

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

I. Promotion and protection of human rights in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

A. Background

This report was prepared by the government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) after careful consideration of comments received during three weeks of public consultation in June 2023.

B. Framework and measures for promoting and safeguarding human rights

2. The HKSAR fully and faithfully implements the “One Country, Two Systems” policy. The constitutional order of the Special Administrative Region, based on the Constitution of the People’s Republic of China and the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China (the “HKSAR Basic Law”), operates in a stable and robust manner and the rights and freedoms enjoyed in accordance with the law by Hong Kong residents are fully protected. The HKSAR participates in reviews of the implementation of international covenants on human rights, pursuant to arrangement by the Central Government.

3. In June 2020, the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress enacted the Law of the People’s Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the “HKSAR National Security Law”), whose immediate promulgation and implementation in the HKSAR effectively ended a violent, destructive and chaotic situation. In March 2021, the National People’s Congress made appropriate and necessary adjustments to the electoral system of the HKSAR to ensure that the principle of “patriots governing Hong Kong” is implemented. Since the promulgation of the HKSAR National Security Law and the improvement of the electoral system, the situation in Hong Kong has marked a major turn from chaos to governance and has moved towards a new phase of stability and prosperity. Hong Kong society has put the volatile situation behind it, and the rights and freedoms of Hong Kong residents are better protected in a safer and more orderly environment.

C. Practices in the promotion and protection of human rights (recommendations 205 and 343–346)

4. During the third-cycle review, the Chinese Government accepted the five recommendations made by countries concerned regarding the HKSAR, and the HKSAR has been implementing appropriate and effective measures.

5. The HKSAR protects the freedoms of press and expression of Hong Kong residents. The media may exercise their freedom of expression in accordance with the law, and comment on or even criticize the work of the HKSAR government. The number of local, mainland Chinese and overseas media organisations registered with the Press Service of the Information Services Department of the HKSAR government has increased by 39 per cent compared with 2018. The public continues to enjoy freedom of peaceful assembly and association. The number of registered trade unions and trade union federations increased by 60.7 per cent between the end of 2018 and June 2023. Even as it facilitates the expression of views by people at gatherings and marches, the HKSAR is also responsible for maintaining national security and public order. The police always handle public activities in accordance with the Public Order Ordinance (Cap. 245) and relevant laws. The HKSAR consistently upholds the rule of law, its courts conduct trials independently, and the Court of Final Appeal exercises the power of final adjudication of the HKSAR. The Court of Final Appeal may invite judges from other common-law jurisdictions to take part in its proceedings, as required. There are currently 11 non-permanent overseas judges from the United Kingdom, Australia and Canada taking part in the proceedings of the Court of Final Appeal on occasion. Hong Kong residents continue to participate in public affairs (including public elections).

6. The HKSAR attaches great importance to protecting the rights and interests of foreign domestic helpers (FDHs), who are covered by the Employment Ordinance and enjoy the additional benefits provided for in the Standard Employment Contract (ID 407) established by the government. The Labour Department of the HKSAR government set up a specialized unit to provide “one-stop shop” support for FDHs in 2020.

7. The Hong Kong Commission on Children was established in 2018 to provide comprehensive oversight of children's affairs and formulate policies, strategies and work priorities on children's development and growth, as well as monitor their implementation. In June 2023, the HKSAR government submitted a bill to the Legislative Council on the mandatory reporting of child abuse, aimed at early detection and intervention in child abuse cases and strengthening child protection.

D. Challenges and future goals

8. The HKSAR is making every effort to accelerate, increase and improve the supply of public housing and to reduce the waiting time for units to become available. It has published blueprints for the development of youth, scientific and technical entrepreneurship, and primary medical care, is focusing on increasing the supply of labour to support the economy, and is setting short, medium and long-term relief measures on different issues to benefit the people and build a people-centred society together.