

**WOMEN'S COMMISSION**  
**Notes of the 90th Meeting held on 14 February 2018**

<u>Present:</u>	Ms CHAN Yuen-han Miss Leonia TAI	(Chairperson) Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Acting) / Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (1)
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Ms Juan LEUNG  
 Ms Rabi YIM  
 Ms Yolanda NG  
 Ms WONG Siu-wah  
 Professor Cecilia CHAN  
 Ms Aruna GURUNG  
 Ms Scarlett PONG  
 Dr Loletta SO  
 Ms Susanna CHIU  
 Dr Kevin LAU  
 Ms Elaine LO  
 Ms Melaine LEE  
 Miss Sherry TSAI

<u>Absent with</u> <u>Apologies:</u>	Mr Philip TSAI Professor Shirley HUNG Ms Angelina KWAN Ms Yvonne YEUNG Mrs Emily LAM HO Mrs Viola WONG HO Ms Michelle TANG Ms Carol YIP Mr CHEUNG Doi-ching
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Director of Social Welfare  
 Principal Assistant  
 Secretary (Constitutional &  
 Mainland Affairs)5,  
 Constitutional & Mainland  
 Affairs Bureau

<u>In</u> <u>attendance</u>	Miss Agnes CHEUNG Mr Huggin TANG	Principal Assistant Secretary (Welfare) 2 Assistant Secretary (Welfare) 2A (Secretary)
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Mr Edwin CHAU

Mrs Annie CHAN

Assistant  
(Welfare) 2C

Chief Executive  
(Welfare)2

Secretary

Officer

The Chairperson welcomed Members to the meeting, and gave some introductory remarks on the plan for the work of the Women's Commission (WoC) in its new term. The Chairperson suggested the areas of focus could include women's employment, provision of child care facilities and gender pay gap. The Chairperson also suggested that focus groups could be formed to follow up specific topics if necessary.

**Item 1: The Draft Outline of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region's Fourth Report under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (WoC 01/18)**

1.1 Ms Leonia TAI, Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Acting) / Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (1) (PSLW(Atg)), briefed the meeting that the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) had to submit by September 2018 its fourth report under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) to the Central People's Government (CPG) for incorporating into the country's ninth periodic report under CEDAW. With the aid of a powerpoint presentation, she briefed Members on the draft Outline of the fourth report of the HKSAR under CEDAW (the Fourth CEDAW Report) and the arrangement of the public consultation.

1.2 Given that CEDAW covered a wide range of issues relating to women's rights, several Members opined that the Administration should enhance publicity to promote understanding of CEDAW among various stakeholders. A Member emphasised the importance of engaging schools in promoting CEDAW. PSLW(Atg) replied that the publicity effort of CEDAW was ongoing. For example, to raise the awareness of CEDAW amongst secondary students, a video competition, named "Her Voice", was launched in the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2017. It was very well received. There were over 100 entries and over 400 students had participated. The prize presentation ceremony would be held during the International Women's Day (IWD) reception on 8 March 2018. The public would be invited to give their views on the draft Outline of the Fourth CEDAW Report in the public consultation period from 8 March to 28 April 2018. The publicity would be further enhanced to tie in with the public consultation. Besides roving exhibitions, publication of leaflets and the video competition mentioned above, a forum would also be organised with women's groups to collect their views on the draft Outline.

1.3. Several Members suggested extending the period of public consultation. PSLW(Atg) explained that the Fourth CEDAW Report was being prepared under a tight schedule. With a view to launching the public consultation as soon as possible, the Secretariat had arranged this meeting to consult Members' views on the draft Outline immediately after CPG had confirmed the submission deadline for HKSAR of the Fourth CEDAW Report (i.e. by September 2018). Some lead time would also be needed after the public consultation for various Government Bureaux and Departments to prepare their input to the Fourth CEDAW Report taking into account the views received in the public consultation period. Nonetheless, Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB) would explore if there was still room for extension of the public consultation period.

[Post-meeting notes: In response to Members' suggestion, duration of the public consultation has been extended from 7 weeks to 3 months from 1 March 2018 to 31 May 2018.]

1.4 Noting that a public consultation session with the women's groups would be conducted, several Members suggested that the Administration might also consider consulting the District Councils (DCs) on the Fourth CEDAW

Report. A Member further suggested that Members could take the lead and share out the work in consulting the DCs. A Member suggested consulting various sectors such as business and professional sectors. A Member considered that the views collected in the consultation period might have reference value to the work of WoC. She suggested that a summary of the views collected during the consultation period should be provided to Members for reference. PSLW(Atg) explained that for territory-wide issues, the established practice was for Government to arrange central briefings for DC Chairmen rather than consulting individual DCs. Noting Members' suggestions on the public consultation, LWB would consider any further measures.

[Post-meeting notes: In response to Members' suggestions, two public consultation forums were held on 25 April and 16 May 2018 respectively. An information note on the draft Outline of the topics to be covered in the Fourth CEDAW Report was also distributed to Members before the launch of the public consultation on 1 March 2018 for sharing amongst Members' networks as they see fit. The draft Outline has also been specifically sent to various business and professional bodies as well as women's groups. The Secretariat would also assist and

facilitate Members in consulting the 18 DCs. The Secretariat would provide to Members a summary of the views collected during public consultation.]

1.5 Noting that there was no single ordinance that domesticated the provisions of CEDAW in the HKSAR, a Member suggested that in order to facilitate the WoC's understanding of the content of CEDAW, the Administration might set out a note in the application of CEDAW in Hong Kong vis-a-vis local laws. PSLW(Atg) explained that the provisions of CEDAW were implemented in the HKSAR through various local laws instead of a single all-embracing ordinance. LWB would consider how to facilitate Members' understanding of the issue. [Post-meeting notes: The Secretariat would prepare an information note on the application of CEDAW in Hong Kong vis-à-vis local laws.]

## **Item 2: Secretary's Report (WoC 02/18)**

2.1 The Secretary reported that IWD 2018 Celebration would be held in the Conference Hall of Central Government Offices in the evening of 8 March 2018. The Chief Executive would officiate at the event. The Secretary advised Members to arrive

at the venue at 1710 on the event day for group photos. The Secretariat would send reminder email with details of the event in due course.

**Item 3: Any Other Business**

3.1 There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

**Women's Commission Secretariat  
March 2018**