

ARTICLE 8
EQUALITY IN POLITICAL AND PUBLIC LIFE AT THE
INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

“States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure to women, on equal terms with men and without any discrimination, the opportunity to represent their Governments at the international level and to participate in the work of international organisations.”

Officers representing Government at International Level

125. Officers at Bureau Director / Secretary and senior levels (i.e. directorate grade) as well as those posted at overseas Hong Kong Economic and Trade Officer often represent HKSAR at international level. Posts in the Civil Service are filled by the best suitable officers, irrespective of sex. Officers are selected purely on the basis of relevance to their work and exigencies of the service. Female officers are given the same consideration as male officers. At present, females make up 24% of directorate officers. Among the 11 Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong and overseas, five are headed by female officers.

126. Furthermore, women have actively represented the HKSAR Government in the work of international organisations. They contribute substantially to various international fora such as those under Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, World Trade Organisation and World Health Organisation. It is worth noting that the Commissioner for Narcotics, who is a female officer, represented the HKSAR in holding the Presidency of the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF) for the term of 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002. This was also the first time in its 13 years history that the FATF was headed by a female president. Women also make up a substantial number of members in HKSAR Government delegations attending hearings of various UN Conventions.