

Video message by CS at 45th session of the UN Human Rights Council (with photos/video)

Following is the full text of the video message of the Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung, at the 45th session of the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council held in Geneva, Switzerland today (September 15):

Madam President,

Hong Kong is an inalienable part of China. The Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region was enacted to address the increasing threat to national security in Hong Kong posed by the escalating violence by rioters during the social unrest last year. Effective measures must be taken to restore safety and stability.

The National Security Law is designed to bolster the successful "One Country, Two Systems" which will continue to drive Hong Kong's progress. It seeks to preserve Hong Kong's core values including rights and freedoms, the rule of law and judicial independence.

Almost all countries have their own national security laws. It is unthinkable therefore that our National Security Law should be a cause for concern for some countries. The international community should be fair and not adopt a double standard.

The Law has been effective in restoring stability so far. Advocacies of "Hong Kong independence" and collusions with external forces have visibly subsided, as have acts of violence and blatant defiance of law and order.

The Law is vital in bringing Hong Kong back on track and safeguarding our country's sovereignty, security and development interests. In implementing the Law, the legitimate rights and freedoms of Hong Kong people will be protected and respected. Our fundamental rights and freedoms remain intact under the Basic Law and the relevant provisions of international covenants as applied to Hong Kong.

Hong Kong will continue to forge ahead as a vibrant, open and international financial and business centre, with a prosperous and stable future.

Thank you.

