

Third Report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China under the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment

Preamble

This report (the Report) is the third report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China (HKSAR), under the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (the Convention). It updates the Committee Against Torture (the Committee) on developments since the submission of the second report of the HKSAR (the previous report) in February 2006. It also responds to the Committee's Concluding Observations of 19 January 2009 (the previous Concluding Observations), after the Committee's hearing in respect of the previous report at its 41st session held from 3 to 21 November 2008.

Following the issue of the previous Concluding Observations by the Committee in January 2009, we have widely disseminated them among all levels of society, including the Legislative Council (LegCo), relevant Government bureaux and departments, the Judiciary, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other interested parties. They have also been made available to the public through the Government website.

We have undertaken to provide a detailed response to the concerns and recommendations of the Committee expressed in respect of the HKSAR in the Report. In preparing the Report, we have, in accordance with past practice, set out in an outline the broad subject headings and individual topics that we envisaged to be covered in the Report. The outline for consultation was widely issued to stakeholders, including the LegCo and members of the Human Rights Forum, Committee on the Promotion of Racial Harmony, Ethnic Minorities Forum and Children's Rights Forum (which comprise representatives of human rights organisations, ethnic minorities groups, children and youth groups, NGOs and other interested parties), and was available on the Internet. The public were invited to submit during the period from

5 June to 18 July 2012 their views on the Government's implementation of the Covenant in respect of the topics. The public were also invited to suggest additional topics that ought to be included in the Report.

We have carefully considered the views and comments received in drafting the Report. As with the past practice, issues raised by commentators, together with the respective responses of the HKSAR Government where applicable, have been incorporated in the relevant sections of the Report.

As the initial report of the HKSAR submitted in 1999 (the initial report) and the previous report have already contained detailed information on the laws, policies and practices that are in place to ensure Hong Kong's compliance with the Convention and many of them remain unchanged, or have changed only slightly, we have not repeated descriptions or explanations of such in this Report.

The Report will be made available to stakeholders, including the LegCo, members of the abovementioned forums and interested NGOs, and will be distributed to the public at the Public Enquiry Service Centres of the Home Affairs Department (HAD). It will also be accessible to members of the public through public libraries and Government website.