

WOMEN'S COMMISSION
Notes of the Meeting held on 12 November 2020

<u>Present:</u>	Ms CHAN Yuen-han	(Chairperson)
	Ms CHANG King-yiu	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Vice-Chairperson)
	Professor Cecilia CHAN	
	Ms Susanna CHIU	
	Ms Mary HUEN	
	Mrs Emily LAM HO	
	Dr Kevin LAU	
	Ms Melaine LEE	
	Ms Elaine LO	
	Ms Winnie NG	
	Miss Yolanda NG	
	Ms Melissa PANG	
	Ms Scarlett PONG	
	Dr Loletta SO	
	Miss Sherry TSAI	
	Mr Walter TSUI	
	Ms WONG Siu-wah	
	Dr Kitty WU	
	Ms Yvonne YEUNG	
	Ms PANG Kit-ling	Representative of the Director of Social Welfare/Assistant Director(Family & Child Welfare), Social Welfare Department
<u>Absent with</u>	Professor LUI Yu-hon	
<u>Apologies:</u>	Ms Rigam RAI	
	Mrs Viola WONG HO	
	Ms Judy CHUNG	Principal Assistant Secretary (Constitutional & Mainland Affairs)5, Constitutional & Mainland Affairs Bureau

<u>In attendance:</u>	Mr David LEUNG	Deputy Secretary for Labour & Welfare (Welfare)1/Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB)
	Ms Veronica WONG	Principal Assistant Secretary (Welfare)2/ LWB
	Mr Huggin TANG	Assistant Secretary (Welfare)2A/LWB (Secretary)
	Mrs Annie CHAN	Chief Executive Officer (Welfare)2/LWB
For Agenda Item 1:	Ms Linda LAW	Principal Assistant Secretary (Welfare)3/ LWB
	Professor Alice CHONG	Senior Researcher (2)/LWB
	Professor Hector TSANG	Chair Professor and Head of the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Confirmation of Notes of Last Meeting

1.1 The Chairperson and Members confirmed the draft notes of the last meeting held on 28 May 2020 without any amendment.

Item 1: Consultancy Study on Support for Carers (WoC 06/20)

1.2 With many areas of work related to carers, the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB) had commenced a study on carer support to gauge the needs of carers comprehensively. A multi-disciplinary consulting team had been commissioned by LWB to carry out the Consultancy Study on Needs and

Support Required of Carers of Elderly Persons and of Persons with Disabilities in Hong Kong (the Consultancy Study). With the aid of a powerpoint presentation, Professor Alice CHONG, Senior Researcher of LWB's Research Unit (Senior Researcher) and Professor Hector TSANG, Chair Professor and Head of the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, briefed Members on the background, objectives, principles, research methodology and content of the Consultancy Study, which was expected to be completed in 2021.

1.3 Members recognised the contributions made by carers, including women, to their families and society, and agreed the Consultancy Study's approach of gaining an understanding of carers' needs and service expectations from different perspectives (including the perspectives of carers, service providers and professionals). Some Members were of the view that in addition to material support, giving recognition to carers would help all sectors of the community build a positive image for carer support. A Member suggested that consideration should be given to establishing an accreditation regime for carers with different capabilities to help promote recognition for carers. Some Members remarked that support from the business sector, including employers, was essential to carer support. A Member suggested that the Consultancy Study could explore the economic externality of carer support (e.g. the benefits brought by carer support in enabling carers to stay in or join

the labour market), the different needs of carers with different income levels in regard to support services, as well as the views of carers' employers on the support services from the perspective of human resources. Concerned about the mental health of carers, particularly their long-term stress, some Members suggested that the Consultancy Study should not lose sight of the mental needs of carers.

