



The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
of the People's Republic of China

The Chief Executive's 2022 Policy Address

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**Charting a Brighter Tomorrow
for Hong Kong**

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Mr President, Honourable Members and fellow citizens,

I. Foreword: Start a New Chapter Together

1. Today, I deliver the first Policy Address after my assumption of office as the Chief Executive. I deeply feel that I am charged with a heavy responsibility. I keep pondering the questions: What are the major concerns of our people? What is their vision for Hong Kong? And what are their expectations towards the Policy Address? Here, I express my gratitude to our people and all sectors of the community for offering me a wealth of suggestions over the past three months, and to my team for their concerted support. Together, we strive to build a better Hong Kong.

2. The world is undergoing profound changes unseen in a century. The pandemic and rapidly worsening global economic outlook, coupled with high inflation, interest rate hikes, tightening monetary policies, trade disputes and geopolitical tensions, have weakened the growth momentum of the global economy. This will affect the pace of our economic recovery.

3. Notwithstanding the challenges, Hong Kong has its own overriding advantages and enjoys abundant opportunities under the “One Country, Two Systems”. With the strongest business environment worldwide, Hong Kong is an international financial, trade and shipping centre, as well as the world’s largest offshore Renminbi (RMB) business centre. Apart from these, our emerging industries, such as innovation and technology (I&T), are thriving. Hong Kong has advanced infrastructure in both hardware and software, a sound legal system and top-notch talents from all over the world. Located at the heart of Asia, Hong Kong is the most preferred destination for multinational corporations to set up their operations in Asia. An open and diversified metropolis where old and new styles meet, Hong Kong is also an appealing city embracing both Chinese and Western cultures.

4. Under the “One Country, Two Systems”, Hong Kong has the distinctive advantages of enjoying strong support of the Motherland and being closely connected to the world. Having direct access to the huge Mainland market and strong international connectivity at the same time, Hong Kong serves as a bridge linking the Mainland and the rest of the world. Key national strategies including the 14th Five-Year Plan, the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA), and the Belt and Road Initiative provide Hong Kong with unlimited opportunities.

5. This year, the greatest encouragement was brought to us by President Xi Jinping's visit to Hong Kong to attend the meeting celebrating the 25th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the Motherland and the inaugural ceremony of the sixth-term Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), where he delivered an important speech. President Xi put forward "four musts" and "four proposals" and said that "Hong Kong will prosper only when its young people thrive". This has reinforced the confidence of all sectors of the community in our future development. I am grateful to President Xi for his important speech, which now serves as my governance blueprint. Hong Kong has achieved a major transition from chaos to order, and is now at the crucial stage of advancing from stability to prosperity. In the next five years, I will lead the government team to unite and motivate all sectors of the community, and give full play to our fine traditions of inclusiveness, unity and respect for different viewpoints. We will make our best endeavour, all for better serving our people and better developing Hong Kong, so that the Pearl of the Orient will shine brighter than ever.

6. This is a Policy Address for Hong Kong citizens. I will now outline my governing beliefs, visions and policy initiatives. Let us start a new chapter together for Hong Kong.

II. Build a Solid Foundation for Security while Upholding the Principle and Leveraging the Advantages of “One Country, Two Systems”

7. The principle of “One Country, Two Systems” is the best institutional safeguard for the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong. As stressed by President Xi Jinping in his important speech delivered on 1 July, “One Country, Two Systems” has been tested repeatedly in practice, so there is no reason for us to change such a good policy, and we must adhere to it in the long run. The President has set a definitive tone and given strong assurances to Hong Kong, dispelling past discussions over the principle of “One Country, Two Systems”.

8. The top priority of the principle of “One Country, Two Systems” is to safeguard national sovereignty, security and development interests. As clearly reflected from the experience over the past 25 years since our return to the Motherland, we must fully and faithfully implement the principle of “One Country, Two Systems”, safeguard the HKSAR’s constitutional basis and order as laid down by the Constitution of the People’s Republic of China (the Constitution) and the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China (the Basic Law), implement the principle of “patriots administering Hong Kong” and uphold the overarching principle of safeguarding national security. The more firmly the “One Country” principle is upheld, the greater strength the “Two Systems” will be unleashed.

9. Over the past 25 years, Hong Kong has overcome various challenges and forged ahead with progressive development. Our pace has not slowed despite the changing external environment, the impact of the epidemic and the social unrest previously. Nevertheless, the prosperity and stability we now enjoy cannot be taken for granted. Having restored order from chaos, we must stay alert to threats and dangers, adopt bottom-line thinking, and sustain our efforts in safeguarding national sovereignty, security and development interests in order to guard vigilantly against the recurrence of threats. Following our transition from chaos to order, Hong Kong is advancing from stability to prosperity with our constitutional order better safeguarded and our governance systems improved. Development is of overriding importance. Hong Kong has considerable room for development given our sound foundation for growth, as well as the advantages of enjoying strong support of the Motherland and being closely connected to the world under the principle of “One Country, Two Systems”.

Fully and Faithfully Implement the Principle of “One Country, Two Systems”

10. The development of Hong Kong allows no delay. Social stability is the prerequisite for our development, and we have to get rid of any interference. We must carry on the mainstream values characterised by the love of both the Motherland and Hong Kong at the core and in conformity with the principle of “One Country, Two Systems”, and motivate the whole community to work together to create a better future.

11. We will continue to steadfastly safeguard the constitutional order of the HKSAR and our country’s fundamental system set out under the Constitution. We will further strengthen publicity and education on the Constitution, the Basic Law and the Law of the People’s Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the National Security Law). The Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee, led by the Chief Secretary for Administration, will be renamed the Constitution and the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee to underline the importance the Government attaches to the promotion of the Constitution as well as our determination to take forward relevant work.

12. To further preserve the dignity of the regional flag and the regional emblem as a symbol and ensign of the HKSAR, the Government will introduce into the Legislative Council (LegCo) amendments to the Regional Flag and Regional Emblem Ordinance within the current legislative year to align with the National Flag and National Emblem Ordinance and the National Anthem Ordinance as appropriate.

13. To ensure the faithful adherence to the legislative intent of the National Security Law, we will further strengthen the legal system and enforcement mechanisms for safeguarding national security by pressing ahead with the preparatory work for the enactment of legislation to implement Article 23 of the Basic Law, legislating for the regulation of online and offline crowdfunding activities, making laws for enhancing cybersecurity of critical infrastructure, completing the consultancy study on addressing the issue of false information for policy consideration, etc.

14. To implement “patriots administering Hong Kong”, the Government will strictly adhere to the improved electoral system in organising various elections in accordance with the law. Patriots aspiring to participate in politics and policy debates will be given the opportunities to be elected in a fair, just and open manner. Moreover, the Government will, on the basis of integrity and competence, draw

widely on outstanding individuals who love the Motherland and Hong Kong and with resolute stance, strong governance capabilities and the passion to serve the community into the Government and various committees and public bodies.

15. I will strengthen and implement the executive-led structure and continue to explore ways to foster constructive and interactive relationships between the executive and the legislature. The Ante Chamber exchange sessions will be refined to strengthen exchanges with Members of the LegCo, so as to achieve better collaboration in policy formulation. Together, we can enhance our governing capability by following through decisions made after informed discussion.

Reinforce the Core Value of the Rule of Law

16. The Government will safeguard independent judicial power. We fully support the Judiciary in exercising its judicial power independently in accordance with the law, and protect and support judges, prosecutors and legal practitioners in discharging their duties in accordance with the law. We will safeguard due administration of justice and the rule of law to enhance the confidence of the public and the international community in our rule of law.

17. The Government will establish the Steering Committee on Rule of Law Education, to be chaired by the Secretary for Justice, to launch a new “Rule of Law Education Train-the-Trainers Programme” for promoting consistent and correct messages on the rule of law in the community.

III. Further Improve Governance

Enhance Governance Systems

18. To improve governance, we have to start with enhancing our governance systems, governance capability and governance efficacy. I will improve our governance systems on various fronts, including the decision-making structure, institutional objectives, leadership roles, distribution of powers and responsibilities, as well as execution mechanisms. The establishment of four task forces in the first month after my assumption of office was an institutional setup to address issues relating to intergenerational poverty, district environmental hygiene, public housing supply as well as co-ordination of land and housing supply. These governance systems have already achieved some positive results. Amongst them, the District Matters Co-ordination Task Force, led by the Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration, successfully tackled a number of hygiene and street obstruction blackspots within a short period of time, including restoring a public back alley in To Kwa Wan that had been illegally occupied for many years. In the ensuing chapters, I will introduce how we establish and improve our governance systems on various fronts.

Establish the Hong Kong Investment Corporation Limited

19. In respect of the governance system on government investments, I have asked the Financial Secretary to set up a new Hong Kong Investment Corporation Limited (HKIC) to further optimise the use of fiscal reserves for promoting the development of industries and the economy. The HKIC will consolidate the Hong Kong Growth Portfolio, the GBA Investment Fund and the Strategic Tech Fund established under the Future Fund in recent years, as well as the Co-Investment Fund mentioned in the ensuing sections. In pooling together relevant resources under the steer of the Government to invest in strategic industries, we aim to attract and support more enterprises to develop their business in Hong Kong.

Enhance Governance Capability and Governance Efficacy

Set up the Chief Executive's Policy Unit

20. I will set up the Chief Executive's Policy Unit (CEPU) within this year to enhance our capabilities in research and advocacy on long-term and strategic issues. The CEPU should possess strategic and global perspectives and stay in tune with the local and public pulse, while conducting in-depth studies and analyses on Mainland policies and developments as well as international trends and reporting the outcomes to me. It will also put in place a mechanism for regular internal deliberations to assist the Government in formulating forward-looking policies.

Standing United as One

21. Governance capability of the Government rides on the concerted efforts of leaders and team members. The two must act closely with one another in order to achieve the synergy effect of “one plus one is greater than two”, create the greatest value and allow our people to benefit most. I value team spirit, because I understand that even the most competent individual has limitation. Our team members should perform their respective functions, and various departments and their staff should complement each other, while the top echelon should provide steer and intervene proactively to nip problems in the bud. I am pleased that our team acts in concert and shares the same beliefs with me. The Secretaries of Departments and Deputy Secretaries of Departments have been taking an active role in co-ordinating work across bureaux and departments. Directors of Bureaux have also made strenuous efforts in offering constructive policy ideas and suggestions. Working with one heart and one vision, our team is serving the public with assiduity.

22. I have introduced the “red team” concept in our day-to-day decision-making. The “red team” will play the role of critics and opponents to facilitate a thorough review of the effectiveness of policy decisions and execution plans, so as to plug any loopholes and improve the policies.

Be Result-Oriented

23. While pressing ahead with various policy initiatives, the Government should in particular take heed of the need for our people to have a sense of gain and a real taste of the fruits of effective governance. The Government should work in compliance with procedural propriety, and more importantly, be result-oriented. I have set about 110 various indicators (including key performance indicators (KPIs)), as listed in the Annex, for monitoring the progress and effectiveness for specified tasks and making timely improvements. I have also asked all policy bureaux and departments to set more indicators and report them to the LegCo.

Strengthen the Civil Service Management System

24. To lead Hong Kong in moving ahead, we need a capable government that can deliver results. The civil service being the backbone of Government is the key. To strengthen civil service management, we will:

- (i) update the Civil Service Code to clearly spell out the core values and standards of conduct that present-day civil servants should uphold. Civil servants should be dedicated to their duties, be people-oriented, embrace teamwork, and be ready to take up commitment and responsibilities.

They should have strong awareness of safeguarding national sovereignty, security and development interests and put the principle of “patriots administering Hong Kong” into practice;

- (ii) strengthen the reward and punishment system by launching the “Chief Executive’s Award for Exemplary Performance” next year to recognise meritorious and exemplary teams or individuals on a regular basis, with a view to encouraging civil servants to constantly strive for excellence. We will also identify officers with good potential and outstanding performance and provide them with enhanced training and advancement opportunities. For officers whose performance remains persistently sub-standard despite supervision and assistance, their appointment should be terminated in a timely manner. We will enhance the civil service disciplinary mechanism so that appropriate punishment can be promptly imposed in a fair and just manner on officers found to have misconducted themselves;
- (iii) enhance training for civil servants to build a result-oriented team culture, deepen their understanding of “One Country, Two Systems” and contemporary China and broaden their global perspectives; and
- (iv) enhance the existing mobilisation protocol by introducing a “government-wide mobilisation” level. Rosters will be drawn up in advance to include designated personnel from various departments, who will stand ready to cope with major incidents that require deployment of considerable manpower. Regular drills will also be conducted to strengthen the Government’s emergency response capability.

IV. Continue to Create Strong Impetus for Growth

25. Hong Kong is one of the most competitive economies in the world. It also serves as an important gateway connecting the Mainland with global markets. We must be more proactive and aggressive in “competing for enterprises” and “competing for talents”.

Attract Enterprises, Investment and Talents to Enhance Competitiveness

26. To enhance our competitiveness, the Government will put in place new institutional setups and implement an array of new initiatives targeted at attracting enterprises, investment and talents. We will:

- (i) establish the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES), led by the Financial Secretary, for attracting strategic enterprises from the Mainland and overseas by offering them special facilitation measures and one-stop services;
- (ii) establish the Talents Service Unit, led by the Chief Secretary for Administration, for formulating strategies to recruit talents from the Mainland and overseas and co-ordinating relevant work, as well as providing one-stop support for incoming talents;
- (iii) set up Dedicated Teams for Attracting Businesses and Talents in the Mainland Offices and overseas Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) of the Government to proactively reach out to target enterprises and talents and persuade them to pursue development in Hong Kong;
- (iv) set aside \$30 billion from the Future Fund to establish the Co-Investment Fund for attracting enterprises to set up operations in Hong Kong and investing in their business;
- (v) launch the Top Talent Pass Scheme to widely entice talents to pursue their careers in Hong Kong;
- (vi) enhance existing talent admission schemes to better attract talents; and
- (vii) allow eligible incoming talents to, upon becoming permanent residents, apply for a refund of the extra stamp duty paid for purchasing residential property in Hong Kong.

Attract Strategic Enterprises

27. The OASES to be established within this year will be tasked with attracting high-potential and representative strategic enterprises from around the globe, particularly those from industries of strategic importance, such as life and health technology, artificial intelligence and data science, financial technology (Fintech), and advanced manufacturing and new energy technology. The office will:

- (i) draw up a list of target enterprises and provide steer to the Dedicated Teams for Attracting Businesses and Talents to reach out to and carry out negotiations with the enterprises;
- (ii) formulate attractive special facilitation measures covering aspects such as land, tax and financing that are applicable exclusively to target enterprises, and provide them with tailor-made plans to facilitate the setting up of their operations in Hong Kong; and
- (iii) provide the employees of these target enterprises with one-stop facilitation services in areas such as visa application and education arrangement for their children.

28. With the establishment of the Co-Investment Fund, the Government will consider co-investing in individual projects of the target enterprises, taking into account their potential to drive industry development in Hong Kong. In addition, we will set up the Advisory Committee on Attracting Strategic Enterprises, comprising representatives from relevant business sectors and social leaders, to advise the Financial Secretary on the overall strategy.

Trawl for Talents

29. Over the past two years, the local workforce shrank by about 140 000. Apart from actively nurturing and retaining local talents, the Government will proactively trawl the world for talents. We will:

- (i) launch the Top Talent Pass Scheme for a period of two years. Eligible talents will include individuals whose annual salary reached HK\$2.5 million or above in the past year, and individuals graduated from the world's top 100 universities with at least three years of work experience over the past five years. These two categories of talents will be issued a two-year pass for exploring opportunities in Hong Kong and are not subject to any quota. Individuals who graduated from the world's top 100 universities in the past five years and have yet to fulfil the work experience requirement will also be eligible, subject to an annual quota of 10 000. The scheme will be reviewed after the first year of implementation;

- (ii) streamline the General Employment Policy (GEP) and the Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals (ASMTP), such that for vacancies falling under the 13 professions with shortage of local supply as listed in the Talent List or for vacancies with annual salary of HK\$2 million or above, employers are not required to provide proof to substantiate their difficulties in local recruitment in making applications for talent admission. The Government will update the Talent List as soon as possible to reflect the latest shortage situation in various professions, and will aim to complete it in the first quarter of 2023;
- (iii) suspend the annual quota under the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme (QMAS) for a period of two years, and improve the approval process to attract more world-class talents to relocate to Hong Kong;
- (iv) relax the Immigration Arrangements for Non-local Graduates (IANG) by extending the limit of stay from one year to two years to facilitate their staying in or coming to Hong Kong for work; and expand the scope of the arrangements to cover those who graduated from the GBA campus of a Hong Kong university on a pilot basis for a period of two years. The pilot arrangement will be reviewed after the first year of implementation;
- (v) enhance the Technology Talent Admission Scheme (TechTAS) by lifting the requirement for technology firms to employ additional local employees while admitting talents outside Hong Kong, with a view to speeding up talent admission;
- (vi) extend the limit of stay of employment visas so that talents admitted under the existing and newly launched talent admission schemes and securing employment may be issued with an employment visa which will be valid for a maximum period of three years; and
- (vii) refund the extra stamp duty paid by eligible incoming talents in purchasing residential property in Hong Kong. Eligible talents^{Note} who purchase a residential property in Hong Kong from today and thereafter, and subsequently become a permanent resident upon residing in Hong Kong for seven years, can apply for a refund of the Buyer's Stamp Duty and the New Residential Stamp Duty paid for the first residential property purchased which they still own, while the Ad Valorem Stamp Duty at Scale 2 rates is still payable such that the overall stamp duty charged will be on par with that charged on first-time home buyers who

Note Eligible incoming talents include those who enter Hong Kong under designated talents admission schemes, including GEP, ASMTP, QMAS, IANG, TechTAS, Admission Scheme for the Second Generation of Chinese Hong Kong Permanent Residents and the newly launched Top Talent Pass Scheme.

are ordinary permanent residents. The arrangement applies to any sale and purchase agreement entered from today (19 October 2022) and thereafter.

