

WOMEN'S COMMISSION

Information Note on **Fifty-second Session of the Commission on the Status of Women**

Introduction

This paper reports on the Women's Commission (WoC)'s participation at the 52nd Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) from 25 to 27 February 2008 in New York.

Background

2. CSW is a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), dedicated exclusively to gender equality and advancement of women. It is the principal global policy-making body on women's issues. Every year, representatives of Member States gather at United Nations Headquarters in New York to evaluate progress on gender equality, identify challenges, set global standards and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality and advancement of women worldwide. CSW meets annually for a period of 10 working days from late February to early March.

52nd Session of the CSW

3. The 52nd Session of CSW was held from 25 February to 7 March 2008 in New York. The priority theme of the meeting is "Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women".

4. The Chinese delegation was led by Ambassador Liu Zhenmin, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations. Ms Sophia Kao, WoC Chairperson, and two WoC Members namely, Ms Lau Ka-shi, Co-convenor of the Working Group on Enabling Environment and Ms Jacqueline Cheng, Convenor of Steering Committee on the Capacity Building Mileage Programme (CBMP), as

well as Miss Eliza Lee, Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare)¹ and Miss Betty Chow, Chief Executive Officer (Welfare)² of the Labour and Welfare Bureau attended the first three days of the meeting as part of the Chinese delegation.

5. At the meeting, participants shared experience, practices and views in relation to financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women as well as gender mainstreaming. The agreed conclusions of the 52nd Session of CSW is at Annex A.

6. The Hong Kong delegates also organised during the meeting, on 25 February 2008, a parallel event, namely “Panel Discussion on the Empowerment of Women in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), China”, to introduce the empowerment of women through education and training in HKSAR as well as WoC’s CBMP. Over 40 delegates from other places attended the panel discussion. The participated actively and were very interested in CBMP. The flyer and presentation materials of the panel discussion are at Annex B.

Networking with Women’s Group in New York

7. During the trip to attend the 52nd session of CSW, the Hong Kong delegates also took the opportunity to meet representatives of women’s group in New York. They attended a lunch gathering organised by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in New York to meet with the President, four Members from the Board of Directors and the Director of Programs of the Asian Women in Business of New York and to exchange views on common issues of concern.

Follow-up Action

8. The Working Group on Enabling Environment will further study the agreed conclusions of the 52nd session of CSW and make recommendations to, and follow up with, concerned bureaux and departments as appropriate.

Advice Sought

9. Members are invited to note the content of this information note.

Women's Commission Secretariat
March 2008