1.4 Senior Researcher responded that there was a wide range of literature acknowledging the contributions of carers to their families and the community, as well as the benefits that carer support would bring to society as a whole. The Consultancy Study would be premised on the recognition of carers' contributions. Given that carers might have different needs and stresses at different stages, the Consultancy Study would carefully examine the caregiving journey of a carer in taking up the care-giving role. For example, experienced and freshmen carers would differ in their needs. For graduated carers, their care-giving experience was invaluable and, with appropriate training, they could become the much-needed manpower for the services sector faced with manpower shortage. The Consultancy Study would also take into account the perspectives of the business sector and the labour market, such as the feasibility of providing carer-friendly work arrangements by employers. In response to a Member's enquiry about the research methodology of the Consultancy Study, Professor TSANG said that a mixed

method approach combining quantitative and qualitative research methods would be adopted to look into the varied needs of carers. To obtain representative data for the Consultancy Study while gaining an in-depth understanding of the uniqueness of different carers' needs, experts in different disciplines, such as statisticians and academics specialising in the study of the needs of elderly persons and persons with disabilities, as well as the needs of carers were included in the research team.

Item 2: Progress Report by Working Groups of Women's Commission
(WoC 07/20)

2.1 Four working groups were formed under the Women's Commission (WoC) and each of them had two WoC Members serving as its co-convenors. At the meeting, one of the co-convenors of each working group reported its progress of work, a summary of which is given below:

(I) Working Group on Enabling Environment

- i. The Secretariat would appoint a service contractor in November 2020 to assist the Working Group in launching a webpage in WoC's dedicated website on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The webpage will be launched as soon as possible upon UN's publication of the Fourth Report

submitted by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, which had formed part of the Ninth Report of the People's Republic of China, under the CEDAW, for public access to the report.

- ii. The Secretariat would appoint a service contractor to assist the Working Group to produce a total of four animated short films to illustrate in an interesting, vibrant and simple way the contents of the CEDAW.

(II) Working Group on Collaboration and Promotion

- iii. The latest version of the WoC's video had been uploaded to the WoC website in early October 2020.
- iv. The Secretariat had appointed a contractor to commence the production of the WoC Report 2016-2019.
- v. The Secretariat had appointed a service contractor to assist the Working Group in launching the "Women in Concert, Rise above the Pandemic" publicity project which aims at sharing with home carers information, experience and simple and practical solutions to strengthen women's resilience against challenges arising from the pandemic. In response to the convenors' appeal, Members agreed to help invite different organisations to contribute video clips featuring women's personal

experience for the campaign. [Post-meeting note: The two co-convenors of the Working Group sent an email, with an invitation letter attached, to Members via the Secretariat on 26 November 2020, enlisting Members' assistance in inviting different organisations to encourage their members and to liaise with women in the local community to contribute video clips sharing their personal experience for the project.]

- vi. The second round of application for the 2020-21 Funding Scheme for Women's Development had started. It was expected that the Working Group would convene a meeting in January 2021 to vet the applications received.

(III) Working Group on Empowerment and Training

- vii. The consultancy study on "Considerations and Difficulties of Women in Choosing Whether or Not to Work" as advised by the Working Group had commenced in October 2020. The consultant would conduct focus group discussions and questionnaire interviews to study the considerations and difficulties of four different groups of women¹ in choosing whether to work. References would also be made to the

¹ The four groups of women were:

- (i) women aged between 40 and 49 currently without a paid job;
- (ii) women aged 50 and above currently without a paid job
- (iii) ethnic minority women currently without a paid job; and
- (iv) female full-time homemakers from low-income households (i.e. monthly household income lower than the poverty line).

information and literature of other cities similar to Hong Kong. The consultancy study was expected to take about one year to complete.

- viii. Making reference to the comment made by WoC's on the Capacity Building Mileage Programme, the LWB had commenced the preparatory work for the tendering of new service contracts.

(4) Working Group on Health and Support

- ix. The Secretariat had engaged a service contractor to assist the Working Group in updating the Guide to Women's Health Services in Hong Kong. The updated guide would offer information on women's support services in addition to that on women's health services. An online version of the guide would be available to facilitate female users in their search for relevant information.

2.2. Members were pleased to note the progress reports of the four working groups and recognised the effectiveness and directions of the WoC's promotional work.

Item 3: Secretary's Report (WoC 08/20)

3.1 Members noted the Secretary's report.

Item 4: Any Other Business

4.1 The next meeting would tentatively be held in March 2021. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

**Women's Commission Secretariat
February 2021**