervention (recurrent cash), the number of poor single-parent households and the poverty rate in 2014 were 72 100 and 36.4% respectively.

37. The Administration explains that its poverty alleviation policy is to encourage self-reliance through employment, whilst putting in place a reasonable and sustainable social security and welfare system to help those who cannot provide for themselves. The Administration will allocate resources to help the most needy. The introduction of LIFA and the one-year residence requirement for CSSA applicants may help improve the poverty situation of new-arrival poor households. As regards the discrimination problem, the Administration has advised that it has been facilitating early integration of new-arrivals into the local community through providing them with appropriate support services, employment assistance services, retraining programmes, etc.

*Ethnic minorities*¹³

38. According to the Administration, it attaches great importance to poverty alleviation, in particular on how to better cater for the needs of the underprivileged, including ethnic minorities ("EMs"). To help them adapt to life in Hong Kong, the Administration will continue to introduce targeted support measures well suited to the needs of EMs through various B/Ds, and step up publicity to improve accessibility for EMs to public services for more effective and fruitful implementation of policies.

39. Some members share deputations' concerns that some EMs have encountered difficulties in securing employment, using public services and receiving education due to the problems of language barrier and cultural differences. In relation to employment, EMs of some origins, e.g. Nepalese, have a high labour force participation rate but are facing the problems of long working hours and low income. In respect of education, some kindergartens ("KGs") conduct admission interviews in Cantonese, which have placed EM children in an unfavourable position for securing admission to KGs. Many schools, which have admitted less than 10 EMs, do not receive additional resources from the Administration. As regards provision of public services, the Administration is requested to provide one-stop service to facilitate needy EMs to apply for government assistance.

¹³ According to the Administration, based on the 2011 Population Census, the number of poor ethnic minority ("EM") households and the size of the poor population after policy intervention were estimated to be 9 800 households and 26 800 persons respectively in 2011. The EM poverty rate was 13.9%, lower than the overall poverty rate of 15.2% after policy intervention (recurrent cash) over the same period. However, wide variations were observed across ethnic groups. Among the ethnic groups, the poverty rate of South Asians was rather high, at 22.6%.

40. The Subcommittee notes that according to the Hong Kong Poverty Situation Report on Ethnic Minorities 2014 which uses the data from the 2011 Population Census for analysis, more than half (57%) of EMs in 2011 were foreign domestic helpers ("FDHs"). Some members are concerned that notwithstanding the large proportion of FDHs in the EM population, FDHs and their children born in Hong Kong are not covered by the Report. The Administration has explained that FDHs work in Hong Kong with restricted conditions of stay and are not entitled to such social benefits as education, public housing and welfare. They are therefore not included in the analysis of the Report. Their children born in Hong Kong, however, will be provided with social welfare services subject to their needs.

Needy students

41. The Subcommittee notes that the Administration's policy on student finance is to ensure that no student is denied access to education due to lack of means. The Student Finance Office ("SFO") of the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency administers various means-tested and non-means-tested student financial assistance and loan schemes, covering students from pre-primary to post-secondary levels and people pursuing continuing education.

42. Some members call on the Administration to critically review the existing arrangement of deducting CSSA and rent allowance under the CSSA Scheme payable to CSSA households whose family members are receiving loan from SFO. The level of financial assistance payable to these CSSA households should not be affected and needy students should be allowed to opt for CSSA or grant/loan provided by SFO. Members also suggest that the family income thresholds for different tiers of student financial assistance provided by SFO should be adjusted correspondingly after the setting of the poverty line. According to the Administration, it has included post-secondary students of CSSA households in the calculation of rent allowance with effect from April 2014 so that a family's entitlement to rent allowance will not be affected if it has member(s) receiving post-secondary education.

43. Some members request the Administration to review the mode of subsidy for after-school tutorial classes and extra-curriculum activities. They call on the Administration to consider providing schools with non-accountable subsidy to run these activities. To ensure a balanced provision of after-school tutorial classes and extra-curriculum activities, these members suggest that the Administration should set the percentages of subsidy to be allocated to different categories of activities. Provision

of subsidy for tutorial classes offered by non-subvented organizations should also be considered. The Subcommittee also calls on the Administration to enhance financial support for students enrolled in sub-degree programmes.

44. The Subcommittee supports the Administration's funding proposals for CCF to launch two pilot programmes for needy post-secondary students. The first proposal is to provide subsidy for these students to meet student hostel expenses so that they are not denied hostel accommodation when offered a hostel place because of lack of means. The second proposal is to increase the academic expenses grant under the Financial Assistance Scheme for Post-secondary Students to strengthen the Administration's support for needy students pursuing locally-accredited self-financing post-secondary programmes. Some members call on the Administration to reduce the pilot period of these assistance programmes from three years to one year.

45. The Subcommittee also supports another two proposed CCF programmes which aim at enhancing support for primary, secondary and post-secondary students with special educational needs ("SEN") and financial needs. The first proposal is to provide funding for ordinary schools to arrange SEN coordinators ("SENCO"). The second proposal is to enhance the academic expenses grants for students with SEN pursuing post-secondary programmes. Some members call on the Administration to provide cash grant for all ordinary schools admitting students with SEN to address their special needs irrespective of their financial status. These members take the view that the proposed level of cash grant, equivalent to the mid-point salary of Graduate Masters/Mistresses or Assistant Primary School Masters/Mistresses, is not adequate to allow schools to release or employ experienced Graduate Masters/Mistresses who are considered more appropriate to take up the post of SENCO. The Administration is requested to consider increasing the amount of cash grant and reviewing the pilot programme on SENCO during the three-year pilot period.

