

**WOMEN'S COMMISSION**  
**Notes of the 85th Meeting held on 18 October 2016**

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| <u>Present:</u>               | Mrs Stella LAU         | (Chairperson)  |
|                               | Miss Annie TAM         | Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Vice-chairperson)  |
|                               | Ms Aruna GURUNG        |  |
|                               | Dr. Maggie KOONG       |  |
|                               | Ms Leona LAM           |  |
|                               | Dr. Trisha LEAHY       |  |
|                               | Mrs Miranda LEUNG      |  |
|                               | Ms Yolanda NG          |  |
|                               | Ms Scarlett PONG       |  |
|                               | Dr. Loletta SO         |  |
|                               | Ms Sandy WONG          |  |
|                               | Ms WONG Shu-ming       |  |
|                               | Ms Catherine WONG      |  |
|                               | Mr. DC CHEUNG          | Principal Assistant Secretary (Constitutional & Mainland Affairs)5, Constitutional & Mainland Affairs Bureau |
| <u>Absent with Apologies:</u> | Professor Cecilia CHAN |  |
|                               | Professor Shirley HUNG |  |
|                               | Ms Angelina KWAN       |  |
|                               | Ms Juan LEUNG          |  |
|                               | Mr. Philip TSAI        |  |
|                               | Ms WONG Siu-wah        |  |
|                               | Mr. Robert WONG        |  |
|                               | Ms Yvonne YEUNG        |  |
|                               | Ms Rabi YIM            |  |
|                               | Ms Carol YIP           | Director of Social Welfare   |
| <u>In attendance:</u>         | Miss Leonia TAI        | DS(Welfare)1   |
|                               | Miss Agnes CHEUNG      | PAS(Welfare)2  |
|                               | Ms Winnie CHAN         | AS(Welfare)2A (Secretary)  |
|                               | Mr. Mickey WAI         | AS(Welfare)2C  |

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|                      | Mrs Annie CHAN     | CEO(SD)   |
| For Agenda<br>Item 1 | Professor Nora TAM | Chairlady, the Strategy<br>Sub-committee, Council for<br>Sustainable Development  |
|                      | Ms. Joyce CHOW     | Project Manager, Policy for<br>Sustainability Lab of<br>Faculty of Social Sciences of<br>The University of Hong Kong                          |
|                      | Ms. Neve LEUNG     | Assistant Secretary<br>(Sustainable<br>Development)2,<br>Environment Bureau<br>(Secretariat of the Council<br>for Sustainable<br>Development) |
| For Agenda<br>Item 2 | Mr LAM Ka-tai      | Deputy Director of Social<br>Welfare (Services), Social<br>Welfare Department   |
|                      | Mr Kenneth CHENG   | Principal Assistant<br>Secretary (Welfare) 1,<br>Labour and Welfare Bureau  |

### **Item 1: Public Engagement on Promotion of Sustainable Consumption of Biological Resources**

1.1 The Chairperson welcomed Professor Nora TAM, Ms Joyce CHOW and Ms Neve LEUNG to the meeting. Professor TAM said that the Council for Sustainable Development released on 26 July 2016 a public engagement document on “Promotion of Sustainable Consumption of Biological Resources”, and briefly introduced the background of

this public engagement exercise. Ms CHOW gave a powerpoint presentation on the details of the public engagement exercise.

1.2 Professor TAM said that sustainable consumption of biological resources was one of the key aspects of sustainable development, and biological resources were essential for human beings as they met a host of people's needs, from food, clothing, furniture, to broader functions such as regulating climate and preventing soil degradation. If biological resources were consumed and used sustainably, our future generations would continue to have the opportunity to enjoy these resources. The public engagement exercise aimed to enhance public awareness of the importance of biological resources, foster collaboration among stakeholders in realising sustainable consumption practices, and help formulate recommendations on strategies and measures to promote behavioural change towards sustainable consumption of biological resources in the community. The public engagement exercise would last till 15 November 2016.

1.3 Some Members suggested that in order to facilitate

consumers to make smart choices, some kinds of “eco-labels” should be introduced in Hong Kong for easy identification of sustainable products. Some Members suggested that with reference to the “Green Card” scheme introduced in South Korea which encouraged the adoption of sustainable lifestyle, the Government could consider setting up a dedicated smart phone app in Hong Kong where discounts would be offered to consumers who purchased sustainable products, thereby encouraging consumers to make smarter choices.

1.4 A Member said that it was equally important to have clear information and labels of sustainable products displayed prominently on shelves which could provide first-hand information to the consumers while they were shopping. A Member added that consideration should also be given to lowering the price of the sustainable products in order to encourage consumption of these products by people who were less advantaged.

1.5 As regards education and publicity, some Members said that it was very important to build up a sustainable lifestyle and

habit for children at earlier stage. A Member added that continuous education and publicity works should be targeted at different groups of consumers (e.g. primary and secondary school students, homemakers and private sector).

1.6 Some Members added that it was very important to have a clear promotional message in the publicity campaign. The meaning of the Chinese term “biological resources” would not be easily understood by the general public, and more daily life examples were suggested to be provided, so that the community at large would better understand the concept.

