

Regina Ip's Constitutional Development Proposals

1. As it is clear that the majority in Hong Kong society supports early implementation of universal suffrage, I suggest that consensus within the community and consent of the Central People's Government should be fervently sought so that universal suffrage for the Chief Executive and the Legislative Council can be introduced by 2012.
2. However, in view of the actual situation in Hong Kong, consensus may not be reached easily. If universal suffrage cannot be attained by 2012, then I suggest that the universal suffrage for the Chief Executive and the Legislative Council be achieved no later than 2017 and 2016 respectively.
3. I support models for implementing universal suffrage which are fully compliant with the four principles governing constitutional development in the Basic Law. Below are my suggested roadmaps and timetables:

Method for Electing the Chief Executive by Universal Suffrage in 2012

4. I propose that the Chief Executive should be elected by universal suffrage after nomination of candidates by the Nominating Committee in 2012.

Composition of the Nominating Committee

5. I recommend forming a nominating committee with 1800 members.
6. The 4 sectors of the current Election Committee should be maintained. Numbers of members to be allocated to the sectors should be as follows:

I	Industrial, commercial and financial sector	400
II	The professions	400
III	Labour, social services, religious and other sectors	400
IV	Members of the Legislative Council, representatives of district-based organizations, Hong Kong deputies to the National People's Congress, and representatives of Hong Kong members of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference	600

7. The number of members in the First, Second and Third sectors would be doubled on the basis of the existing allocation method. In the Fourth sector, the allocation should be as follows:

All Legislative Council members	60 (if universal suffrage for CE to be attained in 2012) 80 (if universal suffrage for CE to be attained in 2017, after the proposed expansion of LegCo. Please refer to para. 15 and 19(i))
All elected District Council members	405
Heung Yee Kuk representatives	33 (if universal suffrage for CE to be attained in 2012) 27 (if universal suffrage for CE to be attained in 2017)
All Hong Kong deputies to the National People's Congress	36
Representatives of Hong Kong members of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference	66 (if universal suffrage for CE to be attained in 2012) 52 (if universal suffrage for CE to be attained in 2017)

Electorate Base of the Nominating Committee

8. By including all elected District Council members into the Nominating Committee, the electorate base would be expanded to over three million voters, thus increasing the representativeness of the Nominating Committee.

Method of Nomination

9. I propose that the nomination threshold should be lowered to 10%, i.e. each candidate should be required to obtain at least 180 nominations. With a view to accommodating the interests of different sectors of society, I suggest that each candidate should also be required to obtain support from at least 10% of the members (i.e. 40 or 60 members) in each sector.
10. I recommend that the upper limit on the number of subscribers which a candidate can obtain be set at 450 to ensure contested elections.

11. If only one candidate is validly nominated at the close of nominations, that candidate shall be declared elected *ipso facto* as the Chief Executive.
12. Candidates who have obtained the required number of nominations would stand for the Chief Executive election by universal suffrage.

Fallback: Electing the Chief Executive by Universal Suffrage in 2017

13. If universal suffrage for the Chief Executive cannot be attained in 2012, then I recommend that in 2012:
 - i. the Election Committee be reformed using the method stated in paragraphs 5-7;
 - ii. candidates be nominated through process stated in paragraphs 9-11; and
 - iii. those who have obtained the required number of nominations shall stand for the Chief Executive election by the 1800-member Election Committee.
14. In 2017, the Election Committee should be converted to the Nominating Committee. The Chief Executive should be elected by universal suffrage after nomination.

Method for Forming the Legislative Council by Universal Suffrage in 2012

15. I propose that functional constituencies (“FCs”) be abolished and the number of the Legislative Council (“LegCo”) seats be increased from 60 to 80. 40 Legco seats should be returned by geographical constituencies (“GCs”) using the current proportional representation system. The other 40 seats should be returned by direct election through a Hong Kong-wide, proportional representation-list (“PR-list”) system.
16. In other words, universal suffrage for LegCo would be attained in 2012. Each voter would have 2 votes, one in a GC under proportional representation system and one in the Hong Kong-wide PR-list system.
17. The introduction of the Hong Kong-wide PR-list system complies with the principles of “meeting the interests of different sectors of society” and “facilitating the development of the capitalist economy”. It is expected that people with professional experience and expertise would be encouraged to enter LegCo.

Fallback: Forming the Legislative Council by Universal Suffrage in 2016

18. If universal suffrage for LegCo cannot be attained in 2012, then I recommend that the 2012 election be a transitional stage and universal suffrage for LegCo be attained in 2016.
19. I recommend that in 2012,
 - i. the number of LegCo seats be increased from 60 to 80;
 - ii. the numbers of seats returned by GCs and FCs remain to be 30 and 30 respectively; the additional 20 seats should be returned by the Hong Kong-wide PR-list system; and
 - iii. each voter would have 2 to 3 votes: one vote in a GC under proportional representation system, one vote in the Hong Kong-wide PR-list system, and one vote in a FC if the voter belongs to any FC.
20. In 2016, both the numbers of GC seats and the Hong Kong-wide PR-list seats should be increased to 40. All FC seats would be abolished.

	Geographical Constituencies	Functional Constituencies	Hong Kong-wide PR-list	Total
2008	30	30	0	60
2012	30	30	20	80
2016	40	0	40	80

Conclusion

21. The proposals comply with the objective of achieving universal suffrage as soon as practicable and the principles set out in the Basic Law. They also provide flexibility in implementation. If consensus can be achieved and consent of the Central People's Government is forthcoming, it is possible that dual universal suffrage can be achieved in the near future.