46. The Subcommittee also supports the proposed CCF programme to provide a one-off grant for school-related expenses for KG students in the 2016-2017 school year before the implementation of the free quality KG education policy ("the Policy") in the 2017-2018 school year. Some members urge the Administration to consider disbursing the grant before October 2016 and examining whether the amount of the grant is inadequate for eligible KG students to cover school-related expenses. The Administration is also requested to consider consolidating, before the implementation of the Policy, the financial assistance schemes for

different levels of education under the student financial assistance mechanism. These members also urge the Administration to require KGs to enhance the transparency of their charges, so as to facilitate the selection of KGs by parents and a realistic calculation of school-related expenses by the Administration in designing relevant assistance programmes. These members also call on the Education Bureau to consider collaborating with the Innovation and Technology Bureau to take measures to facilitate learning of KG students with SEN.

Street sleepers

47. The Subcommittee has been informed that the Administration's support services for street sleepers include, inter alia, services provided by the Society for Community Organization ("SoCO") under the Watchers Project and by three Integrated Services Teams for Street Sleepers ("ISTs"), provision of accommodation, CSSA and temporary cold shelters.

48. Some members take the view that the services provided by SoCO and ISTs do not address the needs of street sleepers. These members express concern that under the Funding and Services Agreements signed between SWD and the subvented NGOs operating ISTs or emergency shelters/hostels, street sleepers are generally not allowed to live in emergency shelters/hostels for a period longer than six months. SWD should consider allowing flexibility in this regard to address the problem of shortage of temporary accommodation. These members also express concern about the inadequate amount of maximum rental allowance ("MRA") under the CSSA Scheme to provide financial assistance to street sleepers. The Administration is therefore requested to increase the amount of MRA.

49. Some members are also concerned about the undesirable operation of temporary cold shelters. For example, the Home Affairs Department ("HAD") used a small conference room in a community centre as a temporary cold shelter during daytime, while the community hall of that centre, with a capacity of over 120 persons, was used for organizing other activities. As a result, only a small number of street sleepers could be accommodated in that shelter. These members urge the Administration to improve the operation of temporary cold shelters.

50. Some members also express concern about the disrespectful treatment of street sleepers by the Administration. According to these members, government departments had not given advance notice to street sleepers living at pedestrian subways before carrying out cleansing

operations at the subways concerned in cold days, resulting in wetting of their beddings. These members call for a respectful treatment of street sleepers by the Administration. Specifically the Administration is requested to pledge to give street sleepers advance notice of cleansing operations in future.

51. According to the Administration, it will continue treating street sleepers with respect. During the aforesaid cleansing operations, fenders are used to avoid wetting the beddings of the street sleepers as far as possible. The NGOs providing services to street sleepers in districts will help notify street sleepers of the cleansing operations to be conducted in the districts concerned.

Ways to alleviate poverty

Development of community economy and bazaars

52. In its duty visit, the delegation of the Subcommittee has studied the strategies for promoting community economy in Japan and Taiwan. The delegation observes that the success in community vitalization in the two places attributes to high involvement of the stakeholders concerned in mapping out and implementing a development plan under guidance of the community leaders. Building sustainable interest in the community by leveraging on its distinctive geographical, economic and/or cultural characteristics also contributes to the success. The support of the government in terms of providing financial assistance and support on infrastructural development is also important in community vitalization. In discussing the issue of alleviating poverty through promoting community economy, the Subcommittee considers that, like Japan and Taiwan, development of community economy in Hong Kong should be carried out in a holistic manner with the tripartite participation of stakeholders, the business sector and the government.

53. Members consider that the development of community economy and bazaars can help the poor, in particular the socially disadvantaged residing in remote areas, get rid of poverty. The Subcommittee has passed a motion¹⁴ urging the Administration to set up under CoP a task force on poverty alleviation at district level, so as to draw up appropriate and innovative poverty alleviation plans for addressing the poverty situation of various districts. According to the Administration, there are mechanisms in the Administration dealing with district-oriented poverty alleviation work, including the development of bazaars. CoP will invite

¹⁴ The motion was passed at the Subcommittee meeting on 12 January 2015.

HAD to brief its members on district-based poverty alleviation work. CoP has agreed that it is not necessary to set up a dedicated task force to follow up the matters concerned at this stage.

54. Members share deputations' view that development of community economy and bazaars is not only a mode of social economy but also beneficial to people's livelihood. Such development is also an effective way to alleviate poverty. Community groups have therefore made many efforts in putting forward many creative ideas of developing community economy and implementing community economy projects, which help alleviate poverty. However, development of community economy and bazaars is hindered in the absence of a specific government policy or a platform for coordination of the Administration's handling of applications for operating community economy projects. District Councils ("DCs") cannot help much in developing community economy as too many government departments are involved in handling applications for operating community economy projects.

