

WOMEN'S COMMISSION
Notes of the 91st Meeting held on 6 June 2018

Present: Ms CHAN Yuen-han (Chairperson)
Miss Leonia TAI Permanent Secretary for
Labour and Welfare (Acting)
/ Deputy Secretary for
Labour and Welfare (1)

Ms Juan LEUNG
Ms Rabi YIM
Mr Philip TSAI
Ms Aruna GURUNG
Ms Angelina KWAN
Ms Yolanda NG
Ms Yvonne YEUNG
Ms Elaine LO
Mrs Emily LAM HO
Mrs Viola WONG HO
Ms Michelle TANG
Ms Melaine LEE
Miss Sherry TSAI
Ms Carol YIP

Director of Social Welfare

Absent with Professor Cecilia CHAN
Apologies: Ms Susanna CHIU
Professor Shirley HUNG
Dr Kevin LAU
Ms Scarlett PONG
Dr Loletta SO
Ms WONG Siu-wah
Mr CHEUNG Doi-ching

Principal Assistant
Secretary (Constitutional &
Mainland Affairs)5,
Constitutional & Mainland
Affairs Bureau

<u>In</u>	Miss Agnes CHEUNG	Principal	Assistant
<u>attendance</u>	Mr Huggin TANG	Secretary (Welfare) 2	
	Mr Edwin CHAU	Assistant Secretary	
		(Welfare) 2A (Secretary)	
	Mrs Annie CHAN	Assistant Secretary (Welfare)	
		2C	
		Chief Executive Officer	
		(Welfare)2	

Item 1: Work Direction of the Current Term and Re-organisation of Working Groups (WoC 03/18)

1.1 The Chairperson and Members confirmed the notes of the 90th meeting without any amendment.

1.2 The Chairperson briefed Members the gist of the discussion with the Secretary for Labour and Welfare (SLW) in mid-May 2018. Some of the conveners of the working groups and senior Members also attended the meeting. The Secretariat had provided a synopsis of the meeting to all Members. To briefly recapitulate, the Chairperson reflected to SLW Members' views on various issues, such as the status, organisation, and resources of Women's Commission (WoC), child care services, promotion of gender mainstreaming and sex education, etc. Five suggestions were made for consideration of the Chief Executive (CE) for inclusion in the 2018 Policy Address. Ms Leonia TAI, Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (1) (DS(W)1) added that SLW had already reflected the five suggestions to the CE after the meeting. The Chairperson

suggested and Members agreed that WoC should request to meet the Chief Secretary for Administration (CS) to reiterate the five suggestions to the CE. The Chairperson asked the Secretariat to convey this meeting request to the CS' office.

[Post-meeting note: The Secretariat conveyed the meeting request to the CS' office after the 91st meeting.]

1.3 The Chairperson recapitulated the discussion with the SLW on the need for enhancing child care services. DS(W)1 responded that the Government had commissioned the University of Hong Kong to conduct a consultancy study on the long term development of child care services (the Study). The Consultant would consult relevant Government Advisory and Statutory Bodies (ASBs) including the Commission on Children, as well as WoC in the next WoC meeting.

1.4 The Chairman briefed Members about the proposals set out in WoC 03/18 which were based on the discussion of WoC's internal meeting held on 6 April 2018 between the Chairperson and convenors of various working groups/steering committee. She highlighted paragraphs 8 to 9 of the paper regarding the proposed re-organisation of working groups into four with reshuffled scope of focus.

1.5 Members raised various suggestions on how to take forward the work of WoC. A Member suggested that the

working groups might engage non-governmental organisations (NGOs)/private sector to gauge their views on various topics. For example, companies in the private sector might share good practices on how they retained professional women on their workforce after they had started families. Think tanks and NGOs might also share with WoC findings of their researches/surveys. Another Member suggested that WoC might consider enhancing the roles of Gender Focal Points (GFPs) of different sectors in gauging public views.

1.6 Noting the suggested research/survey topics listed in paragraph 3 of the paper, a Member suggested that the topic of the needs and challenges facing single women should also be considered. The Chairperson responded that specific research/survey topics could be deliberated by the relevant working group.

