

Panel on Constitutional Affairs

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 16 July 2025)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

1. 2025 Election Committee Subsector By-election and 2025 Legislative Council General Election

The Administration intends to brief the Panel on the preparatory work and practical arrangements for the 2025 Election Committee Subsector By-election the 2025 Legislative Council General Election, as well as the publicity plan for the 2025 Legislative Council General Election. July 2025

At the meeting on 14 January 2025, Dr Hon TIK Chi-yuen proposed to discuss the specific arrangements for the 2025 Legislative Council General Election, including ways to promote digitalization in elections and increase the voter turnout rate.

2. Implementation of the various measures under 14th Five- Year Plan and the work in dovetailing with the 15th Five-Year Plan

At the meeting on 14 January 2025, Dr Hon Starry LEE proposed to discuss the implementation of the various measures taken by the HKSAR Government to tie in with the National 14th Five- Year Plan and its work in dovetailing with the 15th Five- Year Plan. To be confirmed

3. Implementation of the improved system of district governance

At the meeting on 14 January 2025: To be confirmed

- (a) Dr Hon TIK Chi-yuen proposed to discuss the implementation of the improved system of district governance, including the operation of the District Councils

and the District Services and Community Care Teams; and

(Note: The item “District Services and Community Care Teams” is also included in the list of outstanding items for discussion of the Panel on Home Affairs, Culture and Sports. Members of the Panel will be invited to join the discussion of the item when it is discussed by the Panel on Home Affairs, Culture and Sports.)

- (b) Hon YIM Kong proposed to explore exchanges of experiences in grass-roots community governance in Hong Kong and in building exemplary communities in the Mainland.

4. Review of the four existing anti-discrimination ordinances

At the meeting on 14 January 2025, Hon Doreen KONG proposed to discuss the review of the four existing anti-discrimination ordinances (namely the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 480), the Disability Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 487), the Family Status Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 527) and the Race Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 602)). To be confirmed

Hon Elizabeth QUAT wrote to the Panel Chairman on 13 November 2020 [LC Paper No. CB(2)330/20-21(01)] proposing to discuss the review of the Sex Discrimination Ordinance and follow up on the recommendations in the EOC’s submissions to the Government on the Discrimination Law Review (“DLR”), including providing protection from sexual, disability and racial harassment between tenants and/or sub-tenants occupying the same premises (recommendation 18 of DLR), and providing protection of persons being accompanied by an assistance animal from discrimination (recommendation 2 of DLR).

5. Measures to respond to foreign governments' unfair criticisms concerning Hong Kong

At the meeting on 14 January 2025, Prof Hon Priscilla LEUNG proposed to discuss how to perform well in international media public relations, so as to cope with the situation that the country and Hong Kong were being “smeared” in foreign countries and to tell the good stories of Hong Kong. To be confirmed

At the meeting on 25 January 2022, Dr Hon Junius HO proposed to discuss how the HKSAR Government should expeditiously take effective measures to respond to unfair criticisms concerning Hong Kong made by foreign governments.

6. Examining how to optimize and expand the functions of Justices of the Peace

At the meeting on 14 January 2025, Hon Doreen KONG proposed to discuss how to optimize and expand the functions of Justices of the Peace, such as arranging Justices of the Peace to participate in the work relating to summary offences or district mediation. To be confirmed

7. Constitutional development

At the meeting on 25 January 2022, Hon Paul TSE proposed to discuss how universal suffrage for selecting the Chief Executive should be implemented in accordance with Article 45 of the Basic Law. To be confirmed

8. Accountability of Members from the Election Committee Constituency

At the meeting on 25 January 2022, Hon TANG Fei proposed to discuss how to strengthen the accountability of the 40 Members returned by the Election Committee Constituency. To be confirmed

9. Submission of reports by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government to the United Nations under international human rights treaties

The Administration has issued an outline of topics for the third report of HKSAR under the Convention on the Rights of the Child for public consultation. The Panel discussed the outline of topics to be included in the third report on 15 March 2021.