55. The Administration has explained that it seeks to formulate a hawker policy which can strike an optimal balance between allowing licensed hawking business to thrive on the one hand, and meeting other legitimate concerns in addition to ensuring food safety, environmental hygiene, and public security on the other. More specifically, on top of measures that are being taken, the Administration is prepared to look into a number of proposals relating to hawker policy which include, inter alia, local open-air bazaars. The Administration keeps an open mind towards the views in recent years on the setting up of local open-air bazaars. The Administration recommends that a district-led approach should be pursued, given that it will stand a better chance of success, if the unique circumstances, choice of venues and mode of operation etc. specific to individual districts are taken into account. Any proposals can be raised with the Food and Health Bureau ("FHB"). Through liaison with the relevant B/Ds, holistic considerations can be given by the Administration from the angles of food safety, environmental hygiene, public safety (including fire safety and obstruction of passageways). Provided that the above aspects are not compromised by adverse impacts, the Administration will offer assistance. In this connection, the proposals to set up local bazaars in four districts, which were received by FHB in November 2015, will be discussed and followed up by relevant DCs. In the meantime, one of the relevant DCs has already set up a working group to follow up issues relating to the development of bazaars in the district. The Administration hopes that the handling of bazaar-related issues can be improved, having regard to the experience gained.

56. Notwithstanding the Administration's explanation, members call on the Administration to set up an inter-departmental platform and formulate a specific policy on the development of community economy and bazaars to facilitate poverty alleviation at the district level. Considering the relevant legislation on co-operative societies outdated, members also urge the Administration to review the relevant legislation. These suggestions have been conveyed to the Chief Secretary for Administration, Chairman of CoP, for consideration and response. In addition, the Financial Secretary is requested to include the specific policy on the development of community economy in the overall economic strategy for Hong Kong.

Information technology for poverty alleviation

57. In discussing ways to alleviate poverty through information technology ("IT"), some members take the view that the Administration should help bridge the digital divide of the underprivileged groups by providing them with the necessary software, hardware and financial support to access the Internet to facilitate their upward mobility. These members urge the Administration to include Internet access subsidy in the CSSA Scheme and provide Internet access subsidy for low-income persons with disabilities. The Administration is also requested to review the existing support measures relating to information and communications technology.

58. According to the Administration, persons with disabilities can access the Internet using computers provided at various rehabilitation service organizations subvented by SWD. Eligible students with disabilities can apply for Subsidy for Internet Access Charges or participate in the Internet Learning Support Programme. The Central Fund for Personal Computers has been set up under SWD to assist eligible persons with disabilities in acquiring the required computer facilities for self-employment at home or receiving supported employment service at home with guidance and follow-up services to be provided by the nominating rehabilitation service organizations or the Selective Placement Division of LD. SWD, with the auspices of the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, has launched The Jockey Club IT Scheme for People with Visual Impairment to support NGOs and not-for-profit organizations, which provide services/schooling for people with visual impairment and tertiary institutions, to acquire advanced Chinese screen readers and Braille displays. The Scheme also subsidizes individual people with visual impairment who require the usage of high-performance IT for the purpose of studies or employment, and have genuine financial difficulty in purchasing the aids.

59. The Administration has also advised that under the Support Programme for Employees with Disabilities, employers of persons with disabilities would be provided with a one-off subsidy for each person with disabilities for procurement of assistive devices and/or workplace modifications, so as to facilitate employees with disabilities in discharging their duties at the workplace. As the provision of Subsidy for Internet Access Charges is a regular measure, it will not be necessary to separately include Internet access subsidy in the CSSA Scheme. The Administration will also consider taking measures to increase the usage rate of computer and Internet by persons with disabilities.

Promoting development of social enterprises

60. Members note that the Administration actively promotes the development of social enterprises ("SEs"), such as through the Enhancing Self-Reliance Through District Partnership Programme and the "Enhancing Employment of People with Disabilities through Small Enterprise" Project ("the Project"). The Administration aims to enable the socially disadvantaged to be self-reliant through employment, and to meet the needs of different community groups with entrepreneurial thinking and innovative approaches, with a view to cultivating a caring culture as well as promoting social cohesion and mutual help.

61. Some members call on the Administration to review SE policies. They consider that in developing SEs, the Administration should make reference to the strategies adopted by places such as the United Kingdom ("UK"), Spain, Taiwan and the Republic of Korea the governments of which are heavily involved in supporting SEs. These members request the Administration to refer to the reports of the duty visits to study the development of SEs in the aforesaid places conducted by the Subcommittee to Study the Subject of Combating Poverty (formed under HC) in 2007 and the Subcommittee on Poverty Alleviation (formed under the Panel on Welfare Services) in 2009. The Administration is also requested to consider providing a subsidy (with a cap on the amount) for participants of the Project to cover part of the deficit so as to continue business after the three-year set-up period, so that employees with disabilities can remain in employment. These members also urge the Administration to consider rolling out supportive measures for SEs such as providing premises at concessionary rent, according priority to procuring SE services and products as well as offering tax concession to SEs.

62. According to the Administration, it has been keeping in view SE developments in overseas places, particularly UK, Spain and the United

States of America. It has also referred to the findings of the duty visit reports of the two Subcommittees in relation to promoting SE development. It will relay the suggestion of providing a subsidy for participants of the Project to the Advisory Committee on Enhancing Employment of Persons with Disabilities for consideration. The Administration has also advised that instead of leasing vacant government premises by open tenders, the Administration will, subject to policy support, consider granting short-term leases to SEs as operating venues. Seed grants are provided for SEs for their initial operation although no concessionary rent is offered to SEs as they should be operated similar to commercial enterprises and should be self-financing in their operation. HAD has appealed to other government departments to accord priority to using SE services or products. HAD and its district offices have given priority to using catering services provided by SEs.