30. At the same time, we will waive the requirement of applying for an employment visa for more visitors participating in short-term activities in Hong Kong. Apart from existing designated sectors like technology specialists and professional athletes, we will explore expanding the arrangements to more categories.

31. We will soon establish the Talents Service Unit which will be the one-stop shop, co-ordinating with the Immigration Department to process applications received under the talent admission schemes and providing support services. It will also draw up performance pledges to enhance efficiency in processing applications. Moreover, we will launch electronic services for all visa applications within this year.

Set up Dedicated Teams for Attracting Businesses and Talents to Strengthen Promotion in the Mainland and Overseas

32. The Government will expand the functions of Mainland Offices and overseas ETOs. A total of 17 offices will each set up a Dedicated Team for Attracting Businesses and Talents. They will proactively reach out to target enterprises and talents, liaise with the world's top 100 universities and promote related schemes. They will also strengthen links with Hong Kong people studying or working in the Mainland or overseas, encouraging them to return to Hong Kong.

Project Manpower Requirement for Supporting the Economy

33. Many sectors in Hong Kong are facing manpower shortages. Relevant bureaux will listen to the views of the sectors and put forward solutions having regard to the situation of individual sectors. For example, on the premise that local workers' priority for employment will be safeguarded, the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB) will launch a special scheme next year to allow the importation of care workers for residential care homes for the elderly (RCHE) and residential care homes for persons with disabilities on an appropriate scale, relax the ratio of care workers to be imported and streamline vetting procedures for applications, with a view to assisting the sector in enhancing service quality. The Development Bureau (DEVB) and the Transport and Logistics Bureau will review the labour shortage situation in the construction and transport sectors respectively to draw up relevant solutions.

34. The LWB will commence a new round of manpower projections to help the Government formulate appropriate strategies to address the overall manpower demand. We will enhance the methodology, including shortening the projection period from 10 years previously to 5 years to reflect the trends in our economic and labour markets in a more timely manner. Key findings will be available in 2024.

Dovetail with National Strategies to Create Strong Impetus for Growth

35. National strategies including the 14th Five-Year Plan, the GBA development and the Belt and Road Initiative have injected continuous impetus to the growth of Hong Kong. The 14th Five-Year Plan has supported the development of the “eight centres” in Hong Kong. Our priority is to reinforce our position as an international financial centre, and promote the development of two emerging industries, namely I&T and arts and culture. At the same time, we will continue to play our role as an international trade centre and fully capitalise on our shipping and aviation development to enhance our functions in the regional supply chain. We will also continue to enhance our strengths in legal services and develop Hong Kong into a regional intellectual property (IP) trading centre. The GBA development has enhanced the interconnectivity and integrated development among GBA cities. The Government will make good use of the strengthened Guangdong-Hong Kong and Hong Kong-Shenzhen co-operation mechanisms and utilise the relevant task forces as platforms to deepen collaboration with other GBA cities. We will also actively participate in the development of major platforms for Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao co-operation, including Qianhai of Shenzhen, Nansha of Guangzhou, Hengqin of Zhuhai and the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Lok Ma Chau Loop. Meanwhile, the Belt and Road Initiative brings tremendous opportunities to our service industry, creating wider networks by fostering people-to-people bonds.

36. The Government will establish the Steering Group on Integration into National Development to be chaired by the Chief Executive, with three Secretaries of Departments (i.e. the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Financial Secretary and the Secretary for Justice) as deputies. The Steering Group will press ahead with initiatives across bureaux and provide steer from a strategic and macro perspective, enhance communications with Mainland authorities and regularly host briefing sessions on national policies. The work of the Steering Group will cover four major areas:

- (i) formulating strategic plans for Hong Kong to dovetail with the 14th Five-Year Plan and the GBA development, and proactively forging ahead with development and collaboration;

- (ii) formulating work plans and priorities with a view to fostering a greater flow of people, goods, capital and information within the GBA;
- (iii) strengthening regional co-operation mechanisms with Mainland provinces and municipalities, and monitoring the progress and effectiveness of the implementation of collaborative projects; and
- (iv) proactively promoting high-quality development of co-operation between Hong Kong and the Belt and Road countries in trade and commerce, professional services and cultural exchanges, and formulating relevant measures.

International Financial Centre

37. Hong Kong is an international financial centre, the world's largest offshore RMB business centre and a leading fundraising hub for biotechnology. The financial services sector is Hong Kong's biggest pillar industry, accounting for more than one-fifth of our gross domestic product. To enhance Hong Kong's competitiveness in financial services, we will:

- (i) enhance our position as a global fundraising platform – The Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEX) will revise the Main Board Listing Rules next year to facilitate fundraising of advanced technology enterprises that have yet to meet the profit and trading record requirements. It is also planning to revitalise GEM (formally known as the Growth Enterprise Market) to provide small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and start-ups with a more effective fundraising platform;
- (ii) enhance our strengths as the largest offshore RMB business centre – Hong Kong currently processes about 75% of offshore RMB settlement globally. We will promote the launch of more RMB-denominated investment tools and the provision of stable and highly efficient treasury services such as foreign exchange, exchange rate risk and interest rate risk management tools in the market. We will also enhance market infrastructure;
- (iii) promote mutual market access – We will speed up the implementation of a series of mutual market access arrangements supported by the China Securities Regulatory Commission earlier, including introducing a bill within this year to exempt the stamp duty payable for transactions conducted by dual-counter market makers, with a view to enhancing the RMB stock trading mechanism, as well as completing preparations for the launch of the Northbound Trading of Swap Connect as early as possible. We will also explore enhancements to the Southbound Trading of Bond Connect so as to facilitate the issuance and trading of more diverse

“dim sum” bonds, and continue the discussion with the Mainland on proposals for the further expansion of mutual market access. Moreover, we will strive to establish insurance after-sales service centres in places such as Nansha and Qianhai in the near future to provide support services for residents in the GBA holding Hong Kong policies. This is also an important step towards mutual access of insurance markets in the GBA;

- (iv) develop green and sustainable finance – We will promote the development of Hong Kong as a premier financing platform for governments and green enterprises in the Mainland and around the world. We are also developing Hong Kong into an international carbon market, and will support the HKEX to continue pursuing co-operation with, among others, financial institutions in Guangzhou in carbon market development;
- (v) strengthen asset and risk management – Family offices is a key growth segment of the asset and wealth management industry. Last year, Hong Kong managed over \$1,700 billion of relevant assets, including those for private trust clients. The Government will introduce a bill within this year to offer tax concession for eligible family offices. The target is attracting no less than 200 family offices to establish or expand their operations in Hong Kong by end-2025. Moreover, we will implement a risk-based capital regime for the insurance industry in 2024 to align with international standards, and launch a public consultation within this year on the proposal of establishing a policy holders’ protection scheme; and
- (vi) continuously enhance our competitiveness in Fintech – Currently, there are more than 600 Fintech companies in Hong Kong. We will vigorously promote Fintech by encouraging more Fintech services and products to undergo proof-of-concept trials, taking forward cross-boundary Fintech projects and nurturing Fintech talents. The Commercial Data Interchange will be launched within this year to provide a one-stop platform for enterprises to share operational data, enabling banks to make accurate assessments on the operating condition of enterprises and providing SMEs with a better chance of securing loans. On virtual assets, the Government has introduced a bill to propose establishing a statutory licensing regime for virtual asset service providers. The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) is examining market feedback on the regulation of stablecoins and will ensure that the regulatory regime is in line with both the international regulatory recommendations and the local context. The HKMA has also begun the preparatory work for

issuing “e-HKD” and is collaborating with the Mainland institutions to expand the testing of “e-CNY” as a cross-boundary payment facility in Hong Kong.

International Innovation and Technology Centre

38. I&T provides key impetus for Hong Kong’s high-quality economic development. To chart Hong Kong in moving full steam towards our vision of an international I&T centre, the Government will promulgate the Hong Kong I&T Development Blueprint within this year to set out major policies under four broad development directions.

39. **First, to enhance the I&T ecosystem and achieve re-industrialisation in Hong Kong.** We will:

- (i) **promote commercialisation of research and development (R&D) outcomes** – Hong Kong has strong capabilities in scientific research. We will earmark \$10 billion to launch the “Research, Academic and Industry Sectors One-plus Scheme” (RAISe+ Scheme) next year. It will fund, on a matching basis, at least 100 research teams in universities which have good potential to become start-ups. Each team should complete its project in two stages: the first stage for the transformation and realisation of R&D outcomes within three years and the second stage for the commercialisation of R&D outcomes within the subsequent two years. The aim is to incentivise collaboration among industry, academic and research sectors to further promote the “1 to N” transformation of R&D outcomes and the industry development;
- (ii) **promote the development of technology industry** – We will actively promote Hong Kong’s new opportunities to the Mainland and overseas. By collaborating with the OASES and making use of the \$5 billion Strategic Tech Fund as well as the land and space provided for I&T uses starting from 2024 in the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park (HSITP) in the Lok Ma Chau Loop, we will attract high-quality enterprises and talents to Hong Kong, primarily focusing on industries such as life and health technology, artificial intelligence and data science, as well as advanced manufacturing and new energy technology. Our goal is to attract not less than 100 high-potential or representative I&T enterprises to set up or expand their businesses in Hong Kong in the coming five years, including at least 20 top-notch I&T enterprises, bringing more than \$10 billion of investment to Hong Kong and creating thousands of local job opportunities;

- (iii) press ahead with re-industrialisation – We will create the post of Commissioner for Industry who will co-ordinate and steer the strategy on re-industrialisation and assist the manufacturing sector in upgrading and transformation by making use of I&T. We will explore the construction of the second Advanced Manufacturing Centre at the Tai Po InnoPark. We will also subsidise the setting up of more smart production lines in Hong Kong under the Re-industrialisation Funding Scheme, with the target of increasing the cumulative number of smart production lines by four times from about 30 at present to over 130 in five years. Furthermore, we will strengthen the collaboration with the Hong Kong Productivity Council to support enterprises in upgrading to smart production; and
- (iv) strengthen infrastructure and facilities – We will move full steam ahead with the construction of the HSITP and expedite the development of San Tin Technopole in the Northern Metropolis. The expansion works of the Science Park and Cyberport will be completed in phases from 2025 onward, providing 100 000 square metres of additional floor area. We are also planning the Science Park/Pak Shek Kok Station of the East Rail Line for commissioning by 2033.

40. Second, to enlarge the I&T talent pool to create strong impetus for growth, with additional measures focusing on attracting I&T talents. We will:

- (i) attract leading I&T talents around the globe – By collaborating with the OASES, we will provide special facilitation measures in a targeted manner to attract top-notch I&T talents to bring with them their business or R&D outcomes to Hong Kong;
- (ii) enhance existing technology talent schemes – We will enhance the TechTAS by lifting the local employment requirement, extending the quota validity period to two years and expanding the coverage to more emerging technology areas. In addition, we will increase the subsidies provided for research institutions and I&T enterprises for employing research talents under the Research Talent Hub Scheme by about 10%. Research talents with a doctoral degree will be further provided with a living allowance;
- (iii) enhance accommodation support – We will build more accommodation facilities for I&T talents, including to explore the development of a new InnoCell near Science Park and accommodation facilities for talents at the HSITP. In support of the development of San Tin Technopole, we will allow greater planning flexibility to provide additional accommodation for I&T talents; and

- (iv) expand the STEM Internship Scheme – We will offer local I&T internship opportunities to university students studying STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) programmes overseas or at GBA campuses established by designated local universities.

41. Third, to develop Hong Kong into a smart city to improve the quality of life of our people. We will:

- (i) build a smart government – We aim to turn all government services online in two years and provide one-stop digital services by fully adopting “iAM Smart” within three years so as to realise “single portal for online government services”. In addition, 100 digital government projects will be launched with the application of technology for the convenience of the public;
- (ii) open up data – The Government will continue to actively open up data and encourage public and private organisations to follow suit for innovative industry applications. We will also explore with the Mainland the arrangements for the flow of data from the Mainland to Hong Kong, with a view to jointly promoting the co-ordinated development of smart cities in the GBA; and
- (iii) expand the 5G network – We will further expand the 5G network by amending the legislation next year to ensure that appropriate space is made available in new buildings for installation of mobile communication facilities.

42. Fourth, to proactively integrate into the overall development of the country and consolidate Hong Kong’s advantages as an international city. The HSITP is the bridgehead for I&T co-operation between Hong Kong and Shenzhen. On the basis of “one zone, two parks” and through in-depth co-operation with Shenzhen, we will study the trial implementation of a cross-boundary policy on I&T co-operation in an innovative, exclusive and designated manner, covering the flows of I&T material, capital, data and people between Hong Kong and Shenzhen. We will proactively attract Mainland and overseas I&T enterprises to the HSITP, providing key impetus for the development of an international I&T centre in the GBA. Recently, our country has announced for the first time the recruitment of payload specialists in Hong Kong to participate in the national manned space programme, fully reflecting the great importance our country attaches to Hong Kong’s technology sector. We are actively supporting and facilitating the recruitment exercise to recommend suitable candidates for our country. I look forward to our country’s continuing support of Hong Kong’s participation in more national pioneering technology missions.

East-meets-West Centre for International Cultural Exchange

43. Embracing both Chinese and Western cultures, Hong Kong has established its cultural infrastructure and global network over the years and drawn in a vast pool of outstanding talents from around the world. The West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) has become a new cultural landmark earning worldwide acclaim. In recent years, Hong Kong has even become one of the three largest art markets in the world. The current-term Government is committed to fostering the cultural development of Hong Kong to expedite its progression into an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange. The Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism will chair the Culture Commission comprising industry leaders to map out a Blueprint for Arts and Culture and Creative Industries Development and enhance the ecosystem for the industries. We will:

- (i) nurture a diversified talent pool – The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA) ranks first in the Performing Arts category among all higher education institutions in Asia. We have asked the HKAPA to look into ways to nurture arts and cultural talents for Hong Kong and the GBA, and to establish a new campus in the Northern Metropolis and raise the proportion of non-local students. Moreover, we will launch various arts and cultural internship programmes and subsidise HKAPA students or those studying arts and cultural programmes in universities to undertake internships in arts groups and the WKCD. Additional resources will also be deployed to support and nurture promising and budding arts groups and artists. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) will continue to collaborate with the WKCD in grooming more professionals to develop Hong Kong into a regional centre for arts conservation and restoration. Also, to establish a thriving and diversified arts, cultural and creative ecosystem, we will continue to attract more talents in and outside Hong Kong to pursue their aspirations here;
- (ii) continuously upgrade cultural infrastructure – We will map out a new 10-year development blueprint for arts and cultural facilities, including plans to increase the number of LCSD's museums to 19 and the number of seats at performance venues by about 50%. The East Kowloon Cultural Centre will be commissioned in phases starting from next year, and will become a base for accelerating the promotion and application of integrated "Arts+Tech". To leverage market forces for the development of the arts and cultural sector, we will also devise measures to encourage the provision of arts and cultural facilities such as theatres in private developments;

- (iii) enrich arts, cultural and creative contents – We will establish the Mega Arts and Cultural Events Fund to promote the staging of more international arts and cultural events in Hong Kong, taking into account the views of the Mega Arts and Cultural Events Committee which will include industry personnel. The Government will foster arts and cultural exchanges and collaboration with the Mainland, including organising the GBA Culture and Arts Festival in 2024, as well as the annual Hong Kong Week and Chinese Opera Festival, etc. To promote Hong Kong's pop culture to go global, we will strive to expand the industry's development capacity with three foci on film, TV and streaming platforms respectively. CreateHK will support collaboration between local and the Mainland/Asian production teams for co-production of films and television variety programmes, as well as development of new content on streaming platforms by cross-sectoral production teams. The Government also plans to collaborate with industry practitioners to organise an annual Pop Culture Festival and explores the feasibility of setting up a Pop Culture Centre in the long term; and
- (iv) promote platforms for arts and cultural industries – Hong Kong is home to a number of globally acclaimed platforms for fostering the development of arts, cultural and creative industries, including Art Basel Hong Kong, Hong Kong International Film & TV Market, and Business of Design Week. The first Hong Kong Performing Arts Market will also take place in 2024. We will invite the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) to enhance its Asia IP Exchange portal with a view to creating favourable conditions for the development of arts and cultural industries. We will also explore measures to support the industries in widening the scope of copyright trading activities so as to foster the commercialisation and development of arts, cultural and creative industries.

International Trade Centre

44. Hong Kong is the world's sixth largest commodity trading centre. We are actively pursuing accession to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) which covers 15 countries and a population of 2.2 billion and accounts for nearly 30% of the global trade volume. Accession to RCEP will help enterprises reduce their operating costs and open up overseas markets, thereby strengthening and capitalising on Hong Kong's status as an international trade centre.

45. We strive to support the convention and exhibition (C&E) industry in order to help SMEs obtain more overseas orders. We will extend the Convention and Exhibition Industry Subsidy Scheme to 30 June 2023. A new \$1.4 billion

scheme will be launched thereafter to subsidise more than 200 exhibitions to be staged in Hong Kong over three years. To consolidate Hong Kong's status as a premier venue for large-scale international C&E activities, we will take forward the AsiaWorld-Expo Phase 2 project, together with the Wan Chai North redevelopment project near the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, to substantially increase large-scale C&E spaces.

