

立法會 CB(2)633/18-19(01)號文件
LC Paper No. CB(2)633/18-19(01)

3 January 2019

Hon Horace Cheung Kwok-kwan, JP
Chairman, Panel on Constitutional Affairs
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central
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Dear Chairman Cheung,

PROPOSED PANEL HEARING ON UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OUTCOMES IN ADVANCE OF 40TH UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL SESSION

The Legislative Council members who are signatories to this letter are writing to you to kindly request that the Panel on Constitutional Affairs (the Panel) hold a hearing on the engagement by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) with the outcome from the Third Cycle United Nations Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in advance of the 40th United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) session.

As you may be aware, on 6 November 2018, the HKSAR, alongside the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Macau Special Administrative Region, were reviewed as part of the third cycle UPR. In a first, there were seven recommendations raised by foreign governments mentioning the HKSAR. These recommendations covered a variety of subject matters, such as migrant worker rights, children's rights and anti-discrimination.

Shortly after the UPR hearing, on 9 November 2018, the Administration issued a press release stating that "the review report is expected to be presented to the plenary session of the UNHRC for adoption in March next year". This will take place at the 40th session of the UNHRC, likely during the second or third week of March 2019. During the adoption process, United Nations member states will need to advise whether they will either "accept" or "note" the recommendations.

It is important that Legislative Council and representatives of civil society are provided with an opportunity to give feedback in a public setting through a Panel hearing. This ensures that the Administration receives input from a broad range of stakeholders, as well as increasing transparency and accountability of the Administration's response.

We note that there are two Panel meetings scheduled in advance of the 40th Human Rights Council session, on 21 January 2019 and 18 February 2019. Legislative Council members kindly request that the Panel consider the UPR recommendations at the earlier 21 January 2019. This would provide greater assistance to the Administration in formulating their responses, including advising the Central Authorities who will have their own deadlines.

We greatly appreciate your consideration of the above matters and are happy to provide further information on the above matters.

Yours Sincerely,

Legislative Council Members

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James To

Leung Yiu-chung

Joseph Lee

Claudia Mo

Wu Chi-wai

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