Comprehensive Social Security Assistance and basic social security

63. The Subcommittee has been advised that the purpose of the CSSA Scheme is to provide a safety net for those who cannot support themselves financially due to old age, illness, disability, single parenthood, unemployment, low income, etc. so as to meet their basic needs. According to the Administration, when the average CSSA payments are compared with the 25% non-CSSA households with the lowest expenditure, the former is higher in all household categories¹⁵.

64. Some members consider that such a comparison may give a wrong impression to the public that the expenditure levels of CSSA households and the aforesaid non-CSSA households were similar. A fair comparison can only be made when the expenditure levels of the relevant category of CSSA households are compared to those of the corresponding percentile of households. These members share deputations' concern that the existing level of the CSSA payments is inadequate to maintain subsistence living. The grassroots are mostly living in sub-divided units and suffering from high rental. In addition, the items of basic needs covered by the CSSA standard payments are outdated. In view of the above and given that a review of the CSSA Scheme was last conducted 20 years ago, these members call on the Administration to expeditiously conduct a comprehensive review of the CSSA Scheme and set a subsistence living protection line. The Administration is also requested to conduct subsequent reviews of the CSSA Scheme at least once every 10 years.

¹⁵ There are six household categories which are classified according to the number of eligible family members, i.e. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 persons and above.

Relationship between housing and poverty

65. In examining the relationship between housing and poverty, some members take the view that if the provision of PRH is effective in alleviating poverty, the Administration should meet the housing needs of the poor by building more PRH. Alternatively, an allowance which is equivalent to the amount of rental subsidy for PRH should be provided for those who are living below the poverty line for renting private housing.

66. The Subcommittee notes that rent allowance is payable to CSSA households to meet accommodation expenses. The amount of the allowance is the actual rent paid by the household, or MRA determined with reference to the number of members in the household who are eligible for CSSA, whichever is the less. Some members consider that the existing MRA adjustment mechanism fails to reflect the actual rent paid by CSSA recipients and those CSSA households not being affected by rental increase should be excluded from the calculation of MRA. These members call on the Administration to review the MRA adjustment mechanism.

67. Some members have also called on the Administration to seriously consider exempting needy single families which are eligible for application for PRH from the residence requirement. The Administration is also requested to consider regularizing the CCF assistance programmes for the low-income earners who are inadequately housed and for CSSA households living in private housing and paying a rent which exceeds MRA. Subsidies under these assistance programmes should be provided for eligible persons on a quarterly or half-yearly basis. These members consider that to solve the problem at root, the Administration should determine MRA by making reference to the actual rent paid by 90% of the CSSA households living in private housing.

Work progress of Community Care Fund

68. The Subcommittee has been consulted prior to the Administration's launching of brand-new CCF programmes which are pilot in nature and the funding provision of which is expected to exceed \$100 million. The Subcommittee has also been briefed regularly on the funding position of CCF and the implementation progress of its programmes every six months.

69. Some members note with concern that some landlords have

requested tenants of sub-divided units to pay electricity fees at a rate which is higher than those charged by power companies. These members also share deputations' concern that over 30% of CSSA cases are with actual rent exceeding MRA. In this connection, these members call on the CCF Task Force to provide subsidies on electricity and rental charges to relieve the financial burden of these tenants.

70. According to the Administration, in considering whether a new assistance programme should be rolled out, the CCF Task Force will take into account:

- (a) whether the proposed assistance programme will be in conflict with and have any read-across implications on the existing government policies;
- (b) implementation details, including ways to identify the target beneficiaries and means to help them;
- (c) whether the proposed assistance programme is a one-off measure in response to special circumstances or will be regularized to provide assistance in the long run;
- (d) the feasibility of regularizing the proposed assistance programme if it is proven effective. The Administration will also consider whether that programme can fit in with other regular programmes; and
- (e) allocation of resources which will be the last consideration.

71. The Administration has further advised that the suggestion of the provision of subsidies on electricity and rental charges may trigger an increase in the rate of electricity fees charged by landlords of sub-divided units and rental level in private housing respectively. In the end, recipients of these subsidies may not benefit from the assistance.

72. Some members consider that the CCF assistance programmes, which have been run for three years or more, should be incorporated into the Administration's regular assistance and service programmes. According to the Administration, the majority of assistance programmes are three-year programmes. Their effectiveness may be evaluated in the second pilot year with a view to exploring the feasibility of regularization or the need for extending the implementation period. In the coming years, the Administration will earmark significant amount of resources to implement several major policies. This may reduce the capacity of the

Administration to regularize CCF assistance programmes, thereby delaying the incorporation of effective assistance programmes which have been run for three or more years into the Administration's regular assistance and service programmes. In that case, CCF will continue implementing those affected programmes for the benefit of the needy.

