

Opening remarks by CS at UNHRC Universal Periodic Review Working Group meeting (with photo)

The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Chan Kwok-ki, attended the meeting of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva, Switzerland, today (January 23, Geneva time). The Working Group examined China's fourth report, which includes a part concerning the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), submitted under the Universal Periodic Review mechanism of the UNHRC.

Mr Chan, as Deputy Head of China's delegation, attended the meeting together with officials of the HKSAR Government as members of China's delegation. Following are the opening remarks made by Mr Chan on the human rights situation of the HKSAR at the meeting:

Mr President,

Since the establishment of the HKSAR in 1997, the principle of "one country, two systems" has been the cornerstone of our long-term prosperity and stability. This successful national policy ensures that our unique strengths are maintained, while serving the fundamental interests of our country.

With the implementation of the Hong Kong National Security Law and an improved electoral system, the days of social disturbance and fear are now over. Stability as well as law and order has been restored, and our city is back on track. Our people can continue to enjoy the legitimate rights and freedoms guaranteed by our country's Constitution, the Basic Law, as well as the relevant provisions of international covenants that apply to Hong Kong.

The rule of law is a cornerstone and core value of Hong Kong's success. Our common law system and independent exercise of judicial power are protected by the Basic Law. Our judiciary is well regarded internationally. Being a market-oriented, open and international economy underpinned by the rule of law, Hong Kong has exactly what it takes to be a successful global city.

At the same time, we are dedicated to making our city a better place for everyone. Through targeted policies in various areas such as housing, child and youth development, healthcare, and economic development, we strive to foster a cohesive and caring community underpinned by a vibrant economy.

Mr President, with the unwavering support from our country and the unique "one country, two systems" formula, Hong Kong will continue to prosper as the city where the global advantage and the China advantage converge.

Thank you.

