

## **Government examining UN recommendations on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**

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"The UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has now published its concluding observations on the Hong Kong SAR's second report under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which forms part of China's initial report under the Covenant", a Home Affairs Bureau spokesman said today (May 19).

The concluding observations follow the Committee's hearing of the report in Geneva, on 27 to 29 April, when a Hong Kong team, led by the Acting Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Stephen Fisher attended as part of the Chinese delegation. A team from Macau also took part.

The spokesman said that the observations included "several positive comments, commending Hong Kong's performance in a number of important areas."

"But there are also a number of concerns and recommendations, which we are examining, though some appear to be based on false assumptions, misinformation, and factual inaccuracy. Others relate to matters that were not addressed at the hearing, which means that the Hong Kong team had no opportunity either to explain our position or to correct any misunderstandings on which the Committee's interpretation of the situation may have been based."

"We will give the Committee a detailed response in our third report, which is due for submission by 30 June 2010 as part of China's second," the spokesman said.

The concluding observations will be uploaded on the Home Affairs Bureau's homepage next week. Hard copies are now available to the media on request from the Duty Officer, Information Services Department or HAB's Information Unit.

Ends/Tuesday, May 19, 2005