Recommendations

73. The Subcommittee urges the Administration to take into account the views and concerns expressed by members and deputations on various issues of concern as set out above. The Subcommittee also recommends that the Administration should:

Elderly poverty

- (a) expeditiously scrap the requirement of "bad son statement" under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ("CSSA") system, so as to allow elderly persons to apply for CSSA on an individual basis;
- (b) reform the Mandatory Provident Fund system, conduct an overhaul of the system of providing care for the elderly and provide retirement protection for all people in Hong Kong;

Women in poverty

- (c) put more efforts in enhancing child care services, after-school care services, as well as training and retraining services with an aim to lift more women out of poverty;
- (d) substantially increase the number of places for child care services, particularly that of whole-day kindergartens and after-school care services;

Persons with disabilities

- (e) enhance Disability Allowance and allow persons with disabilities to apply for CSSA on an individual basis rather than on a household basis;
- (f) formulate concrete policies to promote positive discrimination and employment of persons with disabilities as well as review the existing policies in this regard;

- (g) impose a statutory duty or requirement for the provision of reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities;

New-arrivals and single-parent families

- (h) carry out planning for the provision of specific support for new-arrivals and single-parent families;
- (i) implement specific measures to help new-arrival households alleviate poverty and eliminate swiftly discrimination against new-arrivals which may arise from misunderstanding about them;

Ethnic minorities

- (j) provide one-stop service to facilitate needy ethnic minorities to apply for government assistance;

Needy students

- (k) review the mode of subsidy for after-school tutorial classes and extra-curriculum activities;
- (l) enhance financial support for students enrolled in sub-degree programmes;
- (m) consider reviewing the pilot programme on special educational needs ("SEN") coordinators and increasing the amount of cash grant during the three-year pilot period;
- (n) consider consolidating, before the implementation of the free quality kindergarten ("KG") education policy, the financial assistance schemes for different levels of education under the student financial assistance mechanism;
- (o) require KGs to enhance the transparency of their charges and consider taking measures with joint efforts of the Education Bureau and the Innovation and Technology Bureau to facilitate learning of KG students with SEN;

Street sleepers

- (p) address the problem of shortage of temporary accommodation and increase the amount of maximum rental allowance ("MRA") under the CSSA Scheme to provide financial assistance to street sleepers;
- (q) improve the operation of temporary cold shelters and treat street sleepers with respect, e.g. give street sleepers advance notice of cleansing operations in future;

Development of community economy and bazaars

- (r) set up an inter-departmental platform and formulate a specific policy on the development of community economy and bazaars to facilitate poverty alleviation at the district level;
- (s) review the relevant legislation on co-operative societies;

Information technology for poverty alleviation

- (t) include Internet access subsidy in the CSSA Scheme and provide Internet access subsidy for low-income persons with disabilities;
- (u) review the existing support measures relating to information and communications technology;

Promoting development of social enterprises

- (v) review policies on promoting development of social enterprises ("SEs");
- (w) consider providing a subsidy (with a cap on the amount) for participants of the "Enhancing Employment of People with Disabilities through Small Enterprise" Project to cover part of the deficit so as to continue business after the three-year set-up period, so that employees with disabilities can remain in employment;
- (x) consider rolling out supportive measures for SEs such as providing premises at concessionary rent, according priority to procuring SE services and products as well as offering tax concession to SEs;

Comprehensive Social Security Assistance and basic social security

- (y) expeditiously conduct a comprehensive review of the CSSA Scheme and set a subsistence living protection line;
- (z) conduct subsequent reviews of the CSSA Scheme at least once every 10 years;

Relationship between housing and poverty

- (aa) meet the housing needs of the poor by building more public rental housing;
- (ab) review the MRA adjustment mechanism;
- (ac) consider regularizing the Community Care Fund ("CCF") assistance programmes for the low-income earners who are inadequately housed and for CSSA households living in private housing and paying a rent which exceeds MRA;

Work progress of Community Care Fund

- (ad) provide subsidies on electricity and rental charges to relieve the financial burden of tenants of sub-divided units; and
- (ae) regulate CCF assistance programmes which have been run for three years or more.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
18 May 2016

Subcommittee on Poverty

Terms of reference

To study relevant policies and measures to ease the disparity between the rich and the poor and alleviate poverty, follow up the work of the Government's Commission on Poverty and make timely recommendations.

Subcommittee on Poverty**Membership list**

Chairman	Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP (up to 24 February 2015) Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung (since 24 February 2015)
Deputy Chairman	Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung (up to 24 February 2015) Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP (since 24 February 2015)
Members	Hon Albert HO Chun-yan Hon LEE Cheuk-yan Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung (since 11 December 2012) Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC (up to 30 September 2015) Hon CHAN Kin-por, BBS, JP Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP (up to 23 January 2013) Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung Hon WONG Yuk-man Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, JP Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP (since 11 December 2012) Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (since 11 December 2012) Hon CHAN Yuen-han, SBS, JP Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki Hon KWOK Wai-keung Hon TANG Ka-piu, JP

(Total : 21 Members)

Clerk	Mr Colin CHUI
Legal adviser	Miss Rachel DAI
Date	2 October 2015

Subcommittee on Poverty

List of deputations/individuals which/who have given oral representation to the Subcommittee

1. "I want low income allowance" alliance
2. \$3600 Poor L Concern Group
3. 1st Step Association
4. A.I.M. Group
5. Academic for Universal Pension
6. Alliance for Children's Development Rights
7. Alliance for Concerning Grassroots Housing Rights
8. Alliance for Social Protection of Low Income Families
9. Alliance for Universal Pension
10. Alliance of Social Economy
11. Captain O
12. Care-taker's Concern Group
13. Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong Diocesan Pastoral Centre for Workers (Kowloon)
14. Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong Diocesan Pastoral Centre for Workers (New Territories)
15. Catholic Workers Centre
16. Chinese Grey Power
17. Chosen Power (People First Hong Kong)
18. Christian Concern For The Homeless Association
19. Civic Party
20. Cleaning Workers Union
21. COME Groundworks
22. Community Craft Development Concern Group
23. Community Development Alliance
24. Community Development Enhance Fund
25. Community Oriented Mutual Economy Project Committee Board Member
26. Community Project, The Salvation Army
27. Community Technology Development Concern Group
28. Concern EM Housing Alliance
29. Concern for clearance of Homeless area
30. Concern for employment on Homeless
31. Concern for Grassroot Livelihood Alliance
32. Concern for Homeless Again
33. Concern for Single Person
34. Concern for temporary shelter
35. Concern Group for TSW Public Market
36. Concern Group of SSP Bazaar

