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From : Clerk to the Legislative Council

To : All Members of the Legislative Council

Council meeting of 12 June 2019

**Amendments to Hon HO Kai-ming's motion on
"Ensuring children's right to play
for them to grow up happily"**

Further to LC Paper No. CB(3) 652/18-19 issued on 29 May 2019, 5 Members (Hon IP Kin-yuen, Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki, Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG, Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan and Hon HUI Chi-fung) have respectively given notice to move amendments to Hon HO Kai-ming's motion. As directed by the President, the amendments will be printed in the terms in which they were handed in.

2. The President will order a joint debate on the above motion and the amendments. I set out below the relevant proceedings in which the President will:

- (a) call upon the motion mover to speak and move the motion;
- (b) propose the question on the motion;
- (c) call upon the Members who wish to move amendments to the motion to speak in the following order, but no amendment is to be moved at this stage:
 - (i) Hon IP Kin-yuen;
 - (ii) Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki;

- (iii) Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG;
 - (iv) Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan; and
 - (v) Hon HUI Chi-fung;
- (d) call upon the public officer(s) to speak;
 - (e) invite other Members to speak;
 - (f) call upon the motion mover to speak on the amendments;
 - (g) call upon the public officer(s) to speak again;
 - (h) deal with the amendments in the order set out in paragraph (c) above, i.e. first invite the mover of the first amendment to move the amendment and forthwith propose and put to vote the question on the amendment, and thereafter proceed to deal with the remaining amendments; and
 - (i) after all amendments have been dealt with, call upon the motion mover to reply, and then put to vote the question on the motion, or the motion as amended, as the case may be.

3. For Members' reference, the terms of the original motion and the marked-up version of the amendments are set out in the **Appendix**.

(Dora WAI)
for Clerk to the Legislative Council

Encl.

(Translation)

**Motion debate on
“Ensuring children’s right to play
for them to grow up happily”**

1. Hon HO Kai-ming’s original motion

That, children in Hong Kong have long schooling time and heavy homework load, and lack time for leisure, play and even rest; coupled with the fact that the living environment (especially in sub-divided units) in Hong Kong is so cramped that children often do not have sufficient space for activities, not to mention space for playing; at present, public playgrounds for children are unevenly distributed among districts, channels for community participation in the design process are inadequate, play equipment is insufficient and designs are identical with no elements to stimulate the healthy growth of children; moreover, inclusive play equipment has failed to meet the needs of children with disabilities, and play equipment and services for in-patient children are also in acute shortage; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to formulate measures to ensure that local children can enjoy the rights stated in Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, including the right to rest and leisure, and to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child, and at the same time improve the software and hardware of children’s play equipment, so that children can obtain more diversified recreational experience, enjoy leisure and grow up happily; specific measures include:

- (1) urging the Commission on Children to conduct studies on ensuring children’s entitlement to the right to play and draw up criteria for the construction of children’s play equipment, such as play equipment should embody the elements of variety, flexibility, inclusiveness and holistic and healthy development of children, and to make amendment proposals on the relevant laws and regulatory measures based on the findings of the studies;
- (2) revising the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines to raise the standard for provision of children’s playgrounds;
- (3) requiring private housing courts to provide suitable children’s play equipment through various means, including imposing land sale conditions, and providing financial assistance and technical support for owners or owners’ corporations of private housing courts and

Tenants Purchase Scheme to provide additional and upgrade children's play equipment in housing courts or estates;