1.7 A Member suggested that WoC might consider launching its own programme(s) to help women from low-income families. She shared her experience in setting up co-operatives with the help from the Government in renting places at nominal rate.

1.8 As to the publicity work of WoC, a Member said that many shopping arcades were willing to provide exhibition venues to public bodies for free, and WoC might consider launching publicity campaigns at these venues.

1.9 The meeting endorsed the proposals set out in WoC 03/2018 regarding the reorganisation of the relevant working groups.

Item 2: Funding Scheme for Women's Development (WoC 04/18)

2.1 DS(W)1 briefed Members about the proposed enhancements of the Funding Scheme for Women's Development (Funding Scheme), including increase of the annual provision for the WoC Stream, revisions of the Funding Guidelines, mechanism of declaration of interests with two-tier reporting system, etc. She remarked that subject to Members' approval, the new guidelines and arrangement would be applied to the second round of applications under the WoC stream in the fourth quarter of 2018 and to the District Council (DC) stream in 2019-20.

2.2 The proposed enhancements of the Funding Scheme were generally welcomed by Members. A Member remarked that the DCs should be informed of the new guidelines and arrangement as soon as possible because some DCs might need adequate time to process the enhancements given that their meetings were held on a bi-monthly basis. She also opined that the role of the GFPs of DCs should be enhanced in processing the applications of the Funding Scheme in the DC stream. The Chairperson responded that the suggestions

could be deliberated by the relevant working group.

2.3 Drawing on the experience in the Working Group of Collaboration, a Member commented that the proposed enhancements would be welcomed by the applicants. It was noted that the proposed mechanism of declaration of interests with two-tier reporting system was on par with those of other ASBs and therefore should not pose any problem to Members.

2.4 The meeting endorsed the proposals set out in WoC 04/18.

Item 3: Views Collected by Women's Commission During the Public Consultation Period on the Outline of the Topics to be Covered in the Fourth Report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region under the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (WoC 05/18)

3.1 The Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB) had conducted a three-month public consultation from 1 March to 31 May 2018 on the draft outline of the topics to be included in the fourth report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) under the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (4th CEDAW Report). During the public consultation period, WoC had consulted and sought views from the 18 DCs. Two public forums were also jointly organised with LWB.

3.2 The Chairperson expressed her gratitude to Members and the Secretariat for their participation and support in the consultation process. She drew Members' attention to the comprehensive list at Annex I of WoC 05/18 which summarised the views collected during the public consultation period. DS(W)1 supplemented that besides the views collected in the DCs and the public forums, written submissions were also received and that all the collected views had been referred to relevant Bureaux/Departments (B/Ds) for their consideration in the course of preparing input to the 4th CEDAW Report. The Chairperson asked whether publicity of the CEDAW consultation and views collected would be conducted. DS(W)1 responded that the report of the HKSAR would be submitted as part of the People's Republic of China's report, and upon the submission of the report by the country to the United Nations, further publicity could be considered. In the past, the full report of the HKSAR would be published and made available to the public.

3.3 Ms Carol YIP, Director of Social Welfare (DSW), explained that the Social Welfare Department had carefully examined and considered the views collected in the public consultation. For example, some commentators raised concern on the longer waiting time for female elders for residential care places which was perceived as gender inequality. DSW pointed out that the elderly residential care places were planned at the ratio of 7:3 for female to male notwithstanding the respective population ratio of 6:4. The slightly longer waiting

time for female (about 26 months) than that of their male counterparts (about 22 months) could not be taken as gender inequality since the waiting time could be affected by a number of factors, such as individual preference for specific elderly homes or homes in specific districts. The Chairperson agreed that some of the views might be based on perception and details should be examined before arriving at a conclusion.

Item 4: Secretary's Report (WoC 06/18)

4.1 The Secretary gave a notice that the Secretariat would invite all Members to sign up for the four new working groups as approved in item 1. As in the past, there would be no cap on the number of working groups that each member could join.

Item 5: Any Other Business

5.1 There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 17:10.

**Women's Commission Secretariat
July 2018**