37. Concern Group of Women Poverty
38. Concerning CSSA & Low Income Alliance
39. Concerning Grassroot Housing Right Alliance
40. Concerning Grass-root Living Alliances
41. Concerning Grassroots Alliance
42. Concerning Urban Housing Rights Social Workers Alliance
43. Cooperatives Alliance
44. CSSA Alliance Action Group
45. Deaf Rights
46. Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong
47. Disadvantaged Youth Concern Group
48. Dr Donna WONG
49. Dr James Patrick VERE
50. Dr LEUNG Chi-yuen
51. Eco-Feminist Cooperative Network
52. Elderly Council of Tsuen Kwai Tsing District
53. Elderly Welfare Group
54. EM Employment Concern Group
55. EM Equal Access Core Group
56. Equal Access Group
57. Equal Access to Government services Concern Group for Hong Kong Ethnic Minority
58. Equal Opportunities Commission
59. Extra-ordinary Human Resources Market
60. Fair Circle
61. Fanling Low Income Concern Group
62. Grassroots Development Centre
63. Green Shop
64. H.K. Homeless Concern Group
65. H.K. Street Sleeper Concern Group
66. Hands – Homemade Production Project
67. Hidden Women Art Craft Studio
68. HK Ample Love Society
69. HK SKH Lady MacLehose Centre
70. Homemakers Alliance Universal Pension Concern Group
71. Hong Kong Association for Democracy and People's Livelihood
72. Hong Kong Association for the Survivors of Women Abuse (Kwan Fook)
73. Hong Kong Association of the Deaf
74. Hong Kong Blind Union
75. Hong Kong Catholic Commission for Labour Affairs
76. Hong Kong Christian Institute
77. Hong Kong Christian Service
78. Hong Kong Federation of the Blind
79. Hong Kong Federation of Women's Centres
80. Hong Kong Human Rights Monitor

81. Hong Kong Neuro-Muscular Disease Association Limited
82. Hong Kong Policy Viewers
83. Hong Kong Social Economy Alliance
84. Hong Kong Social Workers' General Union
85. Hong Kong Unison Limited
86. Hong Kong Women Workers' Association
87. Improve Grassroot Case Concern Group
88. India Association
89. Industrial Relations Institute
90. Injured Workers and Families Support Group
91. Integrated Service for Street Sleepers, The Salvation Army
92. International Human Right Forum
93. ISS-HK-Hope Support Service Centre For Ethnic Minority
94. Jammu Kashmir Association (HK)
95. Justice and Peace Commission of the HK Catholic Diocese
96. Justice Centre Hong Kong
97. Khatme-Nubuwwat Movement HK
98. Kong Yeah
99. Kwai Chung Community Workers Union
100. Kwai Chung Estate Community Union
101. Kwai Chung Estate Grassroot Concern Group
102. Kwai Chung Estate Labour Rights Concern Group
103. Kwai Chung Estate Striving For the Transportation Subsidy Concern Group
104. Kwai Chung Standard Working Hour Concern Group
105. Kwai Fong Estate Elderly Rights Concern Group
106. Kwai Fong Low Income Family Concern Group
107. Kwai Shing Elder's Rights Concern Group
108. Kwai Shing Parents' Rights Concern Group
109. Kwun Tong Methodist Social Service
110. Labour Party
111. Labour Rights Commune
112. League of Social Democrats
113. Liberal Party
114. Liberal Party Youth Committee
115. Light Up
116. Love China Hong Kong Alliance of Youth Cultural Societies
117. Mcdonalds Homeless Concern Group
118. Miss Amanda Queiroz
119. Miss CHEUNG Sze-wing
120. Miss Christina TSAO
121. Miss Cynthia CHEUNG Sin-tung
122. Miss Evangeline LAU Chung-ki
123. Miss FAN Pui-ying
124. Miss HO Sze-wai
125. Miss KWAN Cho-yi

126. Miss KWAN Kit-man
127. Miss KWOK Hong-lee
128. Miss LAI Wan-yiu
129. Miss LAM Yan-pui
130. Miss LAU Tsz-ka
131. Miss LEUNG Chui-shan
132. Miss LUI Fei-bui
133. Miss Mabel LAU
134. Miss NGAI Lok-yi
135. Miss Sangita Datta
136. Miss TSOI Chung-wai
137. Miss WU Kwun-wing
138. Miss YEUNG Pui-yan
139. Miss YU Cheuk-lam
140. Mr Alex FU Chuen-lung
141. Mr Alexander YEUNG
142. Mr Anthony YIU
143. Mr CHAN Chung-yau
144. Mr CHAN Chun-ki
145. Mr CHAN Sing-wai
146. Mr CHAN Tsz-kin
147. Mr CHEUNG Chi-kuen
148. Mr CHONG Tik-man
149. Mr CHOW Kin-wa
150. Mr Eiddle CHEUNG
151. Mr FU Siu-hung
152. Mr HO Chi-chung
153. Mr KWOK Chung-man
154. Mr LAM Kit-seng
155. Mr LAU Ka-cheong
156. Mr LEE Kwok-kuen
157. Mr LEE Tai-shing
158. Mr LEUNG Hoi-fu
159. Mr LEUNG Kwok-tung
160. Mr LIU Man-king
161. Mr LO Ho-yuen
162. Mr Michael FUNG Kei-lap
163. Mr NG Wai-ki
164. Mr NGAN Man-yu, Member of Kwun Tong District Council
165. Mr POON Chi-wang
166. Mr POON Wing-Lok
167. Mr SI Wai-san
168. Mr Simon KO Chong
169. Mr SO Chi-hong
170. Mr TANG Po-shan
171. Mr TANG Siu-chung