46. To provide further support for SMEs, we will:

- (i) raise the level of funding support – The cumulative funding ceiling per enterprise under the Dedicated Fund on Branding, Upgrading and Domestic Sales (the BUD Fund) will be raised from \$6 million to \$7 million. To assist SMEs in developing markets outside Hong Kong, the cumulative funding ceiling per enterprise under the SME Export Marketing Fund will be raised from \$0.8 million to \$1 million. The special measure to expand its funding scope will also be extended to 30 June 2026 to continue to cover exhibitions and online exhibitions targeting the local market, and the eligibility criteria will be relaxed to cover non-SMEs;
- (ii) capitalise on the opportunities in the Mainland – Guangdong ETO will set up a dedicated promotion centre to support the development of Hong Kong people and enterprises in the GBA. The HKTDC will also set up more “GoGBA Business Support Centres” to cover all nine Mainland cities in the GBA, and organise business missions, training, etc. in various Mainland provinces and municipalities;
- (iii) extend the principal payment holiday arrangement – The Pre-approved Principal Payment Holiday Scheme will be extended for another six months to 31 July 2023, through the Banking Sector SME Lending Coordination Mechanism of the HKMA, and the principal repayment option will be enhanced to prepare for the eventual normal principal repayment by enterprises in future. Relevant arrangements will also be applicable to loans under the SME Financing Guarantee Scheme; and
- (iv) extend concessions of government fees and charges – We will continue to reduce 75% of water and sewage charges for non-domestic accounts for eight months from 1 December 2022 to 31 July 2023, subject to a monthly ceiling of \$20,000 and \$12,500 respectively per household. We will also continue to provide 75% rental or fee concessions currently applicable to eligible tenants of government premises and eligible short-term tenancies and waivers under the Lands Department for six months from 1 January 2023 to 30 June 2023.

International Shipping Centre

47. Connecting to nearly 600 destinations worldwide and handling about 18 million twenty-foot-equivalent units of containers last year, Hong Kong Port is one of the ten busiest container ports in the world. To consolidate our status as an international shipping centre, we will implement tax concession measures to attract more high value-added maritime enterprises to establish presence in Hong Kong. We will also launch a Maritime Services Traineeship Scheme next year to provide traineeship for young people who aspire to a career in maritime law. We will actively promote the development of “smart port” to strengthen the competitiveness of our port by setting up a port community system to facilitate the flow and sharing of data among operators and other stakeholders.

48. The Government will also upgrade the infrastructure of land boundary control points (BCPs), including rationalising the land BCPs and clearance arrangement under the “East in East out, West in West out” strategy for cross-boundary goods movement, and adopting co-location arrangement and collaborative inspection and joint clearance mode for planning the redevelopment of the Sha Tau Kok Port, Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Rail Link and bifurcation of the Northern Link.

49. This year, we will work with the Hong Kong Logistics Development Council and the trade to start formulating an action plan to promote high value-added modern logistics development in three major directions:

- (i) reinforcing intermodal transport by integrating air, sea and land transport to strengthen the key role played by Hong Kong in the logistics chain of the GBA;
- (ii) leveraging our strengths in handling high-value goods to promote the development of high-end and high value-added logistics services, such as the processing of cold chain goods, fresh food and pharmaceuticals; and
- (iii) encouraging a wider application of smart logistics solutions by the logistics trade to enhance competitiveness through technology.

International Aviation Hub

50. The Hong Kong International Airport is a globally pre-eminent international aviation hub. We are working with the Airport Authority Hong Kong (AAHK) to fully realise the “Airport City” vision. With the Third Runway commencing operation in July 2022, the Three Runway System is expected to be completed in 2024 and will substantially increase the overall capacity and competitiveness of the airport. The AAHK is also actively taking forward various

projects and applying the intermodal transport mode to enhance connectivity between the airport and the GBA cities. For instance, the commissioning of the SkyPier Terminal next year will provide direct transfer facilities for passengers from the GBA to streamline immigration formalities.

51. The Hong Kong International Aviation Academy will work with aviation training institutions in the Mainland to send young people to the airports on each side for internship starting from the first half of 2023. About 300 places will be provided in the first year. The Academy will continue to partner with the National School of Civil Aviation of France to co-organise the Advanced Master Programme in Air Transport Management so as to attract prospective students from Belt and Road countries and consolidate Hong Kong's position as a regional aviation training centre. Moreover, we will develop Hong Kong into the preferred location for aircraft leasing in the region by further enhancing the aircraft leasing preferential tax regime.

Centre for International Legal and Dispute Resolution Services in the Asia-Pacific Region

52. As an international legal centre, Hong Kong possesses a robust legal system, a solid foundation of the rule of law and a rich pool of outstanding legal talents. Last year, Hong Kong was ranked the third most preferred seat for arbitration globally. Leveraging the advantages of our common law system, we will attract more international dispute resolution institutions to set up offices in Hong Kong, and will consolidate our strengths as an international legal services platform for deal making and dispute resolution. To enhance the efficiency and competitiveness of the legal sector, we will also promote the wider use of LawTech. We will:

- (i) **enhance promotion** – Starting with the “Hong Kong Law Week 2022” scheduled for this November, the Department of Justice (DoJ) will lead delegations of local legal profession to conduct overseas visits from next year to showcase to the international community the advantages of Hong Kong's rule of law as well as our diversified legal and dispute resolution services under the common law system, in particular the various mutual legal assistance arrangements on civil and commercial matters between Hong Kong and the Mainland;
- (ii) **support emerging industries** – The DoJ will develop user-friendly and practical legal guides and tools, such as boilerplates of commonly used contractual terms, for financial services, I&T, arts, cultural and creative industries, etc., to facilitate the provision and use of legal services by those within and outside the industry; and

- (iii) enhance interaction with the GBA – The DoJ will establish a task force to focus on strengthening mutual legal assistance between the GBA and Hong Kong, and facilitating the convergence of legal practices between the two places. The DoJ will also establish an online mediation platform dedicated to dispute resolution in the GBA within next year to facilitate interactions between people and business of the two places.

Regional Intellectual Property Trading Centre

53. The Government will develop Hong Kong into a regional IP trading centre by leveraging the institutional advantages of Hong Kong's legal and IP protection system. We will:

- (i) strengthen protection of IP rights – We plan to achieve the following targets next year: to complete the preparatory work for implementing the international trademark registration system; to secure passage of the amendment bill to the Copyright Ordinance to strengthen copyright protection in the digital environment; and to roll out a pilot project with the China National Intellectual Property Administration to enable Hong Kong applicants to enjoy prioritised examination of qualified patent applications in the Mainland. Our medium-term goal is to conduct a review of the registered designs regime in 2024. We will also enhance the substantive examination capability of patent examiners under the original grant patent system and develop a talent pool, with a view to acquiring institutional autonomy in conducting substantive patent examination by 2030;
- (ii) build capacity – Our target is to provide IP training for 5 000 personnel across different industries within the current-term of the Government; and
- (iii) promote widely – We will promote Hong Kong's IP trading and professional services through various activities, including the HKTDC's Business of IP Asia Forum organised annually. The HKTDC will also enhance its Asia IP Exchange portal next year to facilitate different sectors to further explore commercial opportunities in IP trading.

Develop Northern Metropolis as the New Engine for Growth

54. The Northern Metropolis is the foothold for Hong Kong's strategic development as well as the new engine for Hong Kong to scale new heights. The current-term Government will take forward the development of the Northern Metropolis in full steam. A number of major development projects in the area have already commenced. We will enhance quantity, speed, efficiency and quality

in various aspects to vigorously compress the time required for turning pieces of “primitive land” into “spade-ready sites” for major projects by half from more than 10 years in the past.

55. The Government will establish a Steering Committee on the Northern Metropolis and an Advisory Committee on the Northern Metropolis to strengthen the governance system for the development of the area. The former will be led by the Chief Executive to provide high-level policy steer and supervision. The latter, to be chaired by the Financial Secretary and comprising experts and stakeholders in the community, will tender advice and suggestions. The HKSAR Government will collaborate closely with the Guangdong Provincial Government, with a view to enabling the Northern Metropolis to radiate beyond its geographical boundary and creating synergy with the Guangdong Province, the Shenzhen Municipality and the GBA. A department dedicated to the development of the Northern Metropolis will also be set up next year to steer various departments and co-ordinate their innovative efforts in pressing ahead with the development. Our target is to formulate a concrete plan and an action agenda for the Northern Metropolis within next year.

56. Upon completion, the Northern Metropolis will emerge as a “new international I&T city”, integrating quality life, new economies, and culture and leisure. Innovative urban design will help promote home-job balance, green living and the co-existence of development and conservation. We will fully leverage the advantages of the Northern Metropolis’s proximity to the hinterland to promote the comprehensive development of control point areas. On its west, the Hung Shui Kiu/Ha Tsuen New Development Area (NDA) will be the focus. With its geographical proximity to Qianhai, it will become a central business district with a catchment reaching Shenzhen and even the GBA. The central part, with the San Tin Technopole as its core, will pool I&T enterprises and create synergy with Shenzhen’s I&T cluster just across the river, becoming a diversified test bed for innovation. Modern industries in the New Territories North New Town can also benefit from collaboration with Shenzhen. Endowed with rich natural and tourism resources, the east side is best placed for recreation and tourism development for Hong Kong and Shenzhen. We will:

- (i) **press ahead with land creation and housing construction** – We will take forward in full swing major projects that have commenced in Kwu Tung North/Fanling North, Hung Shui Kiu/Ha Tsuen, Yuen Long South, etc. Planning for the majority of other development projects, including San Tin Technopole, has already commenced. Our target is to commence land resumption procedures for all development projects within five years, and to form 40% of the new development land and complete 40% of the new flats within 10 years;

- (ii) increase development intensity – We will make the best use of the land resources in the Northern Metropolis by adopting higher plot ratios. As a guideline, the maximum plot ratio for residential sites will be 6.5 (higher than that of 5 for earlier generations of new towns like Sha Tin), while that for commercial sites will be 9.5;
- (iii) make available sites for different industries – Sites will be made available gradually in the next five years to support the development of I&T and other industries. Three buildings are under construction in the Lok Ma Chau Loop in San Tin Technopole, and part of the land in the Loop will be ready for attracting businesses and investment from next year. The first batch of San Tin I&T sites outside the Loop will commence works in 2024, while the first batch of sites for development of industrial buildings in areas earmarked for logistics and emerging industries in Hung Shui Kiu and Yuen Long will be available from next year. Hung Shui Kiu/Ha Tsuen NDA is positioned as a modern service hub, and site formation works for the commercial sites near Hung Shui Kiu Station will also be completed in 2026;
- (iv) construct landmark developments – We will plan for a number of landmark developments in the Northern Metropolis such as cluster of cultural facilities, post-secondary education institutions, major sports facilities, hospital networks and cluster of government facilities to facilitate development of the area and to provide a quality living environment. Certain government offices currently in central business districts with no specific location requirements will be relocated to the Northern Metropolis, including for example nearly 40% of the office floor area in the Queensway Government Offices, with a view to driving the development of the area and releasing the land in the central business districts;
- (v) pursue proactive ecological conservation – Upon completion of the relevant study next year, we will implement a New Proactive Conservation Policy to gradually resume private wetlands and fish ponds with ecological value and develop a Wetland Conservation Parks System, with a view to increasing the environmental capacity for the development of the Northern Metropolis. Separately, we will initiate the statutory procedures for designating about 500 hectares of land in Robin's Nest as a country park in 2024, which will echo with the Shenzhen Wutong Mountain Scenic Area, creating a cross-border ecological corridor between Hong Kong and Shenzhen. We will gradually open up Sha Tau Kok (excluding Chung Ying Street) in 2024 for cultural and eco-tourism activities and will consult the local community early next year; and

- (vi) foster cross-border interactions – With a favourable location in proximity to the hinterland, the Northern Metropolis can create synergy with the Mainland in areas such as industry development, land use and ecological conservation. Hong Kong and the Mainland have already set up task forces under the Guangdong-Hong Kong and Hong Kong-Shenzhen co-operation mechanisms to deliberate on cross-boundary integration proposals for creating greater value for the Northern Metropolis.

Uplift the Productivity of the Construction Industry

57. In the next few years, the Government's annual capital works expenditure will exceed \$100 billion. The DEVB will establish a cross-departmental steering committee for co-ordinating the development of high productivity construction methods such as Modular Integrated Construction (MiC) and the streamlining of related approval processes to remove barriers for the industry. The steering committee will formulate measures next year to strengthen the MiC supply chain, including making available land in the Northern Metropolis for manufacturing and storage of modules by the industry, and fostering collaboration with the GBA. In addition to expediting housing supply, these measures will strengthen the leading regional position of Hong Kong's construction industry in the adoption of MiC.

Support Local Tourism

58. We will continue to promote characteristic local tourism by allocating \$600 million for a three-year Cultural and Heritage Sites Local Tour Incentive Scheme to encourage the tourism industry to develop products with cultural and heritage elements. In addition, the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) will launch a new round of Spend-to-Redeem Local Tours and Staycation Delights with increased quotas to enhance local ambience and consumption. To re-establish Hong Kong's position as the region's premier destination for meetings, incentive travels, conventions and exhibitions (MICE), the HKTB will enhance its support for MICE tourism in light of the epidemic development so as to attract more high value-added overnight visitors to Hong Kong.

Promote the Sustainable Development of the Agriculture and Fisheries Industry

59. The Environment and Ecology Bureau (EEB) will work hand in hand with the agriculture and fisheries industry to formulate a blueprint for the sustainable development of agriculture and fisheries to promote the upgrading and transformation, modernisation and sustainable development of the industry. An array of measures covering finance, infrastructure, land and technical support will be rolled out in phases by the EEB to raise the quality and value of local produces, as well as the productivity of the industry.

V. Earnestly Address People's Concerns and Difficulties in Daily Life

Land and Housing as the Top Priority

Policy Belief

60. Solving the housing problem tops the agenda of the current-term Government. To deal with the problem of inadequate accommodation including sub-divided flats, we need breakthroughs in housing supply and solutions to address the long-term problem of housing shortage. The objective is to let people see the hope of getting on the housing ladder earlier and having more decent housing.

Current Situation and Challenges

61. According to the final report of the Hong Kong 2030+: Towards a Planning Vision and Strategy Transcending 2030 (the Hong Kong 2030+), the overall land supply in the coming 30 years (from 2019 to 2048) will be over 7 000 hectares, exceeding the demand of some 6 000 hectares by about 1 000 hectares. Based on the Long Term Housing Strategy (LTHS), the projected demand for public housing in the next 10 years will be 301 000 units. While we have identified sufficient land to build about 360 000 units, the distribution of public housing production in the coming decade will be uneven. Only about one-third of the units will be completed during the first five-year period (from 2023-24 to 2027-28), while the remaining two-thirds will be completed in the second five-year period (from 2028-29 to 2032-33). The waiting time for public rental housing (PRH) is thus very long.

62. We must overcome constraints to create supply and address short-term public housing shortage, and ensure a steady private housing supply at the same time. We will enhance quantity, speed, efficiency, and quality in land production, staying on top of things and putting in place a long-term plan to steadily increase supply.

Key Strategies and Targets

63. The Steering Committee on Land and Housing Supply and the Task Force on Public Housing Projects, chaired by the Financial Secretary and the Deputy Financial Secretary respectively, have submitted to me the first 100-day reports. After considering the proposals in the two reports, I have decided to set the following key strategies and targets:

- (i) introduce the new Light Public Housing (LPH), with about 30 000 units to be built in the coming five years;

- (ii) increase the overall public housing production substantially by about 50% in the coming five years (from 2023-24 to 2027-28) as compared to the previous five-year period (from 2022-23 to 2026-27), taking into account LPH and traditional PRH;
- (iii) cap the waiting time for PRH immediately. Taking into account the total supply of LPH and traditional PRH, the target is to cap the waiting time at the existing level of about 6 years and shorten it to about 4.5 years in four years' time (i.e. in 2026-27);
- (iv) set a minimum size for newly-built flats. The saleable area of all subsidised sale flats completed from 2026-27 onward will be no less than 26 square metres in general, and the internal floor area of all newly-built PRH units (except for single-person and two-person units) will be no less than the equivalent threshold level in general^{Note};
- (v) deliver sufficient land for private housing development in the next five years to meet the projected demand in the LTHS and stabilise supply for private housing;
- (vi) compress land production procedures such that the time required for turning "primitive land" into "spade-ready sites" can be reduced by around one-third to half;
- (vii) make use of market forces by enhancing public-private partnership. A pilot scheme will be introduced to encourage the participation of private developers in building subsidised sale flats; and
- (viii) expedite land production, build up a land reserve in the long run, and assume a leading role in land supply, so that the Government will stay on top of things instead of catching up with the demand.

Housing: Enhancing Quantity, Speed, Efficiency and Quality

Public Housing Supply

64. We will work closely with the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HKHA) and the Hong Kong Housing Society (HKHS) to increase public housing supply in the first five-year period by enhancing quantity, speed, efficiency and quality, thereby shortening the waiting time for PRH. We will:

^{Note} The internal floor area of newly-built PRH units (except for single-person and two-person units) will be no less than 21 square metres, which is roughly equivalent to the threshold level for subsidised sale flats of no less than 26 square metres in saleable area.

- (i) introduce the new LPH – The Government will make use of government and private land with no development plan in the near future, and adopt standardised simple design and the MiC approach to build LPH units expeditiously. About 30 000 units will be completed in five years, increasing the overall public housing supply by about 25%. Those on the waiting list for traditional PRH for three years or more may apply for LPH for earlier allocation of units, and priority will be given to family applicants. Tenants may retain their position in the queue for traditional PRH and can move into traditional PRH later on. LPH units will be provided with basic facilities of traditional PRH units. The rent of LPH will be lower than traditional PRH in the same district. We will seek LegCo's approval for dedicated funding to build and operate LPH. At the same time, we will continue to provide about 20 000 transitional housing units through partnership with the community.

Taking into account the some 30 000 LPH units, overall public housing production will increase to around 158 000 units in the next five years (from 2023-24 to 2027-28), including the 12 000 PRH units provided under the PRH Advance Allocation Scheme (refer to item (ii) below for details). This represents a significant increase of some 50% compared to 105 000 units in the previous five-year period (from 2022-23 to 2026-27).

