

## **Invitation of views from the public**

### **United Nations Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review Section of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region**

#### **Background**

The United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council (HRC) was created by the UN General Assembly Resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 to replace the UN Commission on Human Right. Among its primary responsibilities, it was charged with the responsibility to –

“undertake a universal periodic review, based on objective and reliable information, of the fulfilment by each State of its human rights obligations and commitments in a manner which ensures universality of coverage and equal treatment with respect to all States; the review shall be a cooperative mechanism, based on an interactive dialogue, with the full involvement of the country concerned and with consideration given to its capacity-building needs; such a mechanism shall complement and not duplicate the work of treaty bodies ...”.

Details about the universal periodic review (UPR) can be accessed at the following website:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRmain.aspx>.

2. In pursuance of this mission, the HRC has decided to complete the first round of the UPR of all 192 Member States of the UN within four years from the beginning of 2008. The UPR on the People’s Republic of China is scheduled to take place in February 2009.

3. The specific objectives of the UPR are –

- (a) the improvement of the human rights situation on the ground;
- (b) the fulfillment of the State’s human rights obligations and commitments and assessment of positive developments and challenges faced by the State;
- (c) the enhancement of the State’s capacity and of technical assistance, in consultation with, and with the consent of, the State concerned;

- (d) the sharing of best practice among States and other stakeholders;
- (e) support for cooperation in the promotion and protection of human rights; and
- (f) the encouragement of full cooperation and engagement with the HRC, other human rights bodies and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

4. Each State under review is required to provide relevant information setting out, among other things, the background of the country and the framework for promotion and protection of human rights, as well as its achievement and challenges in promotion and protection of human rights. Such information may be presented orally or through a written presentation which should not exceed 20 pages.

5. The Central People's Government plans to submit a written report and has requested the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) to provide a section for inclusion in the report. In view of the constraint on the length of the national report, the section of the HKSAR would be around three pages.

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6. This paper contains, at Annex, a proposed outline of the section of the HKSAR for inclusion in the report of the People's Republic of China. It is issued to invite views from the public on the topics and contents to be covered in the section of the HKSAR.

7. This paper is distributed to the public through the 18 District Offices of the Home Affairs Department and on the internet at the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau's web-site (<http://www.cmab.gov.hk>). Copies are also sent to relevant organisations.

8. We will consider carefully views received from this consultation exercise. Any persons or organisations wishing to offer views are invited to send them to the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau on or before 13 September 2008:

by post :     Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau  
                  Central Government Offices  
                  3/F., East Wing  
                  Lower Albert Road, Hong Kong

by fax: 2840-0657  
by e-mail: [cmabenq@cmab.gov.hk](mailto:cmabenq@cmab.gov.hk)

**Constitution and Mainland Affairs Bureau**  
2 September 2008