172. Mr TSANG Kai
173. Mr TSE Tsz-kei, Member of Eastern District Council
174. Mr Victor NG
175. Mr WONG Chi-yung
176. Mr WONG Kwai-sang
177. Mr WONG Yat-tak
178. Mr WONG Yun-tat, Member of Kwai Ching District Council
179. Mr WU Ho-chi
180. Ms ALE, Samantha
181. Ms CHAN Wa-chun
182. Ms CHAU Mun-tai
183. Ms CHEUNG Kam-siu
184. Ms CHIU Lai-hing
185. Ms CHOI Pik-kwan
186. Ms HO Shuk-yi
187. Ms HU Kwun-wing
188. Ms KWONG Ka-yan
189. Ms LAM Chung-yan, Member of Sha Tin District Council
190. Ms LEE Lan-chu
191. Ms LEE Mei-yin
192. Ms Lynn LAW
193. Ms NARGIS
194. Ms YEUNG Fung-yee
195. Ms YIM Wai-sum
196. Neighbourhood & Worker's Service Centre
197. Nepalese Workers' Group
198. Nepali Union Church
199. New People's Party
200. New Territories Evangelical Ambassador
201. New Women Arrivals League
202. Night Market Concern Group
203. North District Employment Concern Group
204. North District Grassroots Workers Group
205. North District Low Income Concern Group
206. NWSC grass-root women concerning association
207. Oxfam Hong Kong
208. Pakistan Women Association of HK
209. Pakistani Students Association Hong Kong
210. Parents Concern Group
211. PathFinders
212. People Power
213. Professor HUI Po-keung
214. Promoters & Casual Workers Union
215. Promoting Home Made Culture Concern Group
216. Promoting Localized Production Concern Group
217. Rehabilitation Alliance Hong Kong

218. Rights of Low Income Family Concern Group
219. SEN 社會希望會
220. Shadow Commission on Poverty
221. Shamshuipo Community Association
222. Shek Wu Hui Sub-divided Flats Concern Group
223. Sheung Shui Concern Low-Income Group
224. Silence
225. Smart & Beauty House
226. Social Development For HK's Future
227. Society for Community Organization
228. Society for Cultural Integration
229. Special Educational Needs Rights Association
230. St. James' Settlement
231. Supporting Grassroots' Bazaar Alliance
232. Sustainability Research Centre
233. The Against Elderly Abuse of Hong Kong
234. The Alliance of Promoting Economic Development in Tin Shui Wai
235. The Association of Parents of the Severely Mentally Handicapped
236. The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong
237. The Democratic Party
238. The Federation of Hong Kong and Kowloon Labour Unions
239. The Federation of Hong Kong and Kowloon Labour Unions (Social Affairs Committee)
240. The Forthright Caucus
241. The Forthright Caucus Current Affairs Group
242. The Greenwise Workers Cooperative Society
243. The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
244. The Hong Kong Ethnic Minority Concern Group on Equal Access to Government Services
245. The Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions Social Affairs Committee
246. The Hong Kong Red Cross John F. Kennedy Centre Alumni Association
247. The Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation Center on Research and Advocacy
248. The Lion Rock Institute
249. The Parents' Association of Pre-school Handicapped Children
250. The Salvation Army Community Project
251. Tin Shui Wai Alliance
252. Tin Shui Wai Community Development Alliance
253. Tin Shui Wai Community Development Network
254. Tin Shui Wai Concern About Pension
255. Tin Shui Wai Craft Platform
256. Tin Shui Wai Hawkers' Concern Group
257. Tin Shui Wai Housewife Concern About Retirement Protection
258. Tin Shui Wai Low Income Subsidy Concern Group
259. Tin Shui Wai Parents Group

260. Tin Shui Wai Resident Concern About Retirement Protection
261. Tin Shui Wai Universal Pension Concern Group
262. TKO Homeless Concern Group
263. TKO Independence of Bazaar Union
264. ToKwaWan Ekta Housing Concern Group
265. Tseung Kwan O Friend
266. TSW Child Health Care Voucher Scheme Group
267. TSW Community Development Alliance
268. Tung Chung Bazaar Concern Group
269. Tung Chung Community Development Alliance
270. Tung Chung Development Concern Group
271. Tung Chung Homemade
272. Tung Chung Parent Right Group
273. United Hawkers Development Platform
274. VTV Television of people with disability
275. Women Workers' Cooperative
276. Yan Oi Tong Community Centre
277. Yi Ching Organization Community Service
278. Young DAB
279. Youth Indigenous
280. 人人健康協進網絡
281. 人手比例不乎最低工資關注組
282. 十幾對手自家製生產計劃
283. 上水學童關注組
284. 土瓜環低收入劏房關注組
285. 土瓜灣低收入居民小組
286. 土瓜灣基層關注組
287. 土地正義聯盟
288. 大角咀惡劣居所關注組
289. 大角咀劏房關注組
290. 中港低收入家庭互助網絡
291. 公平稅制改革聯盟
292. 六成會
293. 反對閉門造車聯盟
294. 反對濫用綜援大聯盟
295. 天水圍爭取低收入家庭權益會
296. 天水圍爭取尊嚴生活權益會
297. 天水圍社區發展陣線
298. 太子基層學童關注組
299. 太子學童關注組
300. 北區基層工友組
301. 全民退保關注組
302. 在職婦女就業致癌關注組

