

**Motion on**  
**“Responding decisively to foreign countries’ interference in**  
**Hong Kong’s affairs”**

**Legislative Council Meeting of 25 August 2021**

**Progress Report**

**Purpose**

1. At the Legislative Council meeting of 25 August 2021, the motion on “Responding decisively to foreign countries’ interference in Hong Kong’s affairs” moved by Hon Paul Tse was passed (full text of the passed motion is at **Annex**). This paper reports on the progress of the motion.

**Foreign Countries’ Interference in Hong Kong’s Affairs**

2. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) is an inalienable part of the People’s Republic of China (PRC). Hong Kong enjoys a high degree of autonomy under the Basic Law of the HKSAR of the PRC and the “one country, two systems” principle. The HKSAR Government reiterates that matters of the HKSAR remain our Country’s internal affairs, in which foreign governments have no authority and are in no position to make any form of interference.

3. It is noted that since violent riots took place in 2019, foreign governments and politicians have repeatedly made false accusations and criticisms on the affairs of the HKSAR with a purpose to discredit the Central People Government's unwavering support to the full implementation of "one country, two systems", the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong as well as to hinder the prosperous development of our Country. The "Fact Sheet: U.S. Interference in Hong Kong Affairs and Support for Anti-China, Destabilizing Forces" recently published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has exposed the evil deeds of the US. The Fact Sheet allows Hong Kong people to grasp the facts and clearly understand how Hong Kong had been under interference from external forces and attacks by the anti-China and destabilizing forces that endanger national sovereignty, security and development interest.

4. The key measures adopted by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the PRC (NPCSC) towards the HKSAR are constitutional, legal and reasonable, including the enactment and passage of the Law of the PRC on Safeguarding National Security in the HKSAR (the Hong Kong National Security Law), and Improving the Electoral System of the HKSAR. With the promulgation and implementation of the Hong Kong National Security Law, the long-standing chaos in Hong Kong ebbed with social order quickly restored; violence

and disorder were stopped and curbed; anti-China organisations that sought to destabilize Hong Kong were dismantled; peace and stability were restored to the society. With normal life resumes, our economy and people's livelihood can thrive again while individual rights and freedoms of residents are safeguarded. The positive effect of the NPCSC's measures are indisputable.

### **Strategies of the HKSAR Government to Respond to Foreign Countries' Interference**

5. The HKSAR Government will continue to keep an eye on the global situation and adhere closely to our Country's foreign policy objectives. We are determined to oppose to any foreign interference in the affairs of Hong Kong by any means, and are committed to taking up the important responsibility of safeguarding national security. In the face of false claims about Hong Kong, in particular willful smearing of our legal system and the Hong Kong National Security Law, the HKSAR Government will continue to give quick and forceful responses by solemnly refuting any unfounded accusations. The HKSAR Government has always stayed highly vigilant and maintained close communication with the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Hong Kong to ensure that responses are made in a swift, effective and accurate manner.

6. The HKSAR Government has been actively explaining or making clarifications to tackle false reports and commentaries on Hong Kong through various international media. In addition to press releases and newspaper articles issued by the Chief Executive, Principal Officials of the HKSAR Government, policy bureaux and overseas Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs), interviews were also given to the international media by Principal Officials and Executive Council members to elaborate on the policies of the HKSAR Government. Principal Officials have also actively participated in international conferences and forums to explain the latest developments in Hong Kong.

7. As the overseas representative of the HKSAR, the ETOs are committed to promoting Hong Kong's global image and international status. Through the network of ETOs, the HKSAR Government has been maintaining close communication and exchanges with overseas stakeholders, to strengthen ties with foreign governments, business sectors and think tanks. ETOs have clarified Hong Kong's situation and dispelled fallacies to enable people from all quarters to have a more comprehensive understanding of and to maintain their confidence in Hong Kong.

8. While the pandemic has made it difficult for ETOs to organise physical events, the ETOs have still been proactively disseminating the latest information on Hong Kong to overseas

interlocutors through its website, regular newsletters and social media in a timely manner. The ETOs have also taken the initiative to write to overseas media to rebut biased reports on Hong Kong to set the record straight. From June 2020 to September 2021, the ETOs have organised over 30 webinars for the Chief Executive and Principal Officials to conduct direct dialogue with various overseas stakeholders, including think tanks, academic institutions and business organisations, explaining to them the latest situation in Hong Kong and directly addressing their concerns. The HKSAR Government will continue to liaise with overseas stakeholders through the ETOs, to explore opportunities for cooperation and to strengthen exchanges with them.

9. Looking ahead to the second half of 2021, the HKSAR Government will continue to maintain close contact with major trading partners and overseas stakeholders online and offline to enhance Hong Kong's positive image among international communities. When the pandemic gradually subsides, the Chief Executive and Principal Officials will actively conduct overseas visits to promote the successful implementation of the "one country, two systems" principle and Hong Kong's advantages in various aspects; to present to the international communities Hong Kong's social stability after implementing the Hong Kong National Security Law and improving the electoral system; the

development and potentials of Hong Kong under the National 14th Five-Year Plan as well as the immense opportunities to be enjoyed by Hong Kong and the world under the quality development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

## **Conclusion**

10. Facing different forms of foreign intervention, the HKSAR Government will continue to make an all-out effort to tie in with the Central People Government's counter-measures, fearlessly perform its duty of safeguarding national security, uphold the stance of, and defend the interests of both our Country and Hong Kong.

**Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau**

**October 2021**

**Legislative Council Meeting of 25 August 2021**

**Hon Paul Tse's Motion on "Responding decisively to foreign countries' interference in Hong Kong's affairs"**

**Wording of the Motion**

That this Council urges the SAR Government to immediately conduct a study and decisively adopt measures to proactively respond to the deliberate distortion, improper interference, indiscriminate sanctions and exploitation of opportunities to stir up hype in respect of Hong Kong's recent political affairs, legal reform and social conditions by such countries as those in the Five Eyes alliance.