The Administration has issued an outline of topics for HKSAR's fourth report under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for public consultation. The Panel received public views on the outline of the topics to be included in the fourth report on 21 January 2019. The fourth report has been submitted to UN and was published on 4 February 2020. The Administration briefed the Panel on 13 December 2022 regarding the meeting arrangements of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for consideration of the fourth report. The related meetings were held on 15 and 16 February 2023. The Administration briefed the Panel on the UN Committee meetings for consideration of the fourth report on 25 April 2023.

The Administration has issued an outline of topics for HKSAR's fourth report in the light of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights for public consultation. The Panel received public views on the outline of topics to be included in the fourth report on 4 January 2018. The fourth report has been submitted to UN and was published on 20 September 2019. The Panel discussed matters relating to the arrangements for the UN Human Rights Committee to consider the fourth report with the Administration on 16 November 2020. The related UN Human Rights Committee meetings were held on 7, 8 and 12 July 2022. The Administration briefed the Panel on the UN meetings for consideration of the fourth report on 21 November 2022.

The Administration has issued an outline for HKSAR's fourth report under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination for public consultation. The Panel discussed the outline of the fourth report on 18 November 2024.

As and when those reports are submitted by the People's Republic of China ("China") to the United Nations ("UN") and published [Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau, Labour and Welfare Bureau & Home and Youth Affairs Bureau]

UN Human Rights Council (“UNHRC”) has initiated a Universal Periodic Review (“UPR”) of all UN member states. The Panel discussed the outline of topics in the HKSAR report for the fourth UPR on 19 June 2023. The Working Group on UPR held the fourth UPR of China (covering HKSAR) on 23 to 26 January 2024 in Geneva, Switzerland, and the UNHRC formally adopted the Working Group’s review report on 4 July 2024. The Panel was briefed on the Working Group’s fourth review of HKSAR on 15 July 2024.

The Administration has issued an outline of topics for HKSAR’s fourth report under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (“CEDAW”) for public consultation. The Panel received public views on the outline of topics on 21 May 2018. The fourth report of HKSAR, as part of China’s ninth report, was submitted to the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 27 August 2018. China’s ninth report was subsequently submitted to the Secretariat of the Committee on CEDAW on 26 March 2020. HKSAR’s fourth report was published on 30 April 2021. The related hearing was held on 12 May 2023. The Administration briefed the Panel regarding the UN Committee meetings for consideration of the fourth report on 25 April and 19 June 2023 respectively.

The Administration has issued an outline of topics for HKSAR’s second report under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for public consultation. The Panel received public views on the outline of topics on 30 April 2018. The combined second and third reports of HKSAR (“combined reports”) have been submitted to UN and were published on 8 November 2019. An information paper relating to UN meetings for the combined reports was issued to the Panel on 24 June 2022 [LC Paper no. CB(2)521/2022(01)]. The UN meetings were conducted on 17, 18 and 19 August 2022. The Panel discussed the concluding observations by the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the combined reports on 13 December 2022.

10. Reports published by the Law Reform Commission on various aspects of privacy

The Administration has considered the five reports published by the Law Reform Commission (“LRC”) on the topics of: To be confirmed

Interception of communications (December 1996)

Stalking (October 2000)

Privacy and media intrusion (December 2004)

Civil liability for invasion of privacy (December 2004)

Regulation of covert surveillance (March 2006)

According to the Administration, these five reports touch on the sensitive and controversial policy and political issue of how to strike a balance between protection of individual privacy rights and freedom of the media. There were mixed responses and very divergent views from different sectors of the community. Given the complexity and sensitivity of the policy and political issues involved, the Administration would consider the five reports as and where appropriate and map out the way forward in consultation with relevant parties.

At its meetings on 16 December 2013 and 16 June 2014, the Panel discussed the LRC Report on Stalking with the Administration.

11. Hate speech

At the meeting on 16 November 2020, Hon Mrs Regina IP expressed concern about the inadequacy of the existing anti-discrimination ordinances in prohibiting hate speech. She urged the Administration to tackle the issue by legislation and brief members on the subject at a future meeting. To be confirmed