303. 多發性硬化症小組
304. 好 L 窮大聯盟
305. 有種精英叫廢青
306. 肌肉萎縮症倡議小組
307. 自強地區小組(港島)
308. 低保聯土瓜灣街坊組
309. 利安邨利華樓互委會
310. 希望・連線街坊小組
311. 改善東涌居民關注組
312. 卓新家長網絡
313. 爭取低收入保障聯席
314. 爭取低收入家庭保障聯席
315. 爭取貧窮線定立於入息中位數六成會
316. 爭取殘疾人士就業配額制聯席
317. 長期病患者就業關注組
318. 青年關學聯
319. 保安員關注組
320. 保安護衛關注組
321. 政府第一標準薪級員工總會
322. 香港十八區窮等學生聯盟
323. 基層街坊關注小組
324. 基層學童關注組
325. 將軍澳友關愛基金關注組
326. 推動天水圍經濟發展大聯盟
327. 推廣員及零散工工會
328. 深水埗低收入關注小組
329. 深水埗見光墟關注組
330. 清潔工人職工會
331. 單幢大廈保安關注組
332. 富昌邨居民服務中心
333. 殘疾人士及長期病患者就業關注組
334. 街坊關注低收入小組
335. 準來港婦女關注小組
336. 聖雅各福群會社區發展服務
337. 葵青關注少數族裔聯盟
338. 葵涌工廈居民平台
339. 葵涌不適切居所住客聯盟
340. 葵涌不適切居所居民關注組
341. 葵涌不適切居所關注組
342. 葵涌少數族裔關注組
343. 葵涌低收入人士房屋關注平台

344. 葵涌低收入人士權益關注組
345. 葵涌低收入居民關注平台
346. 葵涌低收入政策關注平台
347. 葵涌低收入基層關注組
348. 葵涌低收入劏房戶聯盟
349. 葵涌低收入劏房住戶聯盟
350. 葵涌低收入關注組
351. 葵涌住屋關注聯席
352. 葵涌邨基層關注組
353. 葵涌區劏房街坊關注組
354. 葵涌基層住屋關注組
355. 葵涌基層權益關注組
356. 葵涌貧窮人仕聯會
357. 葵涌新來港低收入家庭關注組
358. 葵涌劏房戶關注組
359. 葵涌劏房戶關注扶貧政策小組
360. 葵涌劏房低收入關注組
361. 葵涌劏房住客聯盟
362. 葵涌劏房居民關注平台
363. 葵涌劏房居民權益小組
364. 葵涌劏房租金關注組
365. 葵涌劏房租務關注聯盟
366. 葵涌劏房基層團
367. 葵涌劏房關注組
368. 葵涌關注房屋小組
369. 葵涌關注劏房小組
370. 葵涌關注劏房平台
371. 葵涌關愛基金劏房人士組
372. 葵涌關愛基金關注組
373. 輪椅政策關注小組
374. 輪椅關注政策小組
375. 學童發展關注組
376. 學童關注會
377. 關注全港劏房聯盟
378. 關注低收入小組
379. 關注扶貧政策小組
380. 關注草根生活聯盟
381. 關注基層住屋聯席
382. 關注基層學童組
383. 關注幾時上公屋小組
384. 關注準來港平台

385. 關注葵涌少數族裔人士聯盟
386. 關注葵涌少數族裔青年上流聯盟
387. 關注葵涌少數族裔貧窮聯盟
388. 關注綜援改革行動組
389. 關注學童發展權利聯席
390. 關學聯-青年小組
391. 聽障人士就業促進會

List of deputations/individuals which/who have provided written views to the Subcommittee

1. Alliance on Employment Opportunities and Quota System for PWDs
2. Caritas Community Development Service
3. Christian Action
4. Community Development Initiative
5. Dr WONG Hung, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
6. FGG
7. Grace Parent Association
8. Hong Kong Association of Squint and Double Vision Sufferers
9. Hong Kong Jockey Club Employees Solidarity Union
10. Hong Kong Society for the Protection of Children
11. I sleep on sleepers
12. Information Technology Resource Centre Limited of The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
13. Kwai Chung Estate Residents Rights Concern Group
14. Kwun Tong Methodist Social Service, Agape Community Care Centre
15. Mr WONG Yuen-shan
16. No-illfare Foundation
17. Skkxox
18. The Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions
19. The street I used to rule
20. United Women Workers Cooperative Society
21. wo lee
22. 關心社會貧窮現況青年聯席
23. 東涌基層家長權益組
24. 心義行服務社
25. 特殊學習需要服務關注組
26. 十二會 內地來港定居婦女互助組
27. 天水圍基層居民兒童醫療福利關愛組
28. 天水圍兒童照顧者權益關注組
29. 基層勞工關注組
30. 林兆彬先生

31. 鄺頌安
32. 楊明
33. 高華榮
34. 王敏珍