

Preamble

1. This report, which is the second periodic report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) under the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, forms part of China's combined fourth and fifth under the Convention. It updates the Committee Against Torture on developments since the submission of the initial report (which formed part of China's third) and the Committee's hearing thereof at its 414th, 417th and 421st meetings on 4, 5, and 9 May 2000. It also responds to the Committee's Concluding Observations of 9 May 2000 and the subsequent comments of local observers on the implementation of the Convention in Hong Kong. The latter are presented in summary form but we have sent the Committee's Secretariat full, original copies of comments that were submitted to us in written form. In drafting the report, we have sought to adhere to the Committee's requirements as prescribed in the UN Manual on Human Rights Reporting.

2. The initial report contained detailed information on the laws, policies, and practices that are in place to ensure Hong Kong's compliance with the Convention. Many of those are of long standing and, by nature, tend to remain unchanged – or to change very little – over time. Thus, in accordance with the guidance in the UN Manual on Human Rights Reporting (page 67, final paragraph), we do not propose repeating descriptions/explanations of such matters in this report, considering it sufficient to advise the Committee that the situation remains essentially as previously explained. We believe that this approach is also consistent with Article 19.1 of the Convention.