We will introduce a new index of Composite Waiting Time for Subsidised Rental Housing to reflect applicants' composite waiting time for both traditional PRH and LPH. On the basis that the number of newly registered applicants and the quantity of recovered PRH units will remain unchanged at the current level, the target is to reduce the Composite Waiting Time for Subsidised Rental Housing from 6 years to about 4.5 years in four years' time (i.e. in 2026-27);

- (ii) implement the PRH Advance Allocation Scheme – The Government will adopt a phased approach to expedite the completion of some PRH units. It is expected that about 12 000 units will be available in next five years for advance allocation of about 3 to 18 months;
- (iii) enhance speed by adopting the MiC approach – We suggest that the HKHA require all public housing projects scheduled for completion in the first five-year period to adopt the Design for Manufacture and Assembly (DfMA) approach, with the adoption of the MiC approach in suitable projects. In the second five-year period, no less than 50% of the projects will adopt the MiC approach. HKHS will also adopt the MiC approach in more public housing projects;

- (iv) enhance public-private partnership – We will introduce a new Pilot Scheme on Private Developer Participation in Subsidised Housing Development. From the next financial year, three sites will be put up for tender in batches for developers to build subsidised sale flats which will be sold to eligible persons at a specified discount rate from the market price. Under the pilot scheme, developers are also encouraged to apply for rezoning of their own private land for subsidised sale flat development; and
- (v) accelerate housing production by adopting the “Design and Build” model – We suggest that the HKHA require at least half of the flats scheduled for completion in the second five-year period to adopt the “Design and Build” contract model for construction to enhance speed, efficiency and quality.

65. To enhance quality, we will provide better public space, facilities and estate environment for public housing residents. The Secretary for Housing will chair an action group to develop “Well-Being” design guidelines for new public housing projects. We also suggest that the HKHA select five existing PRH estates as pilot projects for phased study and implementation of enhancement measures within five years, with a view to creating a living environment with a greater sense of well-being.

Private Housing Supply

66. Based on the latest projection in the LTHS, the demand for private housing in the next 10 years will be 129 000 units. We will work to achieve this basic target and get sufficient land ready for providing no less than 72 000 residential units in the next five years. Such land may be put forward for land sale or railway property developments. Together with the development projects of the Urban Renewal Authority and other private development projects, the overall supply will exceed projected demand.

67. On building the housing ladder, in addition to stabilising the supply of private housing, the Government will make available subsidised sale flats such as those under the Home Ownership Scheme, Green Form Subsidised Home Ownership Scheme and Starter Homes for Hong Kong Residents (Starter Homes) projects to meet the home ownership aspirations of the public.

Land: Increasing Reserve and Regaining Control of Supply

Multi-pronged Approach to Enhance Quantity

68. To assume a leading role in land supply, the Government will identify more land to meet demand and build up the land reserve, including developable land from the new round of study on “Green Belt” zone and the consultancy study on Agricultural Priority Areas. There are approximately 16 000 hectares of “Green Belt” areas in Hong Kong, but over half of them are subject to clear development constraints, such as steep slopes and ecological sensitivity. Among the remaining 8 000 hectares, 1 200 hectares have been included in various development projects. In the new round of study, we have shortlisted about 255 hectares of “Green Belt” sites with potential for housing development, which can provide 70 000 units. The rezoning of the first batch of sites will commence by 2024. The Planning Department will complete the review of the development potential of all the remaining “Green Belt” areas next year.

69. We also strive to redevelop brownfield sites. There are currently 1 600 hectares of brownfield sites in the New Territories, and more than half of them will gradually be developed for housing and other uses. Take the Kwu Tung North/Fanling North NDA as an example. Brownfield sites with land clearance that began two years ago have completed site formation works this year for handover to the HKHA for public housing development. While speeding up the resumption of brownfield sites for development, the Government will cater to the needs of the affected, such as squatter occupants and brownfield operators. For example, we plan to make available land in Yuen Long and Hung Shui Kiu for development of multi-storey industrial buildings from next year, with lease conditions requiring a certain portion of floor area to be set aside for leasing to the affected brownfield operators below market rent.

70. In addition, we will put forward the development proposal for Tseung Kwan O (TKO) Area 137 this year. It is expected to provide 50 000 residential units with the first population intake in 2030 at the earliest.

Multi-pronged Approach to Enhance Speed and Efficiency

71. To substantially compress the time required for land production, we will:

- (i) streamline statutory procedures – We will streamline various procedures with respect to planning, environmental impact assessment (EIA), land resumption and infrastructure through the introduction of a bill to amend the Town Planning Ordinance, the Land Resumption Ordinance, the Foreshore and Sea-bed (Reclamations) Ordinance, the Roads (Works, Use and Compensation) Ordinance and the Railways Ordinance, as well

as amendment to the Schedules to the EIA Ordinance within this year. For projects other than large-scale ones, the time required for turning “primitive land” into “spade-ready sites” for housing development will be reduced from at least 6 years to 4 years, while the time required for large-scale projects will be substantially reduced from 13 years to 7 years, of which the time for the EIA process will be compressed to within 18 to 24 months. We will also open up the environmental baseline data next year to enhance the efficiency of the EIA process;

- (ii) further streamline administrative procedures – We will review key topics including the gross floor area (GFA) concession arrangement for carparks, approval guidelines concerning developments in the wetland buffer area, self-certification and independent checking arrangement, as well as procedures concerning the felling and compensatory planting of trees. We aim to put forward concrete proposals progressively starting from mid-2023;
- (iii) expedite the approval of building plans – The Buildings Department will establish Dedicated Processing Units adopting a “facilitator” mindset to expedite the approval process of general building plans submitted for high-yield private residential projects. The target is to approve about 80% of the plans on their first or second submission. In addition, we will devise a roadmap on the industry’s use of Building Information Modelling (BIM) in preparing building plans for submission to departments for approval. An application software will be launched in the first quarter of 2024 to automate compliance checks by the industry on the floor area information in relevant plans;
- (iv) extend the arrangement for charging land premium at standard rates – We will regularise the arrangement for charging land premium at standard rates for redevelopment of industrial buildings. We will also extend this approach, now applicable only to the redevelopment of industrial buildings and in-situ land exchange applications in NDAs, to cover agricultural land in the New Territories located outside NDAs to compress relevant workflow. We target to present a concrete plan by mid-2023;
- (v) speed up the consolidation of property interests to facilitate urban renewal of old areas – We propose lowering the compulsory sale application thresholds for private buildings aged 50 or above but below 70 from 80% to 70% of ownership, and further to 60% for those aged 70 or above. For industrial buildings in non-industrial zoning, the threshold will be lowered to 70% of ownership for those aged 30 years or above.

We will also relax the requirements on compulsory sale applications covering abutting lots, streamline the legal procedures for compulsory sale, and set up a dedicated office to provide additional support to affected minority owners. We will consult the LegCo and stakeholders on the proposals within this year; and

- (vi) streamline the arrangement for land lease extension – As a considerable number of land leases will expire from 2025 onward, the Government will introduce a bill next year such that expiring land leases will be extended regularly and in a consistent manner. This will save individual lot owners from dealing with the complicated procedures and bearing expensive costs in executing lease extension documents, and substantially reduce the time required for lease extension.

Enhance Transparency

72. To enhance transparency, the Steering Committee on Land and Housing Supply will formulate and regularly publish a 10-year forecast of supply of developable land. The first forecast will be released shortly. Similarly, the Task Force on Public Housing Projects will regularly publish a 10-year forecast of supply of public housing.

Kau Yi Chau Artificial Islands

73. The Kau Yi Chau Artificial Islands will expand the scope and capacity of Hong Kong's development and greatly enhance Hong Kong's competitiveness as a financial, commercial and trade centre. Given their close proximity to Lantau Island, the 1 000-hectare Artificial Islands have good linkage with the Hong Kong International Airport and the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, and are well-positioned to tap economic opportunities from overseas and the GBA. To optimise Hong Kong's overall transport network, new rail links and a road transport network will be constructed to connect with Hong Kong Island West, Lantau Island and Northwest New Territories; a fourth cross-harbour tunnel will also be built.

74. The Kau Yi Chau Artificial Islands have three major planning objectives:

- (i) prosperity and diversity – They will support the development of the third central business district to consolidate Hong Kong's position as an international financial centre. We will also reserve land outside the central business district for emerging industries to provide diversified opportunities for young people;

- (ii) green and liveable – Based on the recommendations of the Hong Kong 2030+, we will enhance accommodation and living space by increasing the average flat size of public and private housing by a range of 10% to 20% as the assumption when planning land development, as well as raising the ratios of land for open space and land for community facilities to population to no less than 3.5 square metres per person; and
- (iii) forward-looking and innovative – We will fully implement the strategy of a smart, green and resilient city by formulating measures in urban design, infrastructure and mobility to reduce everyday energy demand; we will also reduce carbon emissions through the adoption of green energy and advanced food waste treatment technology.

75. We will put forth proposals on the scope of reclamation, land use, transport infrastructure network and financing options regarding the Artificial Islands within this year. Our target is to commence the EIA process next year and kick-start the reclamation works in 2025.

Drive Development by Transport Infrastructure

76. I will pursue the principle of “bringing forward infrastructure construction and increasing development capacity”, as mentioned in my election manifesto, by taking forward the three major road projects and three strategic railway projects recommended in the Strategic Studies on Railways and Major Roads beyond 2030. The projects will bring about a highly inter-connected and accessible road network and rail system, and vigorously drive and support future development of Hong Kong. The six major transport infrastructure projects are:

- (i) Northern Metropolis Highway – It will facilitate east-west connectivity in the New Territories North between Tin Shui Wai in the west and Kwu Tung North in the east via San Tin, and expand transport capacity in the Northern Metropolis;
- (ii) Shatin Bypass – This north-south new trunk road connecting Tai Po and Kowloon West will give residents of the New Territories East a faster route to urban areas and relieve traffic pressure on Tolo Highway;
- (iii) TKO-Yau Tong Tunnel – Construction of the third road tunnel at TKO will synchronise with the future development of TKO Area 137 and improve its external connections;
- (iv) Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Rail Link – It will connect Hung Shui Kiu with Qianhai to facilitate travel between Hong Kong and Shenzhen and promote connectivity and integrated development between Hong Kong and the GBA;

- (v) Central Rail Link – The construction of the 12th railway line will connect Kam Tin in Yuen Long with Kowloon Tong via Kwai Chung, alleviating pressure on the carrying capacity of the Tuen Ma Line; and
- (vi) TKO Line Southern Extension – This is an extension of the TKO Line southwards to TKO Area 137, which will enhance the transport facilities in the area.

77. We will continue to take forward other railway projects in the Northern Metropolis. Kwu Tung Station of the Northern Link will be commissioned in 2027, and the construction works for Hung Shui Kiu Station and the Northern Link Main Line will commence within the current-term of the Government. We are also actively following up on the work relating to the Northern Link Spur Line's connection with the new Huanggang Port in Shenzhen via the HSITP in Lok Ma Chau Loop. Railway projects in other areas are also progressing well, with the construction works of the Tung Chung Line Extension, Oyster Bay Station and Tuen Mun South Extension commencing next year.

78. We will also expedite the implementation of a number of road infrastructure projects under planning, including Route 11, Tsing Yi-Lantau Link and Tuen Mun Bypass, as well as improvements to Lion Rock Tunnel.

VI. Work Together to Safeguarding Harmony and Stability

79. The Government will duly address the aspirations of our people for a better life and build a more harmonious and stable Hong Kong by providing more targeted public services, better supporting the elderly and helping the disadvantaged, as well as creating a better living environment. Hong Kong is our home. The Government will unite local communities and engage all sectors in society to build a better Hong Kong together.

A Healthy and Vibrant Hong Kong

80. Our present healthcare system relies more on treatment than prevention. Expenditure on public hospital services accounts for over 80%, while less than 20% is spent on primary healthcare. Not only are resources skewed heavily towards public hospitals, the pressure exerted on them is also huge. With an ageing population and increasing prevalence of chronic diseases, public hospitals are overburdened and the waiting time for specialist services has continued to lengthen. Coupled with the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic, the dire consequences of over-reliance on public hospitals over the years have become more evident. We need to change.

81. The Government will revamp the healthcare system. Our aim is to shift the emphasis of the healthcare system from its current treatment-oriented, hospital-based structure to a prevention-focused, community-based system, by investing additional resources to promote primary healthcare.

Primary Healthcare

82. We will publish the Primary Healthcare Blueprint within this year. With District Health Centres (DHCs) as the hub for co-ordinating primary healthcare services for our people, we will partner with the private healthcare sector to promote the concept of “family doctor for all” and collaborate with various healthcare professions to provide comprehensive, sustainable and people-centric primary healthcare services in the community. We will:

- (i) establish the Primary Healthcare Authority for co-ordination and governance of primary healthcare service provision across the public and private sectors. It will also be responsible for setting standards and devising quality assurance mechanisms;
- (ii) launch the three-year Chronic Disease Co-Care Pilot Scheme from next year, under which the DHCs will refer people who are screened to be at high risk of hypertension or diabetes mellitus to the private sector

for further examination. Those who are diagnosed with the diseases will receive treatment provided by family doctors and allied health professional teams to help them better manage their chronic diseases and prevent complications. The Government will subsidise about half of the examination and treatment fees. A Strategic Purchasing Office will also be set up to co-ordinate primary healthcare services provided through the private healthcare sector;

- (iii) enhance the Elderly Health Care Voucher Scheme by allowing the shared use of vouchers between spouses and extending the coverage to include primary healthcare services provided by audiologists, dietitians, clinical psychologists and speech therapists under the Accredited Registers Scheme for Healthcare Professions, as well as medical equipment (such as hearing aids) provided by them upon professional assessment. In addition, we will roll out a three-year pilot scheme to encourage the more effective use of primary healthcare services by the elderly, increasing the annual voucher from the existing \$2,000 to \$2,500. The additional \$500 will be allotted automatically to the elderly persons' accounts upon their claiming at least \$1,000 from the voucher for designated primary healthcare services such as disease prevention and health management. The additional amount should also be used for those designated services;
- (iv) enhance the role of Chinese medicine (CM) by increasing the annual quota of government-subsidised CM out-patient service by one-third from 600 000 to 800 000, and strengthening the CM services of DHCs;
- (v) better utilise multi-disciplinary healthcare services, including amendment of the Supplementary Medical Professions Ordinance to facilitate direct access of patients to services provided by physiotherapists and occupational therapists without a doctor's referral;
- (vi) review dental services by setting up a working group on the development of dental care services to review the existing services and to advise the Government on enhancing the service scope and delivery mode; and
- (vii) rationalise healthcare premises and facilities in the community by setting up a Steering Committee on Healthcare Facilities Planning and Development to take forward relevant development and redevelopment projects.

Public Hospital Services

83. Public hospital services are the backbone of our healthcare system. To enhance the services on various fronts, we will:

- (i) reduce the waiting time for specialist out-patient services – The Hospital Authority (HA) will adopt a multi-pronged approach, including to (1) allocate more resources for new cases; (2) streamline referral arrangements for cross-specialty cases; (3) set up integrated clinics to provide multi-disciplinary support to minimise patients' waiting time for multiple specialists; and (4) enhance downloading of patients in stable condition to primary healthcare. The target is to reduce the waiting time of stable new case bookings for the specialty of Medicine by 20% in the next financial year (2023-24);
- (ii) improve patient experience – The HA will provide more convenience for patients by making wider use of telehealth services and introducing a new service model for drug collection and delivery;
- (iii) enhance healthcare services – The HA will establish the Integrated Neuroscience Centres and Cardiovascular Diseases Centres to provide integrated services for patients requiring multi-disciplinary professional support. It will also establish the Uncommon Disorders Registry and foster collaboration with the national network and the Hong Kong Genome Institute, and set up the Poison Control Centre to enhance poison control and treatment services;
- (iv) strengthen hospital infrastructure – We will press ahead with the First Ten-year Hospital Development Plan (HDP), adding about 4 600 beds and about 80 operating theatres in the next five years. The Second Ten-year HDP will include the development of a hospital network in the Northern Metropolis; and
- (v) promote eHealth – We will explore mandating the upload of more types of health records by legislation, with a view to further transforming eHealth into a key infrastructure integrating public and private healthcare systems.

Supply of Healthcare Manpower

84. To help ensure sufficient healthcare manpower for the public healthcare system, we will look into different options including requiring qualified healthcare professionals to serve in public healthcare institutions for a specified period of time, and admitting qualified non-locally trained dentists and nurses.

Development of Chinese Medicine

85. To further promote the development of CM, we will enhance the functions of the Chinese Medicine Unit under the Health Bureau with the creation of the post of Commissioner for Chinese Medicine Development to strengthen the development of CM and relevant policy co-ordination work, which include formulating a blueprint for the development of CM; taking forward the provision of an additional 200 000 quotas of CM out-patient service; regularising integrated Chinese-Western medicine services and gradually expanding the services to more hospitals and diseases, including actively exploring their extension to cancer care; enhancing the implementation of the Chinese Medicine Development Fund; promoting the professional development of CM practitioners and CM drug personnel; and deepening the collaboration in CM between Hong Kong and the Mainland and the GBA.

Mental Health

86. Mental health is one of the keys to happiness. The Government will enhance the mental wellness of the community with services targeting the needs of various groups. We will strengthen the multi-disciplinary Student Mental Health Support Scheme to identify students in need and make arrangements for them to receive professional support at the first opportunity. The HA will allocate additional resources to strengthen community psychiatric services and launch a pilot public-private partnership programme for the provision of psychiatric specialist out-patient service. The Social Welfare Department will also strengthen the services of the Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness. Apart from continuing to subsidise organisations to implement community support projects, we will set up a mental health support hotline to provide immediate support and referral services.

Tobacco Control

87. Our tobacco control efforts will continue, even though the smoking prevalence in Hong Kong reached an all-time low of 9.5% last year. We will consult the public early next year on the next steps for tobacco control. Our target is to further reduce smoking prevalence to 7.8% by 2025.