- (4) identifying suitable sites in public housing and private developments for constructing children's playgrounds, and providing at least one inclusive playground in each district for children with or without disabilities to play together;
- (5) setting up additional children playrooms under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in various districts and improving the equipment of existing playrooms, including setting up specifically designed playrooms for infants and pre-school children to provide more public play area for parents and children;
- (6) setting up additional toys libraries in various districts to enable children of all ages and from different strata to have equal rights and opportunities to access to toys;
- (7) increasing the number of child care centres and subsidized child care service places, so that young children can receive care and enjoy free playtime in a safe and healthy environment;
- (8) urging the Hospital Authority to provide sufficient play equipment and services for sick children;
- (9) reviewing the frequency of internal tests and examinations and homework load of primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong, so that children will not have less time for rest and play due to excessive homework and tests and examinations, thereby promoting their balanced development;
- (10) stepping up the development of game-based education and collaboration with non-governmental organizations to provide games and organize outdoor activities within and outside schools, as well as organize more outdoor activities during holidays; at the same time, providing appropriate subsidies for grass-roots children to ensure that they enjoy equal rights to participate in games and activities;
- (11) providing training on game-based education for teachers and parents, and promoting to them the benefits and importance of play to children, with a view to reversing the social atmosphere of pursuing examination success and catching up with the curricula, so that teachers and parents can attach more importance to children's right to play; and

- (12) expeditiously reviewing the outdated holiday policy to align statutory holidays with general holidays to 17 days, so that all employees in Hong Kong can enjoy the same number of holidays, thereby increasing their family time and playtime with children.

2. Motion as amended by Hon IP Kin-yuen

That, *under Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, children have the right to rest and leisure, and state parties should encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity to children; the Hong Kong Committee for UNICEF also calls on parents to provide children with at least one hour of free play a day; yet, children in Hong Kong have long schooling time and heavy homework load, and lack time for leisure, play and even rest; coupled with the fact that the living environment (especially in sub-divided units) in Hong Kong is so cramped that children often do not have sufficient space for activities, not to mention space for playing; at present, public playgrounds for children are unevenly distributed among districts, channels for community participation in the design process are inadequate, play equipment is insufficient and designs are identical with no elements to stimulate the healthy growth of children; moreover, inclusive play equipment has failed to meet the needs of children with disabilities, and play equipment and services for in-patient children are also in acute shortage; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to formulate measures to ensure that local children can enjoy the rights stated in Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, including the right to rest and leisure, and to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child, and at the same time improve the software and hardware of children's play equipment, so that children can obtain more diversified recreational experience, enjoy leisure and grow up happily; specific measures include:*

- (1) urging the Commission on Children to conduct studies on ensuring children's entitlement to the right to play, *provide opportunities for children to express their views on the studies*, and draw up criteria for the construction of children's play equipment, such as play equipment should embody the elements of variety, flexibility, inclusiveness and holistic and healthy development of children, and to make amendment proposals on the relevant laws and regulatory measures based on the findings of the studies;
- (2) revising the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines to raise the standard for provision of children's playgrounds;
- (3) requiring private housing courts to provide suitable children's play equipment through various means, including imposing land sale

conditions, and providing financial assistance and technical support for owners or owners' corporations of private housing courts and Tenants Purchase Scheme to provide additional and upgrade children's play equipment in housing courts or estates;

- (4) identifying suitable sites in public housing and private developments for constructing children's playgrounds, and providing at least one inclusive playground in each district for children with or without disabilities to play together;
- (5) setting up additional children playrooms under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in various districts and improving the equipment of existing playrooms, including setting up specifically designed playrooms for infants and pre-school children to provide more public play area for parents and children;
- (6) setting up additional toys libraries in various districts to enable children of all ages and from different strata to have equal rights and opportunities to access to toys;
- (7) increasing the number of child care centres and subsidized child care service places, so that young children can receive care and enjoy free playtime in a safe and healthy environment;
- (8) urging the Hospital Authority to provide sufficient play equipment and services for sick children;
- (9) *listening to the views of frontline teachers and in accordance with the established consultation procedures, comprehensively reviewing the frequency of internal tests and examinations, the depth and breadth of curriculum and homework load of primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong, and discouraging the drilling culture; at the same time, stepping up the monitoring of the Primary 3 Territory-wide System Assessment ('TSA'), and if the drilling of students persists, immediately abolishing the arrangement for participation in TSA by all Primary 3 students, and streamlining the secondary school curriculum and abolishing some parts of the school-based assessment, in a bid to reduce unnecessary examination pressure on children*, so that children will not have less time for rest and play due to excessive homework and tests and examinations, thereby promoting their balanced development;
- (10) *improving the implementation of whole-day primary schooling and assisting schools in creating a better balanced learning environment for students, thereby enabling students to participate in more*

extra-curricular activities that are beneficial to both physical and mental health;

- (11) *comprehensively improving the teacher manpower of kindergartens, primary schools and secondary schools, so that teachers can spend more time on caring for the non-academic needs of students, including leisure and play;*
- ~~(10)~~(12) stepping up the development of game-based education and collaboration with non-governmental organizations to provide games and organize outdoor activities within and outside schools, as well as organize more outdoor activities during holidays; at the same time, providing appropriate subsidies for grass-roots children to ensure that they enjoy equal rights to participate in games and activities;
- (13) *conducting studies on the impact of the curricula of playgroups and interest classes available at the market on children's intellectual and psychological development, and introducing appropriate regulation, so as to avoid such curricula and activities having negative impact on children's growth;*
- ~~(11)~~(14) providing training on game-based education for teachers and parents, and promoting to them the benefits and importance of play to children, with a view to reversing the social atmosphere of pursuing examination success and catching up with the curricula, so that teachers and parents can attach more importance to children's right to play; and
- ~~(12)~~(15) expeditiously reviewing the outdated holiday policy to align statutory holidays with general holidays to 17 days, so that all employees in Hong Kong can enjoy the same number of holidays, thereby increasing their family time and playtime with children.

Note: Hon IP Kin-yuen's amendment is marked in ***bold and italic type*** or with deletion line.

3. Motion as amended by Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki

That, *the number of child suicide cases in Hong Kong has increased continuously, as shown by the statistics of the Samaritan Befrienders Hong Kong, the suicide deaths of youth aged between 10 and 19 in Hong Kong increased significantly from 19 in 2014 to 36 in 2017; children in Hong Kong have long schooling time and heavy homework load, and they have to cope with the drilling for the Basic Competency Assessment ('BCA') introduced by the Education Bureau, consequently children* lack time for

leisure, play and even rest; coupled with the fact that the living environment (especially in sub-divided units) in Hong Kong is so cramped that children often do not have sufficient space for activities, not to mention space for playing; at present, public playgrounds for children are unevenly distributed among districts, channels for community participation in the design process are inadequate, play equipment is insufficient and designs are identical with no elements to stimulate the healthy growth of children; moreover, inclusive play equipment has failed to meet the needs of children with disabilities, and play equipment and services for in-patient children are also in acute shortage; *at the same time, since the Commission on Children in Hong Kong is just an advisory body, it has failed to effectively promote the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child ('UNCRC') in Hong Kong, thereby causing children's rights to be neglected*; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to formulate measures to ensure that local children can enjoy the rights stated in Article 31 of ~~the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child~~ *UNCRC*, including the right to rest and leisure, and to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child, and at the same time improve the software and hardware of children's play equipment, so that children can obtain more diversified recreational experience, enjoy leisure and grow up happily; specific measures include:

- (1) urging the Commission on Children to conduct studies on ensuring children's entitlement to the right to play and draw up criteria for the construction of children's play equipment, such as play equipment should embody the elements of variety, flexibility, inclusiveness and holistic and healthy development of children, and to make amendment proposals on the relevant laws and regulatory measures based on the findings of the studies;
- (2) *by drawing reference from overseas experience, considering the construction of different types of children's playgrounds, and adopting a district-specific approach in building 'non-canned' children's playgrounds in the light of the geographical environment and the views expressed by the stakeholders of various districts*;
- ~~(2)~~(3) revising the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines to raise the standard for provision of children's playgrounds;
- ~~(3)~~(4) requiring private housing courts to provide suitable children's play equipment through various means, including imposing land sale conditions, and providing financial assistance and technical support for owners or owners' corporations of private housing courts and Tenants Purchase Scheme to provide additional and upgrade children's play equipment in housing courts or estates;

- (4)(5) identifying suitable sites in public housing and private developments for constructing children's playgrounds, and providing at least one inclusive playground in each district for children with or without disabilities to play together;
- (5)(6) setting up additional children playrooms under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in various districts and improving the equipment of existing playrooms, including setting up specifically designed playrooms for infants and pre-school children to provide more public play area for parents and children;
- (6)(7) setting up additional toys libraries in various districts to enable children of all ages and from different strata to have equal rights and opportunities to access to toys;
- (7)(8) increasing the number of child care centres **and to provide aided standalone child care centres in every district, and increasing** subsidized child care service places, so that young children can receive care and enjoy free playtime in a safe and healthy environment;
- (8)(9) urging the Hospital Authority to provide sufficient play equipment and services for sick children;
- (9)(10) reviewing the frequency of internal tests and examinations and homework load of primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong, so that children will not have less time for rest and play due to excessive homework and tests and examinations, thereby promoting their balanced development;
- (11) ***abolishing Primary 3 BCA and comprehensively reviewing the Territory-wide System Assessment to prevent students from having to undergo drilling at a too early stage, thereby enabling them to enjoy ample playtime and have a happy childhood;***
- (10)(12) stepping up the development of game-based education and collaboration with non-governmental organizations to provide games and organize outdoor activities within and outside schools, as well as organize more outdoor activities during holidays, ***so as to let children learn through games, including instilling concepts such as freedom and democracy;*** at the same time, providing appropriate subsidies for grass-roots children to ensure that they enjoy equal rights to participate in games and activities;

- (11)(13) providing training on game-based education for teachers and parents, and promoting to them the benefits and importance of play to children, with a view to reversing the social atmosphere of pursuing examination success and catching up with the curricula, so that teachers and parents can attach more importance to children's right to play; and
- (12)(14) expeditiously reviewing the outdated holiday policy to align statutory holidays with general holidays to 17 days, so that all employees in Hong Kong can enjoy the same number of holidays, thereby increasing their family time and playtime with children;
- (15) *studying the introduction of parental leave and implementing standard working hours using 44 hours a week as the basis, with a view to strengthening the common role of both parents in the family and enabling them to have sufficient time to stay and play with their children, so that their children can grow up happily under their joint shelter; and*
- (16) *upgrading the Commission on Children from the present advisory body to an independent statutory body to better implement UNCRC, and by drawing reference from the practice of the United Kingdom, Australia, etc., appointing a commissioner for children to ensure that Hong Kong's policies and laws respect children's rights, especially children's right to play.*

Note: Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki's amendment is marked in ***bold and italic type*** or with deletion line.

4. Motion as amended by Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG

That, ~~children as at present a comprehensive child policy is lacking~~ in Hong Kong ***and education emphasizes on examination results, children thus*** have long schooling time and heavy homework load, and lack time for leisure, play and even rest; ~~coupled with the fact that~~ ***as shown in the report of the Child Fatality Review Panel, the cause of death of 18 child death cases in 2014 and 2015 was suicide and the youngest child was only 11 years old;*** the living environment (especially in sub-divided units) in Hong Kong is so cramped that children often do not have sufficient space for activities, not to mention space for playing; at present, public playgrounds for children are unevenly distributed among districts, channels for community participation in the design process are inadequate, play equipment is insufficient and designs are identical with no elements to stimulate the healthy growth of children; moreover, inclusive play equipment has failed to meet the needs of children with disabilities, and play equipment and services for in-patient children are also in acute shortage; in this

connection, this Council urges the Government to formulate measures to ensure that local children can enjoy the rights stated in Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, including the right to rest and leisure, and to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child, and at the same time improve the software and hardware of children's play equipment, so that children can obtain more diversified recreational experience, enjoy leisure and grow up happily; specific measures include:

- (1) urging the Commission on Children to conduct studies on ensuring children's entitlement to the right to play and draw up criteria for the construction of children's play equipment, such as play equipment should embody the elements of variety, flexibility, inclusiveness and holistic and healthy development of children, and to make amendment proposals on the relevant laws and regulatory measures based on the findings of the studies;
- (2) revising the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines to ***include the standard for provision of residential child care services and day care services, so that children in need can receive care and enjoy free playtime in a safe and healthy environment, and to*** raise the standard for provision of children's playgrounds;
- (3) requiring private housing courts to provide suitable children's play equipment through various means, including imposing land sale conditions, and providing financial assistance and technical support for owners or owners' corporations of private housing courts and Tenants Purchase Scheme to provide additional and upgrade children's play equipment in housing courts or estates;
- (4) identifying suitable sites in public housing and private developments for constructing children's playgrounds, and providing at least one inclusive playground in each district for children with or without disabilities to play together;
- (5) setting up additional children playrooms under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in various districts and improving the equipment of existing playrooms, including setting up specifically designed playrooms for infants and pre-school children to provide more public play area for parents and children;
- (6) setting up additional toys libraries in various districts to enable children of all ages and from different strata to have equal rights and opportunities to access to toys;

- (7) increasing the number of child care centres and subsidized child care service places, so that young children can receive care and enjoy free playtime in a safe and healthy environment;
- (8) urging the Hospital Authority to provide sufficient play equipment and services for sick children;
- (9) ***drawing up guidelines on the maximum homework hours for primary students at all levels, and reviewing annually*** the frequency of internal tests and examinations and homework load of primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong, so that children will not have less time for rest and play due to excessive homework and tests and examinations, thereby promoting their balanced development;
- (10) stepping up the development of game-based education and collaboration with non-governmental organizations to provide games and organize outdoor activities within and outside schools, as well as organize more outdoor activities during holidays; at the same time, providing appropriate subsidies for grass-roots children to ensure that they enjoy equal rights to participate in games and activities;
- (11) providing training on game-based education for teachers and parents, and promoting to them the benefits and importance of play to children, with a view to reversing the social atmosphere of pursuing examination success and catching up with the curricula, so that teachers and parents can attach more importance to children's right to play; ~~and~~
- (12) expeditiously reviewing the outdated holiday policy to align statutory holidays with general holidays to 17 days, so that all employees in Hong Kong can enjoy the same number of holidays, thereby increasing their family time and playtime with children;
- (13) ***enhancing learning support to children having special education needs and suffering from mental illness through measures such as cross-disciplinary collaboration and enhanced Individual Education Plans, so that they will not, when complying with the requirements of the schools' teaching programmes, have no time for rest and play;***
- (14) ***immediately carrying out the preparatory work for establishing a central database for children to centralize the collection of children's data, so as to reduce discrepancies in information among various government departments, thereby ensuring that in formulating policies, children's right to play can be safeguarded,***

and the recommendations made by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2013 on the protection of children's right to play can be implemented; and

- (15) *immediately carrying out the preparatory work for upgrading the Commission on Children to a statutory body, and providing it with sufficient resources and independent powers, so as to give effect to the rights stated in Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.*

Note: Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

5. Motion as amended by Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan

That, *the culture of competition in learning among Hong Kong school children is deep-rooted, therefore* children in Hong Kong have long schooling time and heavy homework load, *immense pressure from learning and homework*, and lack time for leisure, play and even rest; coupled with the fact that the living environment (especially in sub-divided units) in Hong Kong is so cramped that children often do not have sufficient space for activities, not to mention space for playing; at present, public playgrounds for children are unevenly distributed among districts, channels for community participation in the design process are inadequate, play equipment is insufficient and designs are identical with no elements to stimulate the healthy growth of children; moreover, inclusive play equipment has failed to meet the needs of children with disabilities, and play equipment and services for in-patient children are also in acute shortage; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to formulate measures to ensure that local children can enjoy the rights stated in Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, including the right to rest and leisure, and to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child, and at the same time improve the software and hardware of children's play equipment, so that children can obtain more diversified recreational experience, enjoy leisure and grow up happily; specific measures include:

- (1) urging the Commission on Children to conduct studies on ensuring children's entitlement to the right to play and draw up criteria for the construction of children's play equipment, such as play equipment should embody the elements of variety, flexibility, inclusiveness and holistic and healthy development of children, and to make amendment proposals on the relevant laws and regulatory measures based on the findings of the studies;

- (2) revising the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines to raise the standard for provision of children's playgrounds;
- (3) requiring private housing courts to provide suitable children's play equipment through various means, including imposing land sale conditions, and providing financial assistance and technical support for owners or owners' corporations of private housing courts and Tenants Purchase Scheme to provide additional and upgrade children's play equipment in housing courts or estates;
- (4) identifying suitable sites in public housing and private developments for constructing children's playgrounds, and providing at least one inclusive playground in each district for children with or without disabilities to play together;
- (5) setting up additional children playrooms under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in various districts and improving the equipment of existing playrooms, including setting up specifically designed playrooms for infants and pre-school children to provide more public play area for parents and children; ***and at the same time, offering family packages for recreational facilities and cultural activities managed by the Government to encourage family members to have fun together;***
- (6) setting up additional toys libraries in various districts ***and additional educational toys zones in existing libraries*** to enable children of all ages and from different strata to have equal rights and opportunities to access to toys;
- (7) increasing the number of child care centres and subsidized child care service places, ***including providing sufficient child care services in each district for children aged between 0 and 2, reserving suitable sites in redeveloped or new residential projects for the provision of care services, introducing 24-hour emergency respite services and allocating additional resources to enhance support for the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project,*** so that young children can receive care and enjoy free playtime in a safe and healthy environment;
- (8) urging the Hospital Authority to provide sufficient play equipment and services for sick children;
- (9) reviewing the frequency of internal tests and examinations and homework load of primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong, so that children will not have less time for rest and play due to excessive

homework and tests and examinations, thereby promoting their balanced development;

- (10) stepping up the development of game-based ~~education~~ ***teaching*** and collaboration with non-governmental organizations to provide games and organize outdoor activities within and outside schools, as well as organize more outdoor activities during holidays; at the same time, providing appropriate subsidies for grass-roots children to ensure that they enjoy equal rights to participate in games and activities;
- (11) providing training on game-based education for teachers and parents, and promoting to them the benefits and importance of play to children, with a view to reversing the social atmosphere of pursuing examination success and catching up with the curricula, so that teachers and parents can attach more importance to children's right to play; ~~and~~
- (12) expeditiously reviewing the outdated holiday policy to align statutory holidays with general holidays to 17 days, so that all employees in Hong Kong can enjoy the same number of holidays, ***and proactively promoting to employers five-day work week and flexible working hours***, thereby increasing ~~their~~ ***employees'*** family time and playtime with children;
- (13) ***setting up a New Generation Baby Fund for eligible children aged 18 or below, so that parents can have adequate resources for their children to participate in more games or activities;***
- (14) ***promoting the Happy Kids Campaign through home-school cooperation, seminars or parent programmes, stepping up the publicity on and enhancing the work of Family Council, and proactively promoting parenting programmes, so as to assist parents in acquiring parenting knowledge, discourage the culture of excessive competition in learning and enhance parents' skills in communicating with their children, so that children can grow up happily; and***
- (15) ***stepping up the publicity on the International Day of Families on 15 May and drawing the attention of various sectors to the importance of family values and parents spending time and playing games with children.***

Note: Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan's amendment is marked in ***bold and italic type*** or with deletion line.

6. Motion as amended by Hon HUI Chi-fung

That, *commitment to protecting children's healthy physical and psychological development is of utmost importance*, yet children in Hong Kong have long schooling time and heavy homework load, and lack time for leisure, play and even rest; coupled with the fact that the living environment (especially in sub-divided units) in Hong Kong is so cramped that children often do not have sufficient space for activities, not to mention space for playing; at present, public playgrounds for children are unevenly distributed among districts, channels for community participation in the design process are inadequate, play equipment is insufficient and designs are identical with no elements to stimulate the healthy growth of children; moreover, inclusive play equipment has failed to meet the needs of children with disabilities, and play equipment and services for in-patient children are also in acute shortage; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to formulate measures to ensure that local children can enjoy the rights stated in Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, including the right to rest and leisure, and to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child, and at the same time improve the software and hardware of children's play equipment, so that children can obtain more diversified recreational experience, enjoy leisure and grow up happily; specific measures include:

- (1) urging the Commission on Children to conduct studies on ensuring children's entitlement to the right to play and draw up criteria for the construction of children's play equipment, such as play equipment should embody the elements of variety, flexibility, inclusiveness and holistic and healthy development of children, and to make amendment proposals on the relevant laws and regulatory measures based on the findings of the studies;
- (2) revising the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines to raise the standard for provision of children's playgrounds;
- (3) requiring private housing courts to provide suitable children's play equipment through various means, including imposing land sale conditions, and providing financial assistance and technical support for owners or owners' corporations of private housing courts and Tenants Purchase Scheme to provide additional and upgrade children's play equipment in housing courts or estates;
- (4) identifying suitable sites in public housing and private developments for constructing children's playgrounds, and providing at least one inclusive playground in each district for children with or without disabilities to play together;

- (5) setting up additional children playrooms under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in various districts and improving the equipment of existing playrooms, including setting up specifically designed playrooms for infants and pre-school children to provide more public play area for parents and children;
- (6) setting up additional toys libraries in various districts to enable children of all ages and from different strata to have equal rights and opportunities to access to toys;
- (7) increasing the number of child care centres and subsidized child care service places *and studying the establishment of aided standalone child care centres for children aged between 0 and 3 within the areas of MTR stations and public housing*, so that young children can receive care and enjoy free playtime in a safe and healthy environment;
- (8) urging the Hospital Authority to provide sufficient play equipment and services for sick children;
- (9) *addressing squarely the problem of homework pressure on primary students and their parents*, reviewing the frequency of internal tests and examinations and homework load of primary and secondary schools ~~in Hong Kong~~, *studying the formulation of a more specific and reasonable indicator for homework load in the guidelines issued by the Education Bureau to schools, and ensuring that schools will follow the guidelines on rest time in schools; and at the same time, abolishing the Primary 3 Territory-wide System Assessment, issuing to schools guidelines which require them to refrain from drilling their students excessively, and using over-drilling as one of the indicators for assessment of the performance of a school*, so that children will not have less time for rest and play due to excessive homework, *drilling* and tests and examinations, thereby promoting their balanced development;
- (10) *fully subsidizing whole-day and long whole-day kindergartens, so that parents who are unable to take care of their children for a long period of time can enroll their children in the most suitable kindergarten, hence enabling their children to receive care and enjoy free playtime in a safe and healthy environment;*
- (10)(11) stepping up the development of game-based education and collaboration with non-governmental organizations to provide games and organize outdoor activities within and outside schools, as well as organize more outdoor activities during holidays; at the same time,

providing appropriate subsidies for grass-roots children to ensure that they enjoy equal rights to participate in games and activities;

- ~~(11)~~**(12)** providing training on game-based education for teachers and parents, and promoting to them the benefits and importance of play to children, with a view to reversing the social atmosphere of pursuing examination success and catching up with the curricula, so that teachers and parents can attach more importance to children's right to play; and
- ~~(12)~~**(13)** expeditiously reviewing the outdated holiday policy to align statutory holidays with general holidays to 17 days, so that all employees in Hong Kong can enjoy the same number of holidays, thereby increasing their family time and playtime with children.

Note: Hon HUI Chi-fung's amendment is marked in ***bold and italic type*** or with deletion line.