1.7 At the company level, a Member said that some sizable companies had already followed the green procurement guidelines and banned the consumption of shark fins in their company events and banquets. Small to medium sized companies should be encouraged to adopt the green procurement guidelines as well.

1.8 A Member said that introducing some “award schemes” should be appealing to the private companies.

1.9 A Member said that the Government should also consider how the used rubber tires should be collected or recycled in a sustainable manner.

1.10 Professor TAM thanked Members for their advice and comments. The Chairperson added that it was very important to gauge views from people of different background which would be conducive to promoting the sustainable life style and consumption of sustainable products to the community.

## **Item 2: Suggestions and Priorities on Family, Child and Youth Welfare Services in 2017-18**

2.1 The Chairperson welcomed Mr LAM Ka-tai, Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Services) of the Social Welfare Department (SWD), to the meeting. At the invitation of the Chairperson, Mr LAM, with the aid of a powerpoint presentation, briefed Members on Government's suggestions and priorities on family, child and youth welfare services in 2017-18.

2.2 Members generally welcomed the implementation of the "Pilot Scheme on On-site Pre-school Rehabilitation Services" (Pilot Scheme). Some Members considered that it was crucial

to have early intervention and provision of services for the children in need. A Member suggested that with the implementation of the “Free Quality Kindergarten Education” policy, the Pilot Scheme should continue to enhance its services. Some Members expressed concern about the adequacy of manpower supply of the relevant professionals (such as physiotherapists, occupational therapists and speech therapists) and suggested that the Government should have forward planning over the manpower supply and training of these professionals.

2.3 Another Member considered that the current provision of child care services was still insufficient to meet the increasing demand. The Government should continue to strengthen child care services to support women’s work and family responsibilities. Another Member suggested that the Government should consider stationing school social workers in kindergartens to assist kindergarten students and their families as necessary.

2.4 A Member enquired about progress of the proposed Children Proceedings (Parental Responsibility) Bill following the public consultation exercise, and relayed that there were

concerns from women's groups on the model of parental coordination. Regarding the "Pilot Project on Children Contact Service" (Pilot Project), some Members suggested that SWD could strengthen the elements of parent-child activities under the Pilot Project to help maintain good contact between the divorced parents and their children.

2.5 Regarding youth services, Members were generally supportive of the efforts made by SWD in the "Navigation Scheme for Young Persons in Care Services" (Navigation Scheme), which aimed at providing employment and training for young people who were interested in working in the care services of the welfare sector. Some Members were concerned about the sustainability of the Navigation Scheme as it would be difficult to attract more young people to join the elderly and rehabilitation care services in the longer term. Another Member suggested that consideration should be given to offering the participants of the Navigation Scheme with more attractive remuneration.

2.6 In addition, a Member suggested that SWD should join hands with the Narcotics Division and the Police Force to



provide support for young people, especially those who were unwilling to receive drug treatment services.

2.7 Mr LAM thanked Members for their views and provided the following responses –

- (a) Regarding the sustainability of the “Navigation Scheme”, consideration was being given to providing more job varieties and creating a career ladder for the participants within the welfare sector;
- (b) As the demand for the “Pilot Scheme on On-site Pre-school Rehabilitation Services” was very high, an annual recurrent expenditure of \$460 million has been earmarked to turn the Pilot Scheme into a regular government-subsidised programme after its conclusion. Through the regularised programme, about 7 000 additional places would be provided, in phases to reduce, if not eliminate, the waiting time of children in need of rehabilitation services;
- (c) It was very important to have forward planning on the supply of relevant therapists. New classes of the master courses would be offered by the Hong Kong Polytechnic University on physiotherapists and occupational therapists;

and

- (d) The Integrated Family Service Centres, operated by SWD and subvented non-governmental organisations, would continue to provide a spectrum of services to address the needs of individuals and families, as well as liaising with the kindergartens concerned to support the children and families in need.

2.8 Miss Annie TAM, the Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare, said that the proposed Children Proceedings (Parental Responsibility) Bill would remain a controversial subject. The Government would take into account the comments received during the consultation exercise in mapping out the way forward. The earliest timeframe for introduction of the Bill to the Legislative Council would be in early 2018. Meanwhile the Government would continue promoting the concept of continuing parental responsibility of both parents after divorce and the relevant support measures would be implemented.

2.9 The Chairperson thanked Mr LAM for his presentation.

### **Item 3: Women's Commission Conference**

3.1 Ms Winnie CHAN, Assistant Secretary (Welfare) 2A, briefed Members on the latest progress of the preparatory works for the Women's Commission Conference to be held on 21 February 2017.

3.2 Members said that the Working Group on Collaboration would further deliberate on the performances of the women's groups to meet the theme of the Pre-Conference Activity, as well as the proposed school competitions.

### **Item 4: Confirmation of Minutes of the 84<sup>th</sup> Meeting (WoC 14/16)**

4.1 The minutes of the 84<sup>th</sup> Meeting was confirmed without amendments.

### **Item 5: Verbal Report by Working Groups**

5.1 The Meeting noted the verbal reports made by the co-convenors of respective working groups.

### **Item 6: Secretary's Report (WoC 15/16)**

6.1 The Meeting noted the Secretary's Report.

**Item 7: Any Other Business**

7.1 There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

**Women's Commission Secretariat  
January 2017**