Co-operation with the Mainland to Facilitate Registration of Pharmaceutical Products in Hong Kong and Use of Pharmaceutical Products and Medical Devices in the Mainland

88. To foster medical co-operation between Hong Kong and the Mainland, we will make reference to the registration approvals made by the National Medical Products Administration and other suitable drug regulatory authorities,

allowing pharmaceutical products registered in the Mainland and relevant places to be registered and sold in Hong Kong upon fulfilment of the relevant stringent requirements on safety, efficacy and quality, thereby diversifying the supply of pharmaceutical products. We will also maintain liaison with the Mainland on allowing more Hong Kong-registered drugs and medical devices to be used in the GBA. In addition, we will study the feasibility of allowing Hong Kong people living in the Mainland cities of the GBA to make use of the Elderly Health Care Vouchers for settling payments of Mainland medical insurance premiums.

Sports Development

89. To further promote sports in the community, we will work with the sports sector, schools and the business sector to promote urban sports that are popular among young people in recent years, such as 3-on-3 basketball, sport climbing and skateboarding. We will also review the competition events of the Hong Kong Games to provide more opportunities for participation of different age groups.

90. The Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau will map out a 10-year development blueprint for sports and recreation facilities, providing about 30 diversified facilities by phases, such as sports centres, swimming pools, sports grounds and parks. The planned facilities include Hong Kong's second sports park to be developed in Whitehead, Ma On Shan, and large-scale sports and recreation facilities in the Northern Metropolis.

91. The Government will continue to enhance the professionalism in the sports sector and develop sports as an industry, including enhancing the arrangement of training and competition venues for qualified sports clubs and supporting local sports clubs in their participation in major sports competitions in the Mainland and the region. We will also launch a five-year pilot programme on career and education for athletes with disabilities to equip them for post-retirement development. In addition, we will enhance the Hong Kong "M" Mark System to support the hosting of at least 10 major international sports events in Hong Kong annually, with a view to further promoting Hong Kong as a centre for mega international sports events.

Leisure Facilities and Projects

92. We will develop more leisure facilities and projects, adding variety to the activities of citizens:

- (i) **Round-the-Island Trail** – I have decided to develop a "Round-the-Island Trail" of about 60 kilometres on Hong Kong Island, connecting the waterfront promenades on the northern shore and a number of existing

promenades and countryside walking trails in the Southern District. We will carry out studies and design as well as works from next year onward with the target of connecting 90% of the Trail within five years;

- (ii) Eco-tourism in Southern Part of Lantau – We are actively studying the development of about 1 000 hectares of the “Green Belt” sites in the southern part of Lantau for eco-tourism or recreation uses; and
- (iii) Weekend Bazaars – The Home Affairs Department will join hands with local groups to organise weekend bazaars at five regions in the territory in the fourth quarter of 2022, fostering diversified local economic activities. Drawing on the experience, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department also plans to organise similar weekend bazaars next year.

A Caring and Inclusive Hong Kong

Care Teams in 18 Districts

93. I proposed in my election manifesto to set up District Services and Community Care Teams (Care Teams). The Government will set up the Care Teams and will devise governance structures and operational arrangements, provide some of the resources required and set KPIs. The 18 districts in Hong Kong will be delineated into sub-districts, based on which we will widely engage local organisations and groups to form Care Teams to pull together all sectors including young people and ethnic minorities to take part in community building. The Care Teams will organise caring activities, such as visiting the needy. We will first set up the Care Teams in Tsuen Wan and the Southern District in the first quarter of 2023, and in the remaining 16 districts in phases.

District Administration

94. The current-term District Councils will expire by end-2023. I have asked the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) and the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau to conduct a review on district administration and put forward suggestions to ensure that the future arrangement will be in conformity with the Basic Law, in adherence to the principle of “patriots administering Hong Kong”, and conducive to enhancing governance efficacy at the district level.

Targeted Poverty Alleviation

95. The current-term Government adopts the strategy of targeted poverty alleviation by directing resources to those most in need. The Task Force to Lift Underprivileged Students out of Intergenerational Poverty, led by the Chief Secretary for Administration, launched the Strive and Rise Programme in

September through tripartite collaboration among the Government, business sector and community. The programme targets more than 2 000 junior secondary students (particularly those living in sub-divided units) with mentorship, personal development planning and financial support. It has been well received by the community. Upon programme evaluation, we will chart the way forward and consider increasing mentee quotas and expanding the target group.

96. I have also asked the Chief Secretary for Administration to restructure the Commission on Poverty to study and identify any other target group for poverty alleviation.

Employees' Remuneration and Occupational Safety

97. Labour is key to social productivity and should share the benefits of economic growth. To improve labour rights, the Government will:

- (i) invite the Minimum Wage Commission to study how to enhance the review mechanism of the statutory minimum wage, including the review cycle, how to improve efficiency, and balancing a host of factors such as the minimum wage level and sustained economic development, and make proposals to the Government;
- (ii) set a good example and further review the arrangement relating to the employment of non-skilled workers under government outsourced service contracts, including remuneration of workers, as well as relevant monitoring mechanism. We aim to conclude the review by the first quarter of 2023; and
- (iii) enhance the procedures of the Protection of Wages on Insolvency Fund, including providing legal services by the Fund to assist employees in filing winding-up or bankruptcy petitions against insolvent employers, so as to expedite the disbursement of ex-gratia payment to affected employees.

98. Many sectors are now seeing a shortage of manpower. To encourage the public to enrol in training and enter the workforce, the Government will invite the Employees Retraining Board to consider raising the daily rate of retraining allowance and providing allowances for half-day courses for implementation by the first quarter of 2023.

99. Fatal industrial accidents result in tragic loss of lives, and cause distress to families over the loss of their loved ones. The Government will spare no effort in investigating each and every incident, pursuing responsibilities of those who should be held accountable and putting in place improvement measures. We will seek

the passage of the relevant bill under scrutiny by the LegCo as soon as possible to increase the maximum penalties for occupational safety offences, thereby enhancing their deterrent effect.

Caring for the Elderly

100. Hong Kong has the longest life expectancy in the world. The vast majority of the elderly live and age in the community with the support of their families or the Government. Only about 4% reside in RCHes. Furthermore, about three quarters of the elderly population (about 1.1 million people) are receiving financial assistance under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme and Social Security Allowance Scheme. The Government will improve elderly services with due emphasis on both quality and quantity, and adhere to the policy objective of promoting “ageing in place as the core, with institutional care as back-up”.

Support Ageing in Place

101. To strengthen the support for elderly persons to age in place, the Government will:

- (i) regularise the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly in the third quarter of 2023. The number of beneficiaries will increase by 50% in phases, from 8 000 at present to 12 000 in 2025-26. The coverage of the scheme will also be expanded to include rental of assistive technology products;
- (ii) set up 16 new neighbourhood elderly centres in the next five years and expand the services in the fourth quarter of 2023 to cover areas such as retirement planning and promotion of gerontechnology; and
- (iii) expand the HA’s Integrated Discharge Support Programme for Elderly Patients by increasing the number of beneficiaries by one third, from about 33 000 to 45 000 per annum, in the third quarter of 2023. The number of beneficiaries who can be referred to home support services will increase from about 9 000 to 11 000, so as to support more discharged elderly patients to recover at home.

Enhance Support for Carers

102. Carers play an important role in supporting elderly persons and persons with disabilities to live in the community. They deserve more recognition and stronger support. From October 2023, the Government will regularise the allowance for carers of elderly persons and persons with disabilities under the Community Care Fund and raise the amount of subsidy. For instance, the monthly living allowance for carers from low-income families will be increased by 25% from

\$2,400 to \$3,000, benefitting about 10 000 carers. In addition, a number of measures will be rolled out from next year, including setting up a one-stop information gateway and a designated hotline for carers, increasing the number of respite service places and enhancing the service enquiry system, promoting community-based peer support for carers, and launching a territory-wide publicity campaign to raise public awareness of the needs of carers.

Lift the Quality and Quantity of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly

103. At present, there are about 75 000 RCHes in Hong Kong, of which about 35 000 are subsidised service places. The Government is making its best endeavour to increase the number of subsidised service places. Our target is to provide an additional 6 200 places by end-2027, an increase of 20%. Of these, 2 600 places will commence service next year. We will build RCHes on suitable sites, reserve about 5% of the total GFA in public housing development projects for welfare purposes such as the provision of RCHes, and purchase places from private RCHes. We will also leverage market forces to boost the supply. I have asked the DEVB and the LWB to put forward proposals early next year to provide more incentives, such as granting GFA concessions, to encourage developers to build elderly service facilities in their private development projects.

104. In the coming five years, we will subsidise an additional 1 700 or more students to enrol in nurse training programmes. They will be required to work in the welfare sector for at least three years upon graduation. The Government will also undertake a holistic review of the skill and qualification requirements of residential care home staff, so as to establish professional standards and a career progression path.

Protecting Children

105. It is heart breaking to learn of child abuse cases in recent years. We will take forward at full steam the setting up of a mandatory reporting mechanism for child abuse cases by introducing a bill into the LegCo in the first half of 2023. We will also provide training for relevant practitioners to facilitate their early identification and reporting of child abuse cases. Furthermore, we have identified areas requiring focused efforts for improvement in residential child care services. We will improve service quality in a holistic manner, enhance service plan, strengthen law-enforcing inspections and engage independent persons to conduct unannounced inspections.

Empowering Women

106. In the next three years, we will substantially increase funding for organising activities to promote women development by the Women's Commission from \$4 million to \$10 million per annum. A Women Empowerment Fund will be set up to subsidise community projects that support women in balancing job and family commitments, and unleashing their potential.

Ethnic Minorities

107. To further enhance the support for ethnic minorities, we will recruit more ethnic minorities for appointment as Employment Assistants and General Assistants in the Labour Department, and set up a service centre on a trial basis to provide emotional support and counselling for ethnic minorities.

A Liveable Hong Kong

District Environment

108. The District Matters Co-ordination Task Force, led by the Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration, has tackled more than 600 hygiene blackspots and stepped up routine cleansing efforts in some 4 000 locations across the city since mid-August. For the next step, we will:

- (i) establish the standard mode of operation, through rationalising the responsibilities among departments and relevant workflow, for implementation in various districts to handle different environmental hygiene issues in an effective manner;
- (ii) conduct a comprehensive review on the existing statutory powers and penalties regarding environmental hygiene. The first stage is to consult the LegCo this year on the proposal to increase the existing fixed penalty level of \$1,500 for offences such as littering and shopfront extension. Other proposed legislative amendments will be put forth in mid-2023; and
- (iii) liven up public space and improve streetscapes, including landscaping, beautifying road signs and upgrading street furniture.

109. To ameliorate the near-shore odour problems of Victoria Harbour, we will regularly monitor odour levels at stormwater drain outlets and rectify misconnections of sewer pipes. For the identified outfalls emanating stench in specific districts, we aim to reduce the amount of sewage discharged by half before end-2024.

Striving towards Carbon Neutrality

110. To reduce the total carbon emissions by 50% before 2035 (from the 2005 level) in order to achieve the goal of carbon neutrality before 2050, it is imperative that we step up decarbonisation efforts. We will:

- (i) conserve energy – Over 60% of our carbon emissions is attributable to generating electricity for buildings. Our goal is to improve the overall energy performance of government buildings and infrastructure by more than 6% by 2024-25. We will accelerate the incorporation of district cooling systems in NDAs (including the Northern Metropolis) to reduce energy consumption. We are preparing legislative amendments to expand the scope of the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme to include more household appliances. By doing so, the total residential energy consumption of household appliances accounted for under the scheme will increase from 50% to about 80%;
- (ii) promote green transport – The Government will cease new registration of fuel-propelled and hybrid private cars in 2035 or earlier. In the coming three years, an additional 7 000 parking spaces with electric vehicle chargers will be provided in government premises. To expedite low-carbon transformation in the transport sector, we will conduct trials of new generation electric taxis, as well as hydrogen fuel cell electric double-deckers and heavy vehicles next year. Moreover, we aim to complete two tasks by 2025, which include announcing a roadmap for the promotion of electric public transport and commercial vehicles; and formulating the long-term strategies for the application of hydrogen energy in road transport. We will also introduce about 700 electric buses and 3 000 electric taxis by end-2027; and
- (iii) promote waste reduction in the community – To achieve the goal of Zero Landfill by 2035, we will strive to engage the entire community in waste reduction and waste separation for recycling. In addition, we will expedite the development of modern waste-to-energy (WtE) incinerators. Apart from actively preparing for the implementation of municipal solid waste charging next year at the earliest, we will launch a host of new initiatives. First, we will introduce a bill into the LegCo early next year to regulate disposable plastic tableware and other plastic products. Second, we will explore legislation requiring major housing estates and single-block buildings with a relatively large number of flats to collect separated recyclables and pass them to recyclers for processing. Third, we will build the first modern WtE incinerator near Shek Kwu Chau at full speed and plan the development of the second one in Tsang

Tsui, Tuen Mun. We will also study developing more similar advanced facilities in the Northern Metropolis. Last, we will launch a trial scheme on food waste collection in PRH within this year.

111. The Council for Sustainable Development will be re-organised, becoming the new Council for Carbon Neutrality and Sustainable Development to offer advice on decarbonisation strategies.

112. To strengthen collaboration among Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao in combating climate change as well as joint prevention and control of air pollution in the GBA, the Government is preparing to set up a supersite for GBA air quality laboratory and meteorology monitoring in Hong Kong to provide regional air pollution and meteorological monitoring and forecasting services.

Mobility with Convenience

113. We will continue to take forward smart mobility initiatives by applying advanced technologies in our traffic and transport systems. These include improving the Traffic Data Analytics System and exploring the feasibility of introducing smart motorways. We will complete a territory-wide Travel Characteristics Survey under the Traffic and Transport Strategy Study next year, and take forward various pilot schemes such as the trial of autonomous vehicles within 2024. Our target is to promulgate a Transport Strategy Blueprint in 2025, with a view to establishing a reliable, safe, smart, environmentally friendly and highly efficient transport system.

114. The Public Transport Fare Subsidy Scheme has been well received by the public. I hereby announce that the special temporary measures under the scheme will be further extended for another six months. From 1 November 2022 to 30 April 2023, the Government will continue to provide commuters with a subsidy amounting to one-third of their monthly public transport expenses in excess of \$200, subject to a maximum of \$500.

VII. Hong Kong will Prosper Only When its Young People Thrive

115. Young people are Hong Kong's future. "Hong Kong will prosper only when its young people thrive". The Government attaches great importance to education and youth development. We have to create opportunities for our children to develop and flourish, as well as nurture a new generation of young people with an affection for our country and for Hong Kong and equipped with global perspectives, and who would contribute to the country and the city.

Strengthen Our Education System

116. Hong Kong has sound education infrastructure, world-renowned universities and outstanding research talents. The quality of our teaching and learning has ranked among the top in various international comparative studies. Building on this solid foundation, we will strengthen our education system on three fronts: unleashing the potential of students, improving the effectiveness of teaching and learning, and creating strong impetus for growth. The key strategies are as follows:

- (i) step up efforts to promote STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics) education at primary and secondary levels;
- (ii) support post-secondary education and build a strong talent pool;
- (iii) promote vocational and professional education and training (VPET) by adopting the strategy of fostering industry-institution collaboration and diversified development, so as to nurture multi-skilled talents;
- (iv) strengthen national education and nurture a new generation with an affection for the country, the city and the family;
- (v) enhance management of the teaching force and promote the professional development of teachers;
- (vi) rationalise the demand and supply of primary and secondary school places in a pragmatic manner and with priority consideration given to the interests of students and quality of education; and
- (vii) support early childhood education and special education.

STEAM Education

117. We will step up the promotion of STEAM education “for all”, “for fun” and “for diversity” in primary and secondary schools, building a solid foundation for students in support of our direction of promoting I&T development in Hong Kong. We will:

- (i) promote learning “for all” – More learning elements of I&T will be incorporated in the curriculum, with the aim of at least 75% of publicly-funded schools implementing enriched coding education at the upper primary level and introducing I&T elements such as Artificial Intelligence in the junior secondary curriculum by the 2024/25 school year;
- (ii) strengthen leadership and co-ordination – Starting from the current school year, all publicly-funded primary and secondary schools are required to designate co-ordinators to holistically plan STEAM education within and beyond the classroom, and starting from the next school year, to organise or arrange students to participate in quality STEAM activities every year; and
- (iii) enhance professional training – At least 75% of the publicly-funded primary and secondary schools should arrange their teachers to undergo professional training on STEAM within two school years.

Post-secondary Education

118. The Government staunchly encourages the University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded universities to enhance the quality of programmes for building a strong pool of talents. In the coming five years, our target is that 35% of their students will be studying STEAM subjects and 60% will be studying subjects relevant to Hong Kong’s development into the “eight centres” in the 14th Five-Year Plan.

119. We will gradually increase the number of UGC-funded research postgraduate (RPg) places by about 1 600, from some 5 600 at present to 7 200 in the 2024/25 academic year. This, together with the gradual uplift of the over-enrolment ceiling of RPg places from 70% to 100% from last year onward, will increase the number of RPg places by more than 50%.

120. To attract more outstanding students along the Belt and Road to pursue their studies or career in Hong Kong, we will collaborate with institutions to promote the Belt and Road Scholarship to countries outside the Association of

Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The subsidy levels of the Mainland University Study Subsidy Scheme will also be increased starting from the current academic year, with the introduction of a new subsidy item for travelling expenses, etc.

121. Moreover, to ease the financial burden of loan repayers under the student financial assistance schemes for local post-secondary students, the Government will extend the current interest-free deferral of loan repayment for another year until 31 March 2025.

Vocational and Professional Education and Training

122. We will, through the strategy of fostering industry-institution collaboration and diversified development, promote VPET as a pathway parallel to conventional academic education, providing diversified learning and employment opportunities for young people. We will:

- (i) **expand the Study Subsidy Scheme for Designated Professions/ Sectors** – To meet the keen manpower demand of designated industries (e.g. nursing and information technology), the respective numbers of subsidised places for self-financing higher diploma programmes and undergraduate programmes will be increased in phases by 1 000 and 2 000 per cohort respectively starting from the next academic year, increasing the total number of places from the existing 5 000 to 8 000. Top-up degree programmes will be covered for the first time and priority will be accorded to programmes of applied nature that involve industry-institution collaboration;
- (ii) **explore the introduction of more applied degree programmes** – The first batch of programmes under the Pilot Project on the Development of Applied Degree Programmes have been launched in the current academic year, covering four disciplines: nursing; testing and certification; horticulture, arboriculture and landscape management; and gerontology. We are actively exploring the introduction of more applied degree programmes;
- (iii) **expedite the development of Vocational Qualifications Pathway (VQP)** – We will increase the number of industries adopting the VQP under the Qualifications Framework from 6 to at least 18 in the next five years;
- (iv) **launch the Diploma of Applied Education (DAE) Programme** – The DAE Programme will be launched on a regular basis starting from the next academic year, incorporating substantial VPET elements and providing a pathway for Secondary Six school leavers as well as adult learners to obtain a formal qualification;

- (v) enrich applied learning and workplace experience of secondary students – We will enhance the senior secondary applied learning courses by offering more course options and support, and launch the Business-School Partnership Programme 2.0 with more business partners covering more industries; and
- (vi) enhance VPET promotion – We will organise an array of activities to enhance the public’s positive understanding of VPET and promote its professional image, including supporting the Vocational Training Council to organise the “Future Skills Community Event” this December to make VPET an attractive progression pathway.

National Education

123. We will enhance the adoption of a multi-pronged and co-ordinated approach in schools to promote national education within and beyond the classroom, so as to strengthen students’ sense of national identity and national pride, and raise their awareness to safeguard the national security of our country together. From the current school year, we will:

- (i) support teaching and learning – Schools are encouraged to regularly review the primary and junior secondary school curricula and enrich them with learning elements such as the history and geography of our country;
- (ii) strengthen school-based management – The “enhanced School Development and Accountability framework” will be implemented to bolster the accountability of staff in publicly-funded schools in providing quality school education and enhancing the national education through the adoption of a whole-school approach;
- (iii) organise inter-school national education activities – Government schools will take the lead in adopting a whole-school and joint-school collaborative approach to launch the first edition of “Love Our Home; Treasure Our Country” series of inter-school activities in accordance with the “National Education - Event Planning Calendar” issued by the Education Bureau (EDB) to commemorate key national events, such as the National Day and the National Security Education Day. School sponsoring bodies will also be encouraged to organise inter-school national education activities; and
- (iv) enhance home-school co-operation – All publicly-funded schools will organise one or more activities relating to national education for parents every year.

124. Moreover, a one-off grant of \$60 million will be provided for kindergartens joining the Kindergarten Education Scheme (KES) to organise school-based activities that help students learn Chinese culture from an early age. About 780 publicly-funded primary and secondary schools have established over 2 100 sister school pairs with their Mainland counterparts. Our aim is to increase the number of local schools participating in the Sister School Scheme by 10% within next year. We will also strengthen support for students of post-secondary institutions to participate in the Mainland exchange and experience activities.

Teaching Profession

125. Teachers are responsible for fostering positive values and a sense of national identity among students, and should therefore possess professional capabilities and uphold professional conduct. To step up the management of the teaching force on various fronts such as appointment, conduct and training, the EDB will:

- (i) **extend the coverage of the Basic Law Test requirement** – Starting from the current school year, newly-appointed regular teachers in all public sector schools are required to pass the Basic Law Test. The requirement will be extended to cover all Direct Subsidy Scheme Schools and kindergartens joining the KES starting from the next school year. The test covers the Basic Law and the National Security Law;
- (ii) **promulgate guidelines on professional conduct** – The guidelines to be promulgated within this year will clearly set out the professional conduct and behaviour required of teachers to be role models for students. The EDB will make reference to the guidelines in handling misconduct cases of teachers in a serious manner; and
- (iii) **promote understanding of our country** – Newly-joined teachers in publicly-funded schools and teachers aspiring for promotion in public sector schools will be required to participate in the Mainland study tours. Moreover, serving teachers will be offered more Mainland study opportunities to understand the development of our country.

Handle Declining Student Population in a Pragmatic Manner

126. Given the structural decline in Hong Kong's student population, the Government will keep the actual situation of primary and secondary school places under review. We will adopt the target of "soft landing" and rationalise the demand and supply of school places in a pragmatic manner, with the interests of students and education quality as our priority considerations. We will maintain close communication with school sponsoring bodies and assist the sector in

planning ahead through strategies such as suspending plans to operate new schools, relocating and merging schools, etc. The use of resources will be optimised to enhance education quality. The Government will continue to implement small class teaching in public sector primary schools in an orderly manner, achieving small class teaching in over 90% of these schools after two school years.

Other Support Measures

127. The EDB will continue to support different aspects of education:

- (i) kindergarten education – A one-off grant of \$60 million in total will be provided to all kindergartens joining the KES to assist their development into “smart kindergartens” through digitalising school administration and enhancing work efficiency. Moreover, a subsidy of \$30 million in total will be provided to KES kindergartens for the creation of “healthy schools” by improving the ventilation of school premises; and
- (ii) special education – Starting from the current school year, hospital schools will be provided with additional resources to provide hospitalised students suffering from injuries or diseases with a holistic senior secondary curriculum and enhanced life planning education, with a view to facilitating their re-integration into mainstream schools after recovery. The Strength-based Programme under the Project on Whole School Approach to Providing Tiered Support for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder will also be expanded to help senior secondary students with autism spectrum disorder unleash their potential and strengthen their life planning. This will benefit about 100 secondary schools.

Youth Development

Youth Development Blueprint

128. The HYAB will publish the first edition of the Youth Development Blueprint within this year to outline the principles, objectives and actions of the Government in pursuing youth development. We will:

- (i) nurture a new generation of young people with an affection for our country and Hong Kong and equipped with global perspectives, an aspiring mindset and positive thinking;

- (ii) give young people our love and care, attach importance to their whole-person development, and provide them with an enabling environment to cherish a hope for the future and strive for continuous growth, so that they could unleash their full potential in society and contribute to Hong Kong, our country and the world; and
- (iii) introduce a series of initiatives to assist young people in overcoming difficulties in education, career pursuits, entrepreneurship and home ownership.

129. The Blueprint is the Government's very first major document dedicated to youth development. We will implement the initiatives set out in the Blueprint and review them regularly for enhancement, so as to ensure that they keep pace with the changing social environment and meet the needs of our young people.

130. The HYAB and the Youth Development Commission are now seeking views from young people and stakeholders. They have organised and participated in over 80 related activities so far, and are paying visits to all 18 districts to learn more about the views of young people for incorporation into the Blueprint.

Launch the Youth Participation Initiative

131. We will launch the Youth Participation Initiative to engage more young people in public affairs and enhance their interaction and trust with the Government. Specifically, we will:

- (i) expand the Member Self-recommendation Scheme for Youth – We aim to triple the number of participating advisory committees from around 60 at present to no less than 180 within the current term of the Government to enhance their function as talent “incubators”; and
- (ii) encourage young people to participate in community development – We will designate two committees on district affairs and open up certain seats for young people to nominate themselves as members. Young people will be encouraged to offer their views on matters such as district works projects, youth development and civic education.

Deepen Participation of Government Departments and Civil Service Grades in Youth Work

132. I will encourage various departments and professional grades in the Government to form youth groups and organise activities regularly to enrich young people's understanding of these government departments and professions, and guide them in their career pursuits and experiencing team culture. A number of departments and institutions, such as the Civil Aviation Department, the Hong Kong

Observatory, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, the Marine Department and the HKMA are already preparing for youth groups. In addition, the Security Bureau will enhance life planning and internship opportunities for members of youth uniformed groups under the disciplined services. It will also establish a Security Bureau Youth Uniformed Group Leaders Forum within this year to offer advice on youth development work across disciplined services and organise relevant activities.

Broaden Young People's Horizons

133. The Government will work with all sectors of the community on a variety of activities to help young people broaden their horizons, acquire a better understanding of the development of our country and the world, and develop a proper and holistic outlook. For instance, the Hong Kong Laureate Forum will be held for the first time in November 2023. Awardees of the Shaw Prize (some of which include Nobel laureates) and world-renowned distinguished local, Mainland and overseas scientists will be invited to attend the Forum and exchange ideas and experience with young scientific talents from all corners of the world. This international event will help promote local young people's understanding of and interest in science and technology. Subject to the development of the epidemic, the Government will also enhance the breadth and depth of our Mainland and international internship and exchange programmes.

134. Besides, the Government will launch an annual Hong Kong Youth Festival starting next year. Different sectors of the community will be invited to jointly organise a wide spectrum of activities for engaging the youth and helping them develop their potential, enhance their knowledge, share their experience, etc.

135. The Government will regularise the GBA Youth Employment Scheme and encourage participating enterprises to recruit and deploy university graduates from Hong Kong to work in the GBA. Besides, we will continue to provide the young people of Hong Kong with entrepreneurial support and incubation services in the GBA through two funding schemes under the Youth Development Fund, helping them to address initial capital needs for their business.

Housing for Young People

136. To help meeting the housing needs of young people and facilitate their development, we will:

- (i) provide more land for the Starter Homes projects – We will again launch the Starter Homes projects in the Land Sale Programme in the next financial year. More Starter Homes projects will help young people realise their home ownership aspirations as more than 85% of past applicants for Starter Homes were aged 40 or below; and
- (ii) expand the Youth Hostel Scheme (YHS) – The Government will explore ways to increase the supply of youth hostels, including subsidising non-governmental organisations to rent suitable hotels and guesthouses for use as youth hostels, with the target of providing about 3 000 additional hostel places within five years. Youth tenants will be charged rental of about 60% of the market level; in return, they have to commit themselves to providing district or volunteer services to the community. In addition, the Government will identify suitable land sale sites and require developers to set aside a certain number of flats to support the YHS on a pilot basis.

VIII. Combat the Epidemic Together, Tell Good Stories of Hong Kong and Scale New Heights

Combat the Epidemic Together

137. The COVID-19 epidemic has raged for nearly three years. Its impact on Hong Kong as a highly open economy is particularly evident. The Government's anti-epidemic policies are clear and have been taken forward in an orderly manner, with the aim of creating the greatest room for people's livelihood and economic activities.

138. Upon assuming office, the current-term Government promptly formulated five anti-epidemic principles:

- (i) not to "lie flat", but to contain the number of confirmed cases and prevent the healthcare system from overloading;
- (ii) to reduce critical cases and deaths;
- (iii) to protect high-risk groups, including the elderly, children and patients with chronic illnesses;
- (iv) to classify people into different risk levels for proper control in a scientific and precise manner; and
- (v) to strike a balance between epidemic risks and economic needs.

139. I have mentioned on many occasions that we should avoid "backtracking" along our path of combating the epidemic. Our guiding principle is to achieve the greatest impact with the lowest cost. Provided that the epidemic is under control, the Government will continue to move forward with adjustment and enhancement to anti-epidemic measures in the light of the actual situation and development. This is to ensure that things will be taken forward in an orderly and measured manner.

140. Having assumed office for just over three months, the current-term Government has rolled out a series of precise and risk-based anti-epidemic measures in phases, gradually relaxing our control measures. These include cancelling the route-specific flight suspension mechanism, introducing the Red and Amber Codes for risk-based classification and management, changing the 7-day hotel quarantine arrangement to "3+4" and later "0+3", and relaxing social distancing measures in phases. The "0+3" arrangement, implemented on 26 September, was a major change as it formally put an end to the inbound compulsory quarantine requirement which had been in place for more than two years. Where conditions permit, the

Government will enhance various measures in a progressive way, including social distancing measures. We will also devise specific plans to ensure that major events and economic and large-scale activities in Hong Kong can be held smoothly.

141. Resuming connections with the Mainland and the overseas is equally important for Hong Kong and must be pursued in tandem. We are making our best efforts to discuss with the Mainland to strive for resuming normal cross-boundary travel in a gradual and orderly manner, without posing additional epidemic risks to the Mainland. Our first target is to implement “reverse quarantine” in Hong Kong, also known as “pre-departure quarantine”. This arrangement will be designed to comply with the “7+3” standard of the Mainland, where Mainland-bound travellers will be put under closed-loop management after undergoing quarantine in Hong Kong. It will avoid the possibility of spilling over the epidemic to the Mainland, and reduce the pressure on quarantine hotels and manpower in the Mainland, providing more certainty for travelling from Hong Kong to the Mainland. Subject to manageable risk level, we are discussing in parallel with the Mainland to increase the compassionate quotas for travelling to Shenzhen, in order to meet the travelling needs of people in the Mainland and Hong Kong.

142. How much longer this anti-epidemic journey will take hinges on a basket of factors. Acting hastily will cause troubles, bringing irreversible risks to society and leading us nowhere. We have to closely monitor the epidemic situation outside Hong Kong, possible risks arising from winter influenza, development of virus variants, the capacity of local healthcare system, etc. The public must follow and comply with the anti-epidemic measures, as any contravention could hamper our progress made so far and render our efforts futile. As long as we play our part and stand united, our anti-epidemic journey will go more smoothly, creating the greatest room for people’s livelihood and economic activities.

Tell Good Stories of Hong Kong

143. As an externally-oriented economy, Hong Kong must look for opportunities beyond the city. We have to be adept at telling the world the good stories of Hong Kong, and let Hong Kong shine in the world. With an intricate and volatile international political environment, certain external forces have been deliberately smearing our country and distorting the situation in Hong Kong. We have to present the true picture of Hong Kong to the world and promote our strengths, achievements and opportunities, and that the city is a good place where people can make their dreams come true.

144. In fact, Hong Kong is a free, open and international metropolis connecting with the Mainland and the world. Hong Kong, an international financial, shipping and trade centre, is highly competitive. Hong Kong has

numerous “the World’s No.1” achievements: the world’s freest economy, the easiest place to do business across the globe, the number-one city in air cargo throughput, the largest offshore RMB business centre, etc. It is also the only city in Asia with five universities in the world’s top 100. All these clearly demonstrate that Hong Kong has many distinctive advantages that make our people proud.

145. Speaking of the most unique advantage, Hong Kong enjoys strong support of the Motherland while being closely connected to the world under the “One Country, Two Systems”. We enjoy a low tax rate, a simple tax regime, a solid foundation of the rule of law and well-developed infrastructure. Hong Kong is well connected with the enormous markets including the Mainland and ASEAN. As a leading financial centre in the world, Hong Kong’s stock market is highly active in trading. It is also the leading fund management hub in Asia with free flow of capital and high liquidity. Hong Kong exercises its judicial power independently and is the only common law jurisdiction of our nation.

146. Hong Kong has a vibrant society. Our people are well educated and our scientific research capabilities have received worldwide recognition time and again. Hong Kong has a productive workforce as well as the longest life expectancy in the world, thanks to our quality medical services. Our civil service is acclaimed for its integrity and efficiency. Hong Kong also enjoys a unique and inclusive cultural diversity, a splendid and diverse mix of eastern and western arts and cultures, and world-class arts, cultural and sports events. Hong Kong’s country parks are scenic and rich in biodiversity, which liven up our leisure and recreation activities. With its low crime rate, Hong Kong is also among the world’s safest cities.

147. Indeed, Hong Kong has many more good stories to tell, and the Government will take full advantage of community efforts to tell those stories. I and my Principal Officials will lead overseas delegations, including the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders’ Meeting in November and the “Think Business, Think Hong Kong” campaign in Thailand next year organised by the HKTDC. The Financial Secretary will lead a task force, together with a “Hong Kong Team” comprising business leaders, the HKTDC, the HKTBB, etc., to visit traditional and emerging markets to rebuild the image and branding of Hong Kong through proactively establishing multilateral ties. The task force will also launch a new visitors’ programme, inviting around 1 000 prominent political, business and media leaders from the Mainland and overseas to visit Hong Kong on sponsorship. Tailor-made arrangements will be made, so that these visitors can see for themselves the latest developments in Hong Kong, and bring home the good stories of Hong Kong. In addition, the task force will work on showcasing the strengths of Hong Kong in a more multi-faceted and comprehensive manner via extensive multimedia channels and networks.

148. Government departments and relevant organisations will promote Hong Kong's strengths through diversified activities. The Financial Services Development Council and Invest Hong Kong will launch a global marketing campaign, presenting Hong Kong's prospects and opportunities as a bridge connecting the Mainland and the rest of the world. Radio Television Hong Kong will enhance its cross-media multi-language broadcasting to keep expatriates in Hong Kong as well as people in the Mainland and overseas apprised of the latest developments and appeal of Hong Kong. Our Mainland Offices will encourage and support representatives from our professional fields and sectors to visit the Mainland. Moreover, Hong Kong professional bodies may apply for funding under the Professional Services Advancement Support Scheme to visit the Mainland and overseas countries to promote their professional services, broadening the international perspectives of our professionals, particularly the young generation, and showcasing Hong Kong as a vibrant and thriving city.

IX. Closing Remarks

149. The next five years are important for Hong Kong to break new grounds and achieve another leap forward. At a time when the world is undergoing unprecedented changes in a century, Hong Kong faces both opportunities and challenges, but there are more opportunities than challenges. I have full confidence in the future of Hong Kong. The key to success is to seize the opportunities of the times, give our best and enhance our competitiveness. Building on the governing beliefs outlined in my election manifesto, this Policy Address has set out more concrete goals and detailed measures. With the concerted efforts of the governing team and our civil servants at all levels, as well as the support from the community, we will be able to implement all these measures in the Policy Address that are designed for our people, and accomplish what we set out to achieve.

150. Currently, the biggest aspiration of Hong Kong citizens is to have more decent housing, improved care for the elderly, better prospects for the youth in their education and achievements, and more development opportunities in society. Guided by the important speech delivered by President Xi on 1 July as the governance blueprint for the current-term Government, it is our hope to better serve our people and better develop Hong Kong, so that everyone can share the fruits of our achievements. Over the next five years, I look forward to working with you all to build a more promising and united Hong Kong where people enjoy living and working. Together, let us start a new chapter for Hong Kong advancing from stability to prosperity!

Annex: Indicators for Specified Tasks

This Annex presents 110 different indicators (including key performance indicators (KPIs)) for specified tasks to facilitate progress and effectiveness to be tracked and timely improvements to be made.

Task Force to Lift Underprivileged Students out of Intergenerational Poverty

1. **No less than 70%** of students who complete the one-year Strive and Rise Programme to achieve improvement in terms of personal development and positive thinking. (CSO/LWB)

District Matters Co-ordination Task Force

2. **Enhance environmental hygiene and cityscape:**
 - Remove **at least 75%** of some 600 environmental hygiene blackspots identified by various departments **by end-2023**. (DCSO/relevant bureaux)
 - Reduce the number of priority rodent blackspots **at least by half by end-2023**. (EEB)
 - Conduct **about 500** joint environmental hygiene operations with different stakeholders in public rental housing (PRH) estates under the Hong Kong Housing Authority **on a yearly basis**. (HB)
 - Implement face lifting/beautification works for **111** highway structures across districts **in 2023**. (TLB)
3. Complete a review of fixed penalty for littering, waste disposal and street obstruction **by end-2022**, and complete another review of the remaining environmental hygiene-related legislation **by mid-2023**, with a view to enhancing the effectiveness and deterrence of law enforcement. (DCSO/relevant bureaux)

Steering Committee on Land and Housing Supply

4. **Ensure timely land delivery:**
 - Deliver timely about **3 300 hectares** (ha) of newly formed land in the coming **10 years** (2023-24 to 2032-33), including no less than 1 300 ha in the Northern Metropolis.
 - Get land ready for supporting no less than **72 000 private housing units** in total for disposal through land sales or railway property developments over next **five years** (2023-24 to 2027-28).
 - Publish a **10-year** supply forecast of developable land **on a yearly basis**. (DEVB)

5. Increase land supply:

- Conduct feasibility studies for **255 ha** of “Green Belt” (GB) sites identified for housing development in the new round of GB review, with a view to rezoning the first batch of land **by 2024**.
- Resume **about 500 ha** of private land for government projects in **five years** (2022-23 to 2026-27), with over 90% in the Northern Metropolis, the total being more than four times that of the 120 ha resumed territory-wide in the previous five years (2017-18 to 2021-22).
- Formulate development proposals for the following new land development projects in the Northern Metropolis in phases from the **second half of 2023 to 2024**: Tsim Bei Tsui/Pak Nai/Lau Fau Shan, Ma Tso Lung, San Tin Technopole and Lo Wu/Man Kam To, and New Territories North New Town.
- Set up a dedicated department **within 2023** to steer and co-ordinate relevant departments in taking forward the Northern Metropolis.
- Release proposals on the reclamation limits, land uses, transport infrastructure and financing arrangement for the Kau Yi Chau Artificial Islands **within 2022** and commence the statutory procedures for the environmental impact assessment **in 2023**.
- Commence works in Tseung Kwan O Area 137 **in 2025**, with first population intake **in 2030**. (DEVB)

6. Streamline development procedures:

- Submit to the Legislative Council (LegCo) a bill to amend mainly five development-related ordinances **within 2022** to shorten the land development process. The production of “spade-ready sites” for non-large-scale projects will be shortened from at least 6 years at present to **about 4 years**, and for large-scale projects from around 13 years to **about 7 years**.
- Approve **about 80%** of general building plan submissions of high-yield private residential projects (500 units or more) on the first or second submissions (provided no major planning, land or fire safety issues) by setting up Dedicated Processing Units in the Buildings Department, an improvement of more than 20%.
- Formulate **by mid-2023** a concrete implementation plan for extending the adoption of standard rates for land premium assessment to agricultural land in the New Territories, and regularising the standard rates arrangement for redevelopment of industrial buildings.
- Expedite urban redevelopment by introducing to LegCo legislative amendments to the compulsory sale regime **in the second half of 2023**, following public consultation in Q4 2022.

- Promote the use of Building Information Modelling (BIM) by launching application software to automate compliance checks on the floor area information in building plans **in Q1 2024**.
- Streamline processing of extension of land leases expiring **from 2025** by introducing a bill to LegCo **within 2023**. (DEVB)

Task Force on Public Housing Projects

7. Increase public housing supply:

- Increase the supply of public housing units (including both traditional PRH and Light Public Housing (LPH), Green Form Subsidised Home Ownership Scheme and Home Ownership Scheme flats) in the coming **five-year period** (2023-24 to 2027-28) to **about 158 000** units, **50% higher** than the previous five-year period (2022-23 to 2026-27).
- Construct **about 30 000** LPH units by the Government in next **five years** (2023-24 to 2027-28).
- Rationalise PRH resources by vetting **no less than 450 000** Income and Assets Declaration Forms under the Well-off Tenants Policies within a **two-year cycle**, and conduct in-depth investigation of **no less than 10 000 households** involving cases related to income and asset declaration and occupancy position **per year**. (HB)

8. Shorten waiting time:

- Reduce the Composite Waiting Time for Subsidised Rental Housing to **about 4.5 years in 2026-27**, on the basis that the number of new PRH applications and the number of recovered PRH units available for allocation will remain at the current level. (HB)

9. Advance moving-in:

- Arrange PRH applicants to move in earlier-than-scheduled by advancing the completion of **around 12 000** PRH units by phases in the **next five years** (2023-24 to 2027-28), reaching a total of about 14 000 PRH units in the next 10 years (2023-24 to 2032-33).
- Arrange early allocation of PRH units for all new public housing projects, doubling the time from currently about three months before the Occupation Permit is issued to **about six months**. (HB)

10. Speed up construction:

- Require **all** public housing projects in the **first five-year period** (2023-24 to 2027-28) to adopt the Design for Manufacture and Assembly (DfMA), including Modular Integrated Construction (MiC) approach.

- Require **no less than half** of the public housing projects in the **second five-year period** (2028-29 to 2032-33) to adopt MiC approach; and DfMA for the remaining projects.
 - Adopt Design and Build contract model for suitable public housing projects, covering **no less than half** of the total flat production to be completed in the **second five-year period** (2028-29 to 2032-33).
 - Formulate the policy framework for the “Pilot Scheme on Private Developer Participation in Subsidised Housing Development” **in Q1 2023**. (HB)
11. Publish the information on public housing projects in the **first five-year period on a quarterly basis**, and the progress of land production of public housing projects in the **second five-year period on a yearly basis**. (HB/DEVB)
12. **Improve amenities:**
- Select **about 10** PRH estates for façade beautification and/or minor estate improvement works, and **about 20** PRH estates for landscape improvement **per year**.
 - Select **five** existing PRH estates for conducting theme-based improvement works **in next five years** as a pilot scheme. (HB)
13. Step up enforcement of tenancy control and inspection of overcharging for water in sub-divided units (SDUs) by having the Rating and Valuation Department and the Water Supplies Department to conduct joint visits to **about 4 000** SDU households **by end-2023-24**. (HB/DEVB)

The Civil Service

14. Issue the updated Civil Service Code to staff sides for consultation **in Q1 2023**. (CSB)
15. Enhance the existing mobilisation protocol **by Q4 2022** and conduct the first drill **within Q1 2023**. (CSB)
16. Launch the Chief Executive’s Award for Exemplary Performance **in Q2 2023**. (CSB)
17. Identify measures to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of managing sub-standard performers and consult the Public Service Commission (PSC) **within 2023** before promulgation and implementation. (CSB)

18. Identify measures to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of handling disciplinary cases and consult the PSC **within 2023** before promulgation and implementation. (CSB)

Smart Government

19. **Promote iAM Smart:**

- Double the annual usage of iAM Smart (total transactions) from 5 million in 2021 to **10 million in 2023**, and further to **17.5 million in 2025**.
- Drive **all** government departments to use iAM Smart to provide convenient and one-stop electronic services to citizens **by 2025**. (ITIB)

20. Complete e-government audit for all government departments and use advanced information technology to implement 100 new digital government initiatives **by 2025**. (ITIB)

21. Increase the annual usage of open data from 22 billion in 2021 to **50 billion in 2025**. (ITIB)

22. Digitalise **all** licensing and government services involving application and approval **by mid-2024**. For those with legislative requirements or international conventions/practices, applicants to visit relevant government offices once only. (ITIB)

Relationship between the Executive and the Legislature

23. The Chief Executive to attend **not less than four** Chief Executive's Question and Answer Sessions in each legislative session **starting from the 2023 legislative session**. (Admin Wing of CSO)

24. The Chief Secretary for Administration to meet with House Committee (HC) Chairman and Deputy Chairman **after each HC meeting in the 2023 legislative session** to foster close liaison and collaboration. (Admin Wing of CSO)

Economy

Attracting enterprises and talents

25. Enterprises:

- Establish the “Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises” **within 2022**, specifically tasked with attracting high-potential and representative strategic enterprises from all over the world, and providing them with special facilitation measures and one-stop services. (FSO/CEDB)
- Allocate \$30 billion from the Future Fund **within 2022** to set up the “Co-Investment Fund” for attracting enterprises to establish presence in Hong Kong and investing in their businesses through a co-investment model. (FSO)
- Attract **by 2027 at least 100** innovation and technology (I&T) enterprises of high potential and representativeness to set up operations or expand their presence in Hong Kong, including **at least 20** top-notch I&T enterprises. (ITIB)

26. Talents:

- Launch the “Top Talent Pass Scheme” **within 2022** to attract talents with high earnings and graduates from the world’s top 100 universities to come to work in Hong Kong. (LWB)
- Set up the “Talents Service Unit” **within 2022** to formulate talent attraction strategies, implement the related measures, co-ordinate the processing of applications under the “Top Talent Pass Scheme” and other existing talent admission schemes, and provide one-stop support and assistance to talents coming to Hong Kong. (CSO/LWB)
- Relax the application arrangements of the General Employment Policy (GEP) and the Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals (ASMTF) **within 2022** to facilitate local enterprises to recruit talents of professions with local supply shortage as listed in the Talent List, or to hire talents for vacancies with annual salary of HK\$2 million or above. (LWB)
- Relax the limit of stay under the Immigration Arrangements for Non-local Graduates (IANG) and expand, on a pilot basis, IANG to graduates of the campuses of Hong Kong’s universities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) **within 2022**. (EDB/SB)
- Suspend the annual quota under the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme for two years with effect from **1 January 2023**. (LWB)
- Streamline the extension of stay arrangement for various talent admission schemes **within 2022**. (SB/LWB/EDB)

- Complete the review of the “Pilot Scheme on Immigration Facilitation for Visitors Participating in Short-term Activities in Designated Sectors” **by end-2022**. (SB)
 - Admit **at least 35 000** talents **annually** with an intended duration of stay of at least 12 months through the talent admission schemes **from 2023 to 2025**, an increase of 40% over the annual average number in 2020 and 2021. (LWB)
 - Complete the updating of the Talent List **within Q1 2023** to reflect the latest shortage of professional and technical talents spanning different fields. (LWB)
27. Set up Dedicated Teams for Attracting Businesses and Talents in 17 Mainland Offices and overseas Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) **within 2022**, for proactively attracting talents and enterprises to Hong Kong. (CEDB/CMAB/LWB)
28. Commence the next update of the Manpower Projection **in mid-2023** with enhanced methodology to provide more detailed information on manpower shortages in key industries driving Hong Kong’s economic growth and essential services supporting the city’s operation. (LWB)

International Financial Centre

29. Consult the market **within 2022** on proposed amendments to the Main Board Listing Rules to facilitate the listing of large-scale enterprises engaging in specialised technology fields, with a view to launching the new listing regime **in the first half of 2023**. (FSTB)
30. Exempt the stamp duty payable for specified transactions conducted by market makers for dual-counter stocks by introducing legislative amendments to LegCo **within 2022**, with a view to launching the dual-counter market maker scheme **in the first half of 2023**. (FSTB)
31. **Attract family offices:**
- Provide tax exemption to eligible family offices by introducing legislative amendments to LegCo **within 2022**.
 - Facilitate **no less than 200** family offices to set up operations or expand their business in Hong Kong **from 2022 to 2025**, subject to lifting of travel restrictions. (FSTB)
32. Provide financial incentive to Fintech start-ups and financial institutions to undertake proof-of-concept projects under the Fintech Proof-of-Concept Subsidy Scheme **in 2022-23**, with **more than 50%** of the solutions commercialised after completion of testing. (FSTB)

33. Expand the issuance of government green bonds, with an increase in the total issuance amount by **more than five times within the five years from 2021-22** as compared with the pre-2021-22 situation. (FSTB)
34. Align with international standards by implementing a risk-based capital regime for the insurance industry **in 2024**. (FSTB)

International Innovation and Technology (I&T) Centre

35. **Promote commercialisation of research and development (R&D) outcomes:**
- Promote the transformation of R&D outcomes of universities into commercial products or services by establishing a new funding scheme “**Research, Academic and Industry Sectors One-plus Scheme**” (RAISe+ Scheme) of **\$10 billion** under the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) **in 2023**.
 - Increase the commitment of private capital in R&D projects under various ITF schemes from \$800 million in 2022 to **\$1.6 billion in 2027**. (ITIB)
36. **Nurture start-ups:**
- Increase under the Innovation and Technology Venture Fund the cumulative private investment attracted for local I&T start-ups from \$1.7 billion in 2022 to **at least \$4 billion in 2027**.
 - Increase the cumulative number of very early stage start-ups to be subsidised under the Technology Start-up Support Scheme for Universities from 330 in 2022 to **600 in 2027**. (ITIB)
37. **Attract I&T talents:**
- Facilitate I&T firms to bring in talents from outside Hong Kong by relaxing the Technology Talent Admission Scheme with effect **from January 2023**.
 - Increase financial support under the Research Talent Hub to R&D firms/ organisations engaging research talents and provide living allowance to research talents with a doctoral degree with effect **from April 2023**.
 - Increase the percentage of primary and secondary schools joining “Knowing More About IT” and “IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools” programmes from 54% in the 2021/22 school year to **90% in the 2024/25 school year**. (ITIB)
38. Expand under the STEM Internship Scheme the number of student interns from 3 000 in 2022 to **5 000 in 2027**. (ITIB)

39. **Promote re-industrialisation:**

- Increase under the Re-industrialisation Funding Scheme the cumulative number of funded smart production lines in Hong Kong from about 30 in 2022 to **over 130 in 2027**; with corresponding cumulative skilled employment opportunities increasing from about 260 to **over 1 050**; and during the same period cumulative matching private investment rising from about \$340 million to **no less than \$1.3 billion**.
- Double the supply of floor area for advanced manufacturing in the InnoParks from over 100 000 square metres (sq.m.) in 2022 to **over 200 000 sq.m. in 2027**. (ITIB)

East-meets-West Centre for International Cultural Exchange

40. Launch a new 10-year development blueprint on art and cultural facilities with the following enhancements:

Phase 1 (2022-2027)

- seats of performance venues to increase from about 30 000 to **34 000** (or about 13%); and
- average annual attendance of performance venues to increase from about 3 million to **3.4 million** (or about 13%).

Phase 2 (2027-2032)

- number of museums (including those under planning) to increase from 15 to **19** (or 27%);
- average annual museum attendance to increase from 5 million to **8 million** (or 60%);
- seats of performance venues (including those under planning) to increase from 30 000 to **45 000** (or about 50%); and
- average annual attendance of performance venues to increase from about 3 million to **about 4.5 million** (or 50%). (CSTB)

41. Support under the Mega Arts and Cultural Events Fund annually **four events** with total attendance of **at least 100 000** with effect **from 2023**. (CSTB)
42. Enhance support for young artists by sponsoring annually **20** new small and medium-sized arts groups (composed of artists graduated from tertiary institutions within five years) and **30** new individual artists who graduated from tertiary institutions within five years to engage in the arts and culture industry with effect **from 2023**. (CSTB)

43. Launch annually the Pop Culture Festival with **over 20** programmes/exhibitions with total attendance of **over 140 000** with effect **from 2023**. (CSTB)
44. Organise the GBA Culture and Arts Festival **in 2024** to attract:
- **5 000** local and Mainland artists engaged in **around 100** performances/activities with **140 000** attendances; and
 - **100 000** live web broadcast views of the opening gala. (CSTB)

International Trade Centre

45. Seek early accession to Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) by holding or participating in **60** related events/meetings/dialogues with RCEP members and stakeholders **in 2023**. (CEDB)
46. Promote Hong Kong as the functional platform for the Belt and Road Initiative **in 2023** by:
- organising promotional programmes and networking sessions to be attended by no less than **7 000 persons**;
 - reaching out to no less than **500** professional and business associations, chambers and community groups;
 - the epidemic permitting, organising business missions to **five** Belt and Road countries with **about 100** participants; and
 - increasing the above indicators by **5% in 2024**. (CEDB)
47. Promote the opportunities in the GBA **in 2023** by:
- organising and participating in promotional programmes and networking sessions to be attended by no less than **8 000** persons;
 - reaching out to no less than **1 000** entrepreneurs and representatives of business firms; and
 - increasing the above indicators by **10% in 2024**. (CMAB)
48. Increase the amount of funding approved for supporting small and medium enterprises to **\$900 million per annum on average in 2022 and 2023**, an increase of 5% over the annual average amount approved in 2019-2021. (CEDB)

49. Increase inward investment by attracting **at least a total of 1 130** companies to set up or expand their operations in Hong Kong **from 2023 to 2025**, an increase of 16% over the annual average number in 2020 and 2021, thereby bringing in direct investment of at least **HK\$77 billion** and creating at least **15 250** job opportunities. (CEDB)
50. **Promote development of convention and exhibition industry:**
- Support **more than 200** exhibitions over a **three-year period** through a new incentive scheme to be launched on **1 July 2023**.
 - Commence construction of Asia World-Expo Phase 2 **in 2023** with a view to commissioning the same **in 2027**, subject to the epidemic situation. (CEDB)

International Shipping Centre

51. Promote manpower development for high value-added maritime services by rolling out a new scheme under the Maritime and Aviation Training Fund **by mid-2023**. (TLB)
52. Enhance port efficiency and data sharing in the shipping and port industry by setting up a brand new data sharing platform for trial **by phases from 2023**, with a view to scaling it up for wider use **by 2025**. (TLB)
53. **Promote high value-added logistics:**
- Promote the development of high value-added modern logistics in Hong Kong by completing the formulation of an action plan **by 2023** in consultation with the Hong Kong Logistics Development Council and the trade.
 - Encourage wider application of technology by the logistics industry by enhancing the Pilot Subsidy Scheme for Third-party Logistics Service Providers **in the first half of 2023**. (TLB)
54. Commission an engineering feasibility study for the proposed redevelopment of the Sha Tau Kok Port/Control Point **in Q1 2023**. (SB)

International Aviation Hub

55. Transform SkyPier at Hong Kong International Airport into SkyPier Terminal to support both sea-air and land-air passenger transfer, with construction to be completed **in 2022** and operational readiness attained **in 2023**. (TLB)
56. Launch a new “GBA Youth Aviation Industry Internship Programme” **in the first half of 2023** with **about 300** places to be provided in the first year. (TLB)

Centre for International Legal and Dispute Resolution Services in the Asia-Pacific Region

57. Lead delegations of the local legal sector to visit The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member states, other Southeast Asian, Middle East and African countries from **2023 onward**. (DoJ)
58. Establish a task force to strengthen inter-regional legal assistance and facilitate the convergence of legal practices between the GBA and Hong Kong **by end-2022**, and establish an online mediation platform dedicated for dispute resolution in the GBA **by end-2023**. (DoJ)

Regional Intellectual Property (IP) Trading Centre

59. Secure passage of the Copyright (Amendment) Bill 2022 **in 2023**; and introduce the relevant subsidiary legislation in relation to the application of the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks to Hong Kong into the LegCo **in 2023**. (CEDB)
60. Acquire institutional autonomy to carry out substantive patent examination **in 2030**. (CEDB)
61. Promote IP public education, capacity building and professional services **within the next five years** by:
 - reaching out to **100 000** students;
 - providing IP training to **5 000** personnel across different industries; and
 - attracting about **10 000** local, Mainland and overseas participants to attend the annual Business of IP Asia Forum. (CEDB)

Hong Kong Story

62. Promote Hong Kong's strengths and opportunities through the following activities in the Mainland by the Mainland Offices **in 2024**, an increase of 15% as compared to 2022:
 - organising no less than **3 200** visits to Mainland authorities or bodies;
 - attending no less than **270** speaking occasions;
 - conducting no less than **330** media interviews or briefings; and
 - participating in no less than **800** business and trade meetings. (CMAB)

63. Promote Hong Kong's strengths and opportunities overseas through the following activities by ETOs **in 2024**, an increase of 20% as compared to 2022:

- paying no less than **2 700** visits to governments and organisations of host countries;
- attending no less than **1 000** speaking occasions;
- conducting no less than **1 100** media interviews or briefings; and
- staging no less than **1 300** forums, exhibitions, seminars and promotional activities. (CEDB)

Healthcare

64. **Strengthen primary healthcare:**

- Strengthen co-ordination and governance of primary healthcare services provision across the public and private sectors, set standards and devise quality assurance mechanisms by establishing the Primary Healthcare Authority **in 2024**.
- Launch a three-year Chronic Disease Co-Care Pilot Scheme **from 2023** under which District Health Centres (DHCs) will refer people who are screened to be at high risk of hypertension or diabetes mellitus to the private sector for further examination and appropriate treatment.
- Enhance the Elderly Health Care Voucher Scheme by rolling out a three-year pilot scheme **from 2023** through increasing the annual voucher amount from the existing \$2,000 to **\$2,500**^{Note}.
- Conduct **140 000** health assessments for members of DHCs **by Q4 2023**.
- Increase the annual quota of subsidised out-patient services provided at Chinese Medicine Clinics cum Training and Research Centres from about 600 000 to **800 000 by end-2023**.
- Provide **800** government-subsidised training places in primary healthcare for healthcare professionals **by Q4 2023**. (HHB)

65. **Improve public hospital clinic services:**

- Reduce the 90th percentile waiting time of stable new case bookings for the specialty of Medicine at Hospital Authority's (HA) specialist out-patient clinics (SOPCs) by **20% in 2023-24**.

Note The additional \$500 will be allotted to the elderly persons' accounts upon their claiming at least \$1,000 from the voucher for designated primary healthcare services, such as disease prevention and health management, and the additional amount should also be used for those designated services.

- Streamline total patient journey time at HA's SOPCs, such that, by **31 March 2023**, **75%** of patients will have journey time –
 - from registration to doctor consultation **within 60 minutes**; and
 - from registration to medication collection **within 120 minutes**. (HHB)

66. Improve patient experience with technology:

- Provide drug delivery services in **all** HA's SOPCs with telehealth service before **31 March 2023**.
- Issue electronic sick leave certificates at **all** HA's clinics to fully replace the current paper sick leave certificates by **31 March 2023**. (HHB)

67. Promote mental health at all education levels by distributing the mental health educational materials of the mental health promotion and public education initiative "Shall We Talk" to **all primary, secondary and tertiary institutions **by end-2023**. (HHB)**

68. Reduce smoking prevalence from existing 9.5% to **7.8% **in 2025**. (HHB)**

69. Promote the Electronic Health Record Sharing System (eHRSS) by attaining the following usage levels **by end-2023:**

- **no less than 6 million** healthcare recipients registered;
- **no less than 3 million** eHealth App users; and
- monthly average of **no less than 100 000** record access. (HHB)

Social Welfare

70. Strengthen child care:

- Increase the number of beneficiaries under the Fee-Waiving Subsidy Scheme of the After School Care Programme for low income families to **4 600 by end-2026/27 school year**, an increase of more than 60% over 2021/22 school year.
- Increase the number of Aided Standalone Child Care Centre service places for parents who cannot temporarily take care of their young children to **1 440 by end-2026-27**, an increase of nearly 70% over 2021-22. (LWB)

71. Improve elderly services:

- Provide **6 200** additional subsidised residential care service places for the elderly **by end-2027**, with about **2 600** of them delivered **by end-2023**.
- Provide **900** additional subsidised day care service places for elderly **by end-2027**, with about **300** of them delivered **by end-2023**.

- Regularise the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly with effect from **Q3 2023** and increase the number of beneficiaries from existing 8 000 to **12 000** in **2025-26**.
- Increase the number of beneficiaries under HA's Integrated Discharge Support Programme for Elderly Patients from existing about 33 000 to **45 000** starting from **Q3 2023**. (LWB)

72. Better support to carers:

- Regularise carers' allowance for low-income families and increase the monthly rate from \$2,400 to **\$3,000** with effect from **October 2023**.
- Implement a package of support measures including providing a one-stop information portal and hotline service for carers and increasing respite service from **2023**. (LWB)

73. Improve rehabilitation services:

- Achieve **zero waiting time from 2024-25** in respect of On-site Pre-school Rehabilitation Service for children with special needs.
- Increase number of day rehabilitation, residential care and respite service places for persons with disabilities by 10% from 35 100 in 2021-22 to **38 800 by 2026-27**. (LWB)

Labour Affairs

74. Strengthen occupational safety and health:

- **Reduce** the five-year average industrial accident rate per 1 000 construction workers by **at least 10%** from 29.8 in 2021 to **26.8 in 2026**.
- Help **at least 50%** of injured construction workers participating in the Pilot Rehabilitation Programme for Employees Injured at Work recover within five months after commencement of rehabilitation treatment **by 2023**. (LWB)

75. Complete a review under the government procurement regime on the remuneration of non-skilled workers employed under the government outsourced service contracts, and the relevant monitoring mechanism **in Q1 2023**. (FSTB)

76. Safeguard labour rights:

- Release ex-gratia payment from the Protection of Wages on Insolvency Fund (PWIF) within **three months** for **simple and straight-forward** applications and not more than **six months** for **90% of non-disputed and substantiated** applications upon receipt of applications by the PWIF Application Office, with effect from **Q4 2022**. (LWB)

77. Strengthen employment support:

- Launch the regularised GBA Youth Employment Scheme **in the first half of 2023** to encourage university graduates from Hong Kong to pursue their careers in the GBA Mainland cities.
- Employ more ethnic minorities for appointments as Employment Assistants and General Assistants in the Labour Department to enhance their employment opportunities **starting from the first half of 2023**. (LWB)

District Network

78. Set up progressively the District Services and Community Care Teams in the 18 districts to provide caring services, starting from one district each in the New Territories and the urban areas (i.e. Tsuen Wan and Southern District) **in 2023**. (HYAB)

Education

79. Step up promotion of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, Mathematics) education by:

- implementing the enriched coding education and incorporating learning elements of I&T (e.g. Artificial Intelligence) in the relevant curricula at the upper primary and junior secondary levels respectively in **at least 75%** of publicly-funded schools **by the 2024/25 school year**;
- designating a STEAM co-ordinator in **all** publicly-funded schools **starting from the 2022/23 school year**;
- arranging the STEAM co-ordinator/teachers to undergo core professional development training on I&T for **at least 75%** of publicly-funded schools **by the 2023/24 school year**; and
- organising or participating in quality STEAM activities of reasonable scale at the school, inter-school, territory-wide or international level by **all** publicly-funded schools **starting from the 2023/24 school year**. (EDB)

80. Enhance post-secondary education:

- Continue to broaden the pathways for students and enhance post-secondary education so that **at least 50%** and **80%** of secondary school leavers will have access to degree-level and post-secondary education (including Vocational and Professional Education and Training (“VPET”) programmes) respectively.

- Encourage the University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded universities to increase relevance of their programmes to future economic development such that:
 - students in the UGC-funded universities studying in STEAM disciplines will reach **around 35%** in the **next five years**.
 - students in the UGC-funded universities studying in disciplines relevant to “the eight centres” will reach **around 60%** in the **next five years**.
- Increase the number of publicly-funded research postgraduate places in UGC-funded universities from existing 5 595 to 7 200 in the **2024/25 academic year**. (EDB)

81. Promote Mainland and international exchanges:

- Increase the number of publicly-funded schools having sister school pairs established with the Mainland counterparts by **10% by end-2023**.
- Provide more opportunities for students to participate in the Mainland study tours, subject to the resumption of quarantine-free travel, with the following targets:
 - participating in **at least one** subsidised Mainland exchange programme each in their primary and secondary stages under the Mainland Exchange Programme for Junior Secondary and Upper Primary Students and Mainland Exchange Programme for Secondary School Students for **all** students in publicly-funded schools;
 - participating in a Mainland study tour for **all** students taking the senior secondary Citizenship and Social Development subject; and
 - providing opportunities of learning experience outside Hong Kong for **around 50%** of local undergraduate students of UGC-funded universities **by the 2025/26 academic year**. (EDB)

82. Strengthen national education:

- Assign a dedicated co-ordinator to lead the strategic planning of national education (including national security education) based on a whole-school approach in **all** publicly-funded schools **by the 2022/23 school year**.
- Complete the Education Bureau’s onsite teacher workshops on national security education for **all** publicly-funded schools **by the 2022/23 school year**.
- Organise quality whole-school national education activities and participate in national education activities at the inter-school, territory-wide or national levels every year by **all** publicly-funded schools, **starting from the 2022/23 school year**.

- Participate in the Mainland study tours by **all** newly-joined teachers in publicly-funded schools and teachers aspiring for promotion in public sector schools, subject to the resumption of quarantine-free travel to the Mainland.
- Organise at least one school-based activity relating to Chinese culture every year by **all** kindergartens joining the Kindergarten Education Scheme, **starting from the 2022/23 school year**.
- Organise at least one activity relating to national education for parents by **all** publicly-funded schools, **starting from the 2022/23 school year**. (EDB)

Youth Development

83. Issue the first edition of the Youth Development Blueprint **before end-2022**. (HYAB)

84. Enhance participation in public affairs:

- Increase progressively the number of participating advisory and statutory bodies (ASBs) under the Member Self-recommendation Scheme for Youth (MSSY) from around 60 at present to **no less than 125 by end-2024 and no less than 180 by mid-2027**.
- Increase the total number of posts in ASBs directly offered through MSSY from around 130 at present to **no less than 250 by end-2024 and no less than 360 by mid-2027**.
- **No less than 70%** of responding appointees to consider MSSY useful in assisting them to take part in public policy discussion and debate.
- Launch a pilot scheme **in Q1 2023** under which two district committees under the Home Affairs Department will be opened up for young people to nominate themselves as members, and review the scheme two years after its implementation. (HYAB)

85. Deepen government participation:

- Have **at least 50%** of departments in the Government to organise regular activities to help young people understand different professions and facilitate their life planning **by end-2024**. (HYAB)
- Establish the Security Bureau Volunteer Services Team and support **at least 100** kids from new arrival families **in 2022-23**. (SB)
- Offer **at least 100** internship places within the disciplined services for youth uniformed groups of the disciplined services **in 2023**. (SB)
- Launch a cross-sector internship programme and provide about **200** internship opportunities in different sectors (including those in GBA) for youth uniformed groups of the disciplined services **in 2023**. (SB)

86. Cultivate positive thinking:

- Nurture positive thinking of young people through youth-led projects involving cross-sectoral efforts to benefit **no less than 30 000** attendance, including **about 6 000** attendance in the first round **by mid-2025**.
- Provide systematic and quality adventure training activities to young people for **no less than 50 000** attendance, including **about 10 000** attendance in the first round **by mid-2025**.
- **No less than 70%** of responding participants to consider themselves having developed a positive outlook on life after joining either of the two new schemes. (HYAB)

87. Enrich experience:

- Increase the number of beneficiaries under the Mainland and overseas youth internship programmes **per annum** from about 4 000 in 2019 (i.e. before the epidemic), to **no less than 4 800 in 2024**, and to **no less than 5 600 by 2027**.
- **No less than 90%** of the participants surveyed to consider themselves as having benefitted from the programmes and that the programme objectives attained.
- **No less than 80%** of employers surveyed to consider the Mainland and overseas internship experience valuable and participants of such programmes more competitive than non-participants. (HYAB)

88. No less than 70% of the participants surveyed to consider their understanding of business start-up to increase after joining the Funding Scheme for Youth Entrepreneurship in the GBA. (HYAB)

89. Expand the Youth Hostel Scheme to hotels and guesthouses with a view to providing around 3 000 additional places over next five years. (HYAB)

Environment

90. Promote waste reduction and recycling:

- Explore requiring by legislation the property management companies and owners' organisations of major housing estates and single-block buildings with relatively large number of flats to collect separated recyclables and pass them to recyclers for proper processing **by 2024**.
- Introduce a bill into the LegCo **in early 2023** to regulate disposable plastic tableware and other plastic products in phases, starting from six months after the passage of the bill. (EEB)

91. **Enhance energy efficiency:**

- Improve the overall energy performance of government buildings and infrastructure by **more than 6%** in **2024-25**, using 2018-19 as the baseline year.
- Increase energy saving by **17%** by expanding the scope of the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme to cover more household appliances through legislative amendments to be introduced to LegCo in **2022-23**. (EEB)

92. **Promote green transport:**

- Provide about additional **7 000** parking spaces with electric vehicle chargers in government premises **by 2025** (an increase in such parking spaces from 30% to 100% in government premises just completed or to be soon completed).
- Test out hydrogen fuel cell electric buses and heavy vehicles **in 2023**.
- Conduct trials for **at least 180** electric commercial vehicles, with a view to mapping out the way forward **around 2025**.
- Test out electric ferries with **all four** in-harbour ferry operators **by 2024**. (EEB)

93. Increase the local mariculture production by **100% in five years**. (EEB)

Transport

94. Complete the public consultation on the preliminary findings of the “Strategic Studies on Railways and Major Roads beyond 2030” **in Q1 2023**, with a view to consolidating the Major Transport Infrastructure Development Blueprint **in Q4 2023**. (TLB)

95. Complete the First Stage Study of Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Rail Link (Hung Shui Kiu – Qianhai) Project **in 2022** and commence the Second Stage Study **in Q1 2023** jointly with Shenzhen authorities. (TLB)

96. Release preliminary recommendations of the Traffic and Transport Strategy Study **in the second half of 2023**, and promulgate the finalised long-term Transport Strategy Blueprint **in 2025**. (TLB)

Sports and Recreation

97. Launch a new 10-year development blueprint on sports and recreation facilities with the following targets:

Phase 1 (2022-2027)

- **16** projects with implementation launched; and
- **15** projects with technical feasibility study (TFS) launched.

Phase 2 (2027-2032)

- 15 projects (with technical feasibility established under Phase 1) with implementation launched. (CSTB)
- 98. Promote urban sports to **8 000** participants every year starting **from 2023/24 school year**. (CSTB)
- 99. Support **at least 10** major international sports events under the “M” Mark system with **at least 350 000 attendance** every year. (CSTB)
- 100. **Harbourfront promenade:**
 - Extend the total length of promenade on both sides of the Victoria Harbour by over 30% from 25 kilometres (km) to **34 km in 2028**. (DEVB)
 - Stage **at least 30** events/activities at harbourfront sites **every year**. (DEVB)
 - Reduce the pollution load at identified highly polluted outfalls along Victoria Harbour, including Tsuen Wan, Sham Shