

**立法會**  
***Legislative Council***

LC Paper No. CB(2)641/20-21

Ref : CB2/H/5/20

**House Committee of the Legislative Council**

**Minutes of the 10th meeting  
held in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex  
at 2:30 pm on Friday, 8 January 2021**

**Members present :**

Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, SBS, JP (Chairman)  
Hon MA Fung-kwok, GBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP  
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBS, JP  
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, GBS, JP  
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, GBS, JP  
Hon CHAN Hak-kan, BBS, JP  
Hon CHAN Kin-por, GBS, JP  
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, SBS, JP  
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee, GBS, JP  
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP  
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP  
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS  
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, SBS, JP  
Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS  
Hon CHAN Han-pan, BBS, JP  
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP  
Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP  
Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP  
Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP  
Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP  
Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong, GBS, JP  
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH  
Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, SBS, JP  
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, SBS, MH, JP  
Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan  
Hon Jimmy NG Wing-ka, BBS, JP  
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP  
Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding

Hon SHIU Ka-fai, JP  
Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH  
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan, JP  
Dr Hon Pierre CHAN  
Hon CHAN Chun-ying, JP  
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan, JP  
Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP  
Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH  
Hon Kenneth LAU Ip-keung, BBS, MH, JP  
Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai  
Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH, JP  
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS, JP

**Member absent :**

Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP

**Clerk in attendance :**

Miss Flora TAI

Clerk to the House Committee

**Staff in attendance :**

Mr Kenneth CHEN, SBS	Secretary General
Ms Connie FUNG	Legal Adviser
Miss Odelia LEUNG	Deputy Secretary General
Ms Anita SIT	Assistant Secretary General 1
Ms Dora WAI	Assistant Secretary General 3
Mr Matthew LOO	Assistant Secretary General 4
Mr Timothy TSO	Senior Assistant Legal Adviser 1
Ms Clara TAM	Acting Senior Assistant Legal Adviser 2
Mr Bonny LOO	Senior Assistant Legal Adviser 3
Ms Alice LEUNG	Chief Council Secretary (2)6
Miss Connie AU	Senior Council Secretary (2)6
Mr Richard WONG	Senior Council Secretary (2)8
Miss Michelle TANG	Council Secretary (2)6
Ms Anna CHEUNG	Senior Legislative Assistant (2)3
Mr Arthur KAN	Legislative Assistant (2)7

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Action

**I. Confirmation of minutes of meeting**

**Minutes of 9th meeting held on 11 December 2020**  
(LC Paper No. CB(2)543/20-21)

The minutes were confirmed.

**II. Matters arising**

**Report by the Chairman on her meeting with the Chief Secretary for Administration**

2. The Chairman said that her last meeting with the Chief Secretary for Administration ("CS") was held on 14 December 2020, at which she had relayed Members' concerns over the Administration's anti-epidemic work expressed at the last meeting of the House Committee ("HC") held on 11 December 2020. In response, CS had reiterated that fighting the coronavirus disease 2019 ("COVID-19") pandemic was the Government's top priority. The Administration had tightened anti-epidemic measures on all fronts. CS had also indicated that the first batch of one million doses of vaccine for COVID-19 would be delivered to Hong Kong in January 2021. The Administration would prioritize the elderly and frontline healthcare workers to receive vaccination on a voluntary basis, and the relevant costs would be borne by the Government.

**Anti-epidemic measures**

3. Ms Elizabeth QUAT, Mr Wilson OR and Mr SHIU Ka-fai expressed concern that various industries had been hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and many individuals and enterprises were in dire straits as a result. Ms QUAT and Mr OR urged the Administration to set up an unemployment assistance scheme as soon as possible to help those unemployed workers tide over this difficult time. Ms QUAT also suggested that the Administration should consider allowing members of the public to withdraw the accrued benefits in their Mandatory Provident Fund accounts in order to address their imminent needs. Mr SHIU said that 13 types of scheduled premises regulated under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Requirements and Directions) (Business and Premises) Regulation (Cap. 599F) had been required to close for over a month. Besides, catering premises were still prohibited from providing dine-in service from 6:00 pm to 4:59 am every day. He was also

concerned that some business operators of these affected premises who had applied for subsidies offered under the second and/or third rounds of the Anti-epidemic Fund had not yet received the subsidies. He hoped that the Administration could allow these affected premises to resume normal business as early as possible when the number of confirmed cases were reduced, and could explore ways to encourage landlords of these affected premises to offer rental reduction during the closure periods. Expressing concern over the difficulties faced by some small, medium and micro-sized enterprises (such as beauty parlours) under the tightened social distancing measures, Ms QUAT hoped that the Administration could allow these enterprises to re-open their business under certain anti-epidemic conditions.

4. Mr Holden CHOW and Dr Junius HO expressed concern over the Administration's work on procuring and preparing for the administration of COVID-19 vaccines. Noting that the first batch of vaccines would be delivered to Hong Kong later this month, Mr CHOW called on the Administration to draw up a comprehensive plan on the vaccination arrangements and implement the relevant details as soon as possible. He also considered it necessary for the Administration to explain clearly to members of the public the importance of receiving vaccination. Dr HO considered that the Administration should have a grasp of the views of members of the public on their preferences on vaccines manufactured in various places, so as to avoid wasting public funds in procuring vaccines with lesser support.

5. Expressing concern about the confusing arrangements for contact tracing and transferring persons subject to compulsory quarantine to quarantine centres, Mr Wilson OR hoped that the Administration could review the coordination work among various departments, with a view to rationalizing these arrangements. Ms Alice MAK said that owing to the implementation of various anti-epidemic measures, cold shelters and various recreational and leisure facilities were not opened for the use of street sleepers under very cold weather. Furthermore, catering premises that operated overnight were not opened at night-time. She hoped that the Administration could provide immediate assistance to street sleepers, and consider renting guesthouses and hotels for temporary accommodation of street sleepers.

The Administration's replies to oral questions raised at Council meetings and provision of papers for Panel meetings

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6. Mrs Regina IP and Mr Paul TSE said that they had noted that the Administration's main replies to oral questions raised by Members at recent Council meetings were very long, and that public officers gave repeated information and did not focus on the issues of concern when answering Members' supplementary questions. This had reduced the opportunities for Members to ask supplementary questions to each oral question. Mrs IP and Mr TSE considered that public officers should make their replies brief and concise.

7. Mr Michael TIEN said that the Administration had provided discussion papers for some Panel meetings (including the meeting of the Panel on Transport held on 20 November 2020 and the special meeting of the Panel on Health Services held on 16 December 2020) only the night before those meetings were scheduled to be held. He hoped that the Chairman could relay to CS his concerns over the Administration's late provision of papers for Panel meetings, as Members would not have sufficient time to study the papers and make the necessary preparation for the Panel meetings concerned.

8. Mr Paul TSE said that he had observed that there was a recent trend that Members had expressed at HC meetings their concerns over various matters (such as the latest COVID-19 pandemic situation and the recent economic downturn) that they wished the Chairman would relay to CS. Pointing out that HC mainly performed housekeeping functions for the Council, Mr TSE appealed to Members to confine bringing matters that had to be relayed to CS to those relating to Council business. Dr Junius HO said that while he agreed that HC mainly dealt with matters relating to Council, he considered it necessary for the Chairman to relay to CS issues that Members had repeatedly raised at committee meetings but had received no response from the Administration.

9. The Chairman said that as a general principle, Members should confine their views to matters relating to the relationship between the Legislature and the Executive Authorities under this item. While Members could follow up at HC meetings matters that were of great public importance or had an urgent character, they should raise matters under various policy areas at the relevant Panel meetings. Regarding the Administration's replies to oral questions raised by Members at Council meetings, the Chairman shared Mrs Regina IP's view that public officers

should be reminded to make more effective use of Council time when answering Members' main and supplementary questions. She would relay to CS this matter as well as other views and concerns expressed by Members at this meeting when she next met with CS.

### III. Business arising from previous Council meetings

(a) **Legal Service Division report on bill referred to the House Committee in accordance with Rule 54(4)**

**Immigration (Amendment) Bill 2020**  
(*LC Paper No. LS24/20-21*)

10. At the invitation of the Chairman, Legal Adviser ("LA") briefed Members on the report prepared by the Legal Service Division ("LSD") on the above Bill.

11. Dr CHENG Chung-tai considered it necessary to form a Bills Committee to study the Bill in detail. Members agreed. Mr CHAN Hak-kan, Ms Elizabeth QUAT and Dr CHENG Chung-tai agreed to join the Bills Committee.

(b) **Legal Service Division report on subsidiary legislation gazetted on 23 December 2020**  
(*LC Paper No. LS26/20-21*)

12. At the invitation of the Chairman, LA briefed Members on the report prepared by LSD on four items of subsidiary legislation (i.e. L.N. 258 to L.N. 261) which were gazetted on 23 December 2020 and tabled in Council on 6 January 2021.

13. Dr CHIANG Lai-wan considered it necessary to study the Prevention and Control of Disease (Use of Vaccines) Regulation (L.N. 258) in detail. Mr YIU Si-wing considered it necessary to study the Compulsory Quarantine of Certain Persons Arriving at Hong Kong (Amendment) (No. 9) Regulation 2020 (L.N. 259), the Compulsory Quarantine of Persons Arriving at Hong Kong from Foreign Places (Amendment) (No. 6) Regulation 2020 (L.N. 260) and the Prevention and Control of Disease (Regulation of Cross-boundary Conveyances and Travellers) (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulation 2020 (L.N. 261) in detail. At the suggestion of the Chairman, Members agreed that the above four items of subsidiary legislation should be studied by the Subcommittee on Subsidiary Legislation Relating to the Prevention and Control of Disease.

**(c) Legal Service Division report on subsidiary legislation gazetted on 31 December 2020**

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*(LC Paper No. LS27/20-21)*

14. At the invitation of the Chairman, LA briefed Members on the report prepared by LSD on seven items of subsidiary legislation (i.e. L.N. 262 to L.N. 268) which were gazetted on 31 December 2020 and tabled in Council on 6 January 2021.

15. Mr Holden CHOW considered it necessary to study the Insurance (Designation and Annual Fees for Designated Insurance Holding Companies) Regulation (L.N. 262), the Insurance (Prescribed Fees) (Amendment) Regulation 2020 (L.N. 263), the Insurance (Amendment) (No. 2) Ordinance 2020 (Commencement) Notice (L.N. 264) and the Insurance (Group Capital) Rules (L.N. 265) in detail. Members agreed. Mr Holden CHOW agreed to join the proposed subcommittee.

16. Members did not raise any questions on the other three items of subsidiary legislation (i.e. L.N. 266 to L.N. 268).

17. The Chairman reminded Members that the deadline for amending the above 11 items of subsidiary legislation would be the Council meeting of 3 February 2021, or that of 24 February 2021 if extended by a resolution of the Council.

**IV. Business for the Council meeting of 13 January 2021**

Report No. 8/20-21 of the House Committee on Consideration of  
Subsidiary Legislation and Other Instruments

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18. The Chairman said that the above draft Report, which covered five items of subsidiary legislation the period for amendment of which would expire at the Council meeting of 13 January 2021, had been issued to Members. No Member had indicated intention to speak on any of those items of subsidiary legislation.

**(a) Questions**

*(LC Paper No. CB(3)277/20-21)*

19. The Chairman said that the questions approved by the President to be asked at the meeting had already been issued to Members.

**(b) Government Bill - First Reading and Second Reading (debate to be adjourned)**

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20. The Chairman said that no notice had been received yet.

**(c) Government Motion**

21. The Chairman said that no notice had been received yet.

**(d) Members' Motions**

22. The Chairman said that in view of the severity of the COVID-19 pandemic in Hong Kong, the President had decided that the meeting would not deal with Members' motions not intended to have legislative effect.

23. The Chairman further said that subject to Members' agreement with the proposals set out in the paper entitled "Use of videoconferencing platform for holding formal meetings of Panels, Bills Committees and subcommittees" submitted by the Committee on Rules of Procedure ("CRoP") under item VIII below, she, as the HC Chairman, would move a motion at the meeting to seek the Council's approval of the relevant proposals, and HC would make a recommendation for the President to waive the required notice for moving the motion.

**V. Business for the Council meeting of 20 January 2021**

**(a) Questions**

*(LC Paper No. CB(3)273/20-21)*

24. The Chairman said that a list setting out the Members who had been allocated question slots for the meeting had already been issued to Members.

**(b) Member's Motion**

**Motion of Thanks**

*(LC Paper No. CB(2)518/20-21(01))*

25. The Chairman said that she, as the HC Chairman, would move the Motion of Thanks at the meeting, and the deadline for giving notice of amendments, if any, would be Wednesday, 13 January 2021.

26. Members noted the proposed grouping of policy areas for the debate on the Chief Executive's 2020 Policy Address ("the debate") and the proposed order of the two debate sessions as set out in the Director of Administration's letter dated 8 December 2020. Members also noted that the debates on Policy Address in previous legislative sessions were held on three consecutive days in five sessions and each Member could speak once in each session subject to the total speaking time limit of 30 minutes. Members agreed that the debate would be held on three consecutive days from 20 to 22 January 2021 in two debate sessions in accordance with the grouping of policy areas as proposed by the Administration.

#### Report of HC on Consideration of Subsidiary Legislation

27. The Chairman invited Members to note the list tabled at the meeting (LC Paper No. CB(3)279/20-21), which contained one item of subsidiary legislation the period for amendment of which would expire at the Council meeting of 20 January 2021. She reminded Members to indicate their intention by 5:00 pm on Tuesday, 12 January 2021, should they wish to speak on that item of subsidiary legislation.

### **VI. Reports of Bills Committees and subcommittees**

#### **(a) Second report of the Subcommittee on Subsidiary Legislation Relating to the Prevention and Control of Disease** (LC Paper No. CB(2)563/20-21)

28. Dr CHIANG Lai-wan, Chairman of the Subcommittee, briefed Members on the deliberations of the Subcommittee as detailed in its second report. She said that since the Subcommittee's first verbal report made at the HC meeting on 27 November 2020, the Subcommittee had completed scrutiny of 14 other items of subsidiary legislation relating to compulsory testing, social distancing measures, and the expiry dates of certain items of subsidiary legislation made earlier. The Subcommittee would not propose any amendments to these 14 items of subsidiary legislation.

29. The Chairman reminded Members that regarding the 14 items of subsidiary legislation covered in the Subcommittee's second report:

- (a) the period for amending L.N. 235 would expire at the Council meeting of 20 January 2021, and the deadline for giving notice of amendments, if any, would be Wednesday, 13 January 2021; and
- (b) the period for amending L.N. 241 to L.N. 250 would expire at the Council meeting of 27 January 2021, and the deadline for giving notice of amendments, if any, would be Wednesday, 20 January 2021.

**(b) Second report of the Subcommittee to Examine the Implementation in Hong Kong of Resolutions of the United Nations Security Council in relation to Sanctions**  

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*(LC Paper No. CB(1)431/20-21)*

30. Mr Martin LIAO, member of the Subcommittee, briefed Members on the deliberations of the Subcommittee as detailed in its second report. He said that since the submission of the Subcommittee's first report to HC on 10 July 2020, the Subcommittee had studied the United Nations Sanctions (Democratic Republic of the Congo) Regulation 2019 (Amendment) Regulation 2020 (L.N. 164) and the United Nations Sanctions (South Sudan) Regulation 2019 (Amendment) Regulation 2020 (L.N. 165). Members of the Subcommittee had no objection to these two items of subsidiary legislation.

31. Members noted that as there was only one member remaining in the Subcommittee after the deadline for re-opening its membership had expired, the Subcommittee could not continue its operation in accordance with the relevant requirements under the House Rules. Members had agreed to dissolve the Subcommittee at the HC meeting on 11 December 2020.

**VII. Position on Bills Committees and subcommittees**  
*(LC Paper No. CB(2)586/20-21)*

32. The Chairman said that as at 7 January 2021, there were five Bills Committees, two subcommittees under HC and 10 subcommittees on policy issues under Panels in action. Six subcommittees on policy issues were on the waiting list.

## VIII. Paper of the Committee on Rules of Procedure

### **Use of videoconferencing platform for holding formal meetings of Panels, Bills Committees and subcommittees**

*(LC Paper No. CROP18/20-21)*

33. Mr Paul TSE, Chairman of CROp, briefed Members on the proposal to use a videoconferencing platform for holding formal meetings of Panels, Bills Committees and subcommittees ("the relevant committees"), the details of which were set out in the paper. Mr TSE said that in view of the COVID-19 pandemic situation in Hong Kong, the Secretariat had conducted a study on the relevant legal and procedural issues arising from the conduct of formal meetings of committees by videoconferencing, having regard to the powers, privileges and immunities provided by the Legislative Council (Powers and Privileges) Ordinance (Cap. 382), and procedures and practices prescribed by the Rules of Procedure and the House Rules. CROp had considered the findings of the study and supported the proposal that videoconferencing be used for conducting formal meetings of the relevant committees. Meetings of the Council, HC, Finance Committee and its subcommittees, CROp, Committee on Members' Interests and Public Accounts Committee, however, would continue to meet in person. To give effect to the proposal, a draft of the motion to be moved by the HC Chairman at the Council meeting of 13 January 2021 was in Appendix II to the paper. Subject to HC's approval pursuant to the motion, if passed by the Council, Zoom, a cloud-based software platform for videoconferencing, was recommended to be used as the platform for conducting meetings of the relevant committees by videoconferencing. The draft guidelines on the use of Zoom for conducting formal committee meetings were set out in Appendix III to the paper.

34. At the invitation of the Chairman, LA briefed Members on the paper prepared by LSD on the relevant legal and procedural issues relating to the above proposal, the details of which were set out in Appendix I to the CROp paper. LA said that Article 75 of the Basic Law ("BL") conferred power on the Legislative Council ("LegCo") to make rules of procedure on its own, provided that they did not contravene BL. It was clear that the manner in which committees conducted meetings was a matter falling within the internal procedures of LegCo. Based on BL 75 and court decisions, LegCo would have the power to modify the committee procedures in response to COVID-19 to ensure that committees could continue their work, provided that the modified

procedures would not contravene BL. If LegCo decided to take forward the proposal to hold formal committee meetings remotely by videoconferencing, it was essential that any modifications to the procedures and practice of LegCo made in response to COVID-19 fully respected the powers and privileges of LegCo and its members under Cap. 382. To avoid any doubt as to whether committee meetings conducted by videoconferencing constituted formal proceedings of a committee of the Council to which the privileges and immunities under sections 3 and 4 of Cap. 382 applied, it would be advisable for the Council to pass a resolution under BL 75 to introduce a procedure for the conduct of committee meetings by videoconferencing during the COVID-19 pandemic. LA added that the proposal was consistent with the approaches adopted by Westminster-modelled parliaments of overseas jurisdictions to continue transacting business during the COVID-19 pandemic.

35. Mr Tony TSE and Mr YIU Si-wing expressed concern that procedural and technical issues might arise from conducting formal meetings of committees by videoconferencing. Mr TSE said that while he did not object to the conduct of formal meetings of committees by videoconferencing during the COVID-19 pandemic, he considered that if divisions were taken at those meetings, it was necessary to inform Members of the voting results as soon as possible so as to avoid any confusions or disputes which might arise due to technical/network security problems. Mr YIU enquired whether and how to ensure that a quorum was present during a meeting conducted by videoconferencing. He also expressed concern about the connectivity and network security problems in using Zoom, and wondered whether and how the Secretariat would provide any technical support for Members. Mr YIU also considered it desirable for the Secretariat to further examine whether there were other videoconferencing platforms/tools better suited for conducting formal meetings of the relevant committees.

36. Dr CHENG Chung-tai said that even if there was a legal basis for LegCo to hold formal meetings of the relevant committees by videoconferencing, he considered it "politically unacceptable" to do so. In his view, it was necessary to clarify a number of issues before the proposed motion was moved at the Council meeting of 13 January 2021, including whether the proposal was only meant to take effect during the COVID-19 pandemic, what action Members could take to terminate the effect of the proposal after its approval by the Council, and whether Members would bear the expenses of using Zoom. Dr Pierre CHAN

considered that it was the public expectation that the Council and its committees should meet in person and the proposal should only be a temporary arrangement. He also emphasized that the number of committee meetings, even if held by videoconferencing, should be kept to a minimum during the COVID-19 pandemic in order to maintain social distancing among those employees who were required to provide support services in the LegCo Complex and in the Government offices. Dr CHAN also expressed concern about the network security problems which might arise from using Zoom for holding formal meetings of the relevant committees.

37. Ms YUNG Hoi-yan, Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok and Mr CHEUNG Kwok-kwan expressed similar views that in order to enable the relevant committees to continue operation during the COVID-19 pandemic, the proposal warranted Members' support. Ms YUNG considered that the Secretariat should further examine whether there was any other videoconferencing platform/tool better suited than Zoom for conducting formal meetings of the relevant committees, and if so, that platform/tool should be procured as a long-term solution. Both Ir Dr LO and Mr CHEUNG considered that the proposal was legally sound and technically reliable. Ir Dr LO indicated that Members belonging to the Business and Professionals Alliance for Hong Kong supported the proposal. Mr CHEUNG considered that Members had a duty to make the necessary preparations to ensure that the Council and its committees could continue operation during the COVID-19 pandemic. Besides, a number of overseas parliaments had also used videoconferencing for conducting committee meetings. Mr CHEUNG indicated that Members belonging to the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong supported the proposal.

38. At the invitation of the Chairman, Secretary General responded to the questions/concerns raised by Members as follows:

- (a) during a meeting conducted by videoconferencing, members of the relevant committees would cast their votes by a show of hands. Members casting a vote should show their face and raise their hands through Zoom to facilitate counting by the Chairman and the Clerk. During voting, the multiple video session screen (Gallery View) would be activated so that participants and viewers of the meeting could see all Members participating in the meeting and whether they had raised their hands or not. After voting, the Secretariat

would make the voting results available for Members' information as soon as possible;

- (b) members of a relevant committee attending a meeting conducted by videoconferencing would be counted as present for the purpose of constituting the quorum for the meeting. During such meetings, members could request quorum calls to ascertain the presence of a quorum;
- (c) the Secretariat had examined a number of videoconferencing tools. Zoom was one of the most widely used videoconferencing tools in the market today, and many Members already had experience in conducting/participating in informal Panel meetings for policy briefings via Zoom. Importantly, Zoom supported the provision of simultaneous interpretation and webcasting services which were essential for conducting formal meetings of the relevant committees. The Secretariat would bear the financial expenses incurred for using Zoom to conduct formal meetings of the relevant committees, and Members and other participants joining those meetings were not required to pay any fee to Zoom. It was considered that the network security of using Zoom for holding formal meetings of the relevant committees was acceptable at the present stage. Nevertheless, the Secretariat would closely monitor network security issues, and would provide technical support for Members as far as possible. Members might contact duty staff either by phone or WhatsApp messages for technical assistance or enquiries during the Zoom meetings;
- (d) the use of videoconferencing for conducting meetings of the relevant committees would considerably reduce the number of persons working in the LegCo Complex, particularly security and administrative staff; and
- (e) if Members wish to terminate the use of videoconferencing platform for holding formal meetings of the relevant committees after the proposed motion was passed by the Council, another motion would need to be moved in the Council in accordance with the existing procedure and practice.

39. The Chairman reminded Members that as stated in the draft motion in Appendix II to the paper, the proposal was meant to take effect during the COVID-19 pandemic. She further said that the President and committee chairmen had endeavoured to reduce the number/duration of meetings, e.g. several Council meetings had been adjourned after dealing with items with legislative effect, and an HC meeting had been cancelled. Besides, she had ordered that certain matters for HC's decisions be considered by circulation of papers. The Chairman said that it was for committee chairmen to consider whether to make the necessary arrangements to enable the relevant committees to continue operation during the COVID-19 pandemic.

40. The Chairman consulted Members as to whether HC should endorse the draft motion and guidelines in Appendices II and III to the CRoP paper. Dr CHENG Chung-tai indicated that he objected to the proposal. The Chairman then put the proposal to vote. The Chairman declared that the majority of the Members voting were in favour of the proposal.

41. The Chairman then consulted Members as to whether HC should endorse the use of Zoom for conducting formal meetings of the relevant committees by videoconferencing. Dr CHENG Chung-tai indicated that he objected to the above proposal. The Chairman then put the proposal to vote. The Chairman declared that the majority of the Members voting were in favour of the proposal, and HC thereby approved the use of Zoom as the video conferencing platform for conducting formal meetings of the relevant committees after the motion was passed by LegCo.

42. The Chairman concluded that HC would make a recommendation for the President to waive the required notice for the moving of the above motion by the HC Chairman at the Council meeting of 13 January 2021. Members raised no objection.

## **IX. Any other business**

43. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 3:32 pm.