



Green Paper on Constitutional Development

Highlights

July 2007

Background

The ultimate aim of electing the Chief Executive (CE) and for forming the Legislative Council (LegCo) by universal suffrage is prescribed by the Basic Law. Since the establishment of the HKSAR, Hong Kong's political structure has been developing in accordance with the provisions of the Basic Law, and has been making progress towards the ultimate aim of universal suffrage in a gradual and orderly manner.

The HKSAR Government has published the Green Paper on Constitutional Development for consulting the public on the options, roadmap and timetable for implementing universal suffrage for the CE and LegCo.

Principles

In the process of attaining the ultimate aim of universal suffrage and in designing a model for implementing universal suffrage, we must ensure that the following can be complied with:

- (i) the basic policies of the State regarding Hong Kong;
- (ii) the four principles on constitutional development under the Basic Law, namely, meeting the interests of different sectors of society, facilitating the development of the capitalist economy, gradual and orderly progress, and developments being appropriate to the actual situation in the HKSAR; and
- (iii) the principles of universal and equal suffrage.

Options for electing the CE by universal suffrage

Any option must comply with the requirement of Article 45 of the Basic Law that "the CE shall be selected by universal suffrage upon nomination by a broadly representative nominating committee in accordance with democratic procedures".

Composition and size of the nominating committee:

- First type of options: constituted by less than 800 members
- Second type of options: constituted by 800 members
- Third type of options: constituted by more than 800 members, e.g. expanding the membership to 1200-1600

Method of nomination - number of candidates:

- First type of options: 10 candidates or more

- Second type of options: eight candidates at most
- Third type of options: two to four candidates at most

Method of universal suffrage election after nomination:

One-person-one-vote by all registered voters

Roadmap and timetable:

- First type of options: forming the nominating committee directly in 2012 to attain universal suffrage
- Second type of options: going through a transitional phase and attaining universal suffrage in 2017
- Third type of options: going through a transitional phase and attaining universal suffrage after 2017

Options for forming LegCo by universal suffrage

- First type of options: replacing functional constituency (FC) seats with district-based seats returned through direct election
- Second type of options: retaining FC seats, but changing the electoral method, e.g. candidates to be nominated by FCs, but elected by registered voters
- Third type of options: increasing the number of seats representing District Councils in LegCo
- Attaining universal suffrage for LegCo in phases

Roadmap and timetable:

- First type of options: attaining universal suffrage in one go in 2012
- Second type of options: attaining universal suffrage in phases in 2016
- Third type of options: attaining universal suffrage in phases after 2016

Copies of the Green Paper are available at District Offices. The Green Paper has also been uploaded onto the website. Please send us your views by post, facsimile or e-mail on or before 10 October 2007:

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