



## Hong Kong's Universal Periodic Review 2018 Fact Sheet

### What is the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)?

- The UPR is a State-driven process supported by the Human Rights Council that reviews the human rights records of all UN Member States every four years. It was created in 2006.
- It provides the opportunity for each State to declare what actions they have taken to improve the human rights situations in their countries and to fulfil their human rights obligations.
- The ultimate aim of the UPR is to improve the protection and promotion of human rights, and address human rights violations wherever they occur.
- The UPR provides an opportunity for NGO's to encourage and influence the Hong Kong Government to improve the protection and promotion of human rights and fulfil its international legal obligations.

### What is the basis of the UPR?

- The UPR process is a human rights review based upon the following instruments and treaties, including:
  - The Charter of the United Nations;
  - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
  - Human rights instruments to which a State is party;
  - Voluntary pledges and commitments made by States, including voluntary pledges and commitments made by the State (e.g. national human rights policies and/or programmes implemented); and
  - Applicable international humanitarian law.

### How is the UPR review conducted?

- Review based on (i) the national report, (ii) the compilation of UN information prepared by the OHCHR based on reports of treaty bodies, special procedures and other relevant official UN documents and (iii) the summary of stakeholders' submissions.
- The review takes place in a 3.5-hour session of the Working Group on the UPR, which is composed of the 47 member States of the Human Rights Council, in the form of an interactive dialogue between the State under review and the member and observer States of the Council.
- The troika that facilitates the Third Cycle Review of China, including Hong Kong and Macau, will be Hungary, Kenya and Saudi Arabia. All United Nations Member States will have equal opportunity to ask questions and make recommendations.
- At the end of each review, the Working Group adopts an outcome report, which provides a summary of the actual discussion, consisting of the questions, comments and recommendations made by States to the country under review, as well as the responses by the reviewed State. The outcome report is subsequently considered and adopted by the Human Rights Council.

### What role do NGO's play in the UPR process?

- As noted above, NGO's can provide individual (2,815 words) or coordinated submissions (5,630 words). Coordination of efforts has a number of benefits, including providing a longer submission, greater lobbying power and increased likelihood of recommendations being issued by State Governments on matters of interest.
- NGO's that hold consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) can be accredited to participate as Observers.

### **What happened last time with Hong Kong's UPR review?**

- Hong Kong is considered as part of the review of China, in addition to Macau. As such, much of the focus is usually on China.
- China was last considered in 2013, with 284 recommendations being made by member states, none related to Hong Kong.
- Increasing the number of recommendations for Hong Kong through the UPR process has the capacity to improve the human rights situation in Hong Kong, ensuring that the Government fulfils their human rights obligations.

### **Review for China, including Hong Kong and Macau (3<sup>rd</sup> cycle)**

Date and time: 9am to 12:30pm, 6 Nov 2018 (Geneva time)

Location: Geneva

#### **Important dates**

3 Apr – 7 May 2018	Public consultation by the Hong Kong Government
30 Apr 2018	Public hearing of Panel on Constitutional Affairs of the Legislative Council on the UPR
July 2018	National Report deadline
9-12 Oct 2018	UPR pre-session on China, including Hong Kong, in Geneva
9am to 12:30pm, 6 Nov 2018 (Geneva time)	UPR session on China, including Hong Kong & Macau, in Geneva
Dec 2018 – Jan 2019 (tentative)	Outcome report