

WOMEN'S COMMISSION
Notes of the Meeting held on 14 November 2019

<u>Present:</u>	Ms CHAN Yuen-han Mr David LEUNG	(Chairperson) Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Acting) /Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (1)/Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB)
	Professor Cecilia CHAN Miss Yolanda NG Ms Melissa PANG Dr Loletta SO Ms WONG Siu-wah Mr Gordon LEUNG Ms Judy CHUNG	Director of Social Welfare Principal Assistant Secretary (Constitutional & Mainland Affairs)5, Constitutional & Mainland Affairs Bureau
<u>Absent with Apologies:</u>	Ms Susanna CHIU Ms Mary HUEN Professor Shirley HUNG Ms Angelina KWAN Mrs Emily LAM HO Dr Kevin LAU Ms Melaine LEE Ms Elaine LO Ms Scarlett PONG Ms Rigam RAI Ms Michelle TANG Miss Sherry TSAI Mr Walter TSUI Mrs Viola WONG HO Ms Yvonne YEUNG	

<u>In attendance</u>	Miss Agnes CHEUNG	Principal Assistant Secretary (Welfare) 2/LWB
	Mr Huggin TANG	Assistant Secretary (Welfare) 2A (Secretary)/LWB
	Mr Anson WAN	Assistant Secretary (Welfare) 2C/LWB
	Mrs Annie CHAN	Chief Executive Officer (Welfare) 2/LWB
For Agenda Item 2	Ms LEE Hoi-lun, Leonie	Principal Assistant Secretary for Food & Health (Health) 1, Food and Health Bureau
	Dr LAI Shuk-mui, Katie	Medical & Health Officer (DP)8, Department of Health
	Dr Deacons YEUNG	Director (Cluster Services), Hospital Authority

Confirmation

1.1 The Chairperson and Members confirmed the draft notes of the 96th meeting without any amendment.

Item 1: The Chief Executive's 2019 Policy Address – Policy Initiatives Relating to Women's Development (WoC 14/19)

1.2 With the aid of a powerpoint presentation, Miss Agnes CHEUNG, Principal Assistant Secretary (Welfare)2 (PAS(W)2), briefed Members on major policy initiatives relating to women's

development in the 2019 Policy Address.

1.3 Noting the various initiatives on care for child, elderly and disabled, the Chairperson and several Members were of the view that the Policy Address should have dedicated paragraphs on women. They urged the Government to launch and enhance initiatives which target women's own needs, such as measures on supporting women's mental and physical health. Some suggested that the Government should collect more statistics on women's well-being for analysis and policy formulation from women's perspective. A Member was concerned that many women were psychologically and mentally disturbed by recent social incidents and she urged the Government to promptly launch specific mitigation measures. DSW said that SWD had recently prepared a paper on welfare and community support for people affected by recent social incidents for the Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services and could send the paper to members for reference.

[Post-meeting note: WoC Secretariat circulated the relevant paper to members on 15 November 2019.]

1.4 PAS(W)2 reported to the meeting the progress of WoC's work on various fronts. Three consultation sessions co-hosted by the Chairperson and the Secretary for Labour and Welfare were conducted in August 2019 to collect views from local women's groups on women issues for the 2019 Policy Address. The views had been duly and timely conveyed to Chief

Executive's Office for consideration. A meeting between Members and the Secretary for Food and Health was also conducted in August 2019. WoC Secretariat would continue to assist WoC Members to convey their views on issues to women concern to various Bureaux and Departments (B/Ds). B/Ds would also be invited to brief Members on relevant initiative(s) / issue(s) as and when appropriate. On data collection, WoC published "Hong Kong Women in Figures" on a biennial basis. The next publication was being prepared with a view to publishing in March 2020. The Census and Statistics Department had also met with WoC Working Group on Empowerment and Training to brief and collect views on Population Census as well as topical studies. With WoC endorsement, a consultancy study on considerations and difficulties of women in choosing whether to work would commence in 2020.

Item 2: Hong Kong Cancer Strategy 2019 (WoC 15/19)

2.1 With the aid of a powerpoint presentation, Ms Leonie LEE, Principal Assistant Secretary for Food and Health (Health) 1 (PAS(H)1), briefed Members on Hong Kong Cancer Strategy 2019, which offered a holistic plan for cancer prevention and control for Hong Kong. The directions laid down in the Cancer Strategy included reducing risk factors leading to cancer and providing evidence-based screening; seeking early detection and

diagnosis; offering timely and effective treatment; strengthening survivorship support to cancer survivors; providing palliative and end-of-life care; investing in technology; enhancing the collaboration among relevant B/Ds, the Hospital Authority, community organisations and civil society; as well as enhancing surveillance and research capabilities.

2.2 Members were concerned about cancers common to women. A Member was of the view that the Government should tap into the network to-be-developed through District Health Centres (DHC) to provide cancer-screening services and information dissemination dedicated to women. She was also concerned about the limited capacity of public health care system in handling the more suspected cancer cases arising from the higher screening rate. Another Member suggested the Government should enhance promotion on healthy life style. The Chairperson suggested the Government should make reference to the experience of other regions in formulating relevant strategies and manpower planning. PAS(H)1 responded that while DHC would focus on primary health care, the satellite centres of DHC would facilitate dissemination of health information, including that related to cancer prevention and screening, at district level. The Government launched in 2004 a territory-wide Cervical Screening Programme, in collaboration with healthcare professionals in the public, private and non-governmental sectors, to facilitate and encourage women to receive regular cervical cancer screening. The Community Care Fund also launched in 2017 a scheme for out-reaching and subsidising eligible low-income women to

receive cervical cancer screening and preventive education. On breast cancer, the Government had commissioned the University of Hong Kong to conduct a study on the risk factors associated with breast cancer for local women, so as to help formulate future strategies for breast cancer screening in Hong Kong. The study was expected to be completed in 2019. Some Members suggested Food and Health Bureau / Department of Health should explore disseminating cancer prevention information to women through closer collaboration with district organisations.

Item 3: Secretary's Report (WoC 04/19)

3.1 The Secretariat had notified Members via email the tentative meeting dates of the four WoC meetings in 2020.

Item 4: Any Other Business

4.1 The next meeting would be held on 12 February 2020. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

**Women's Commission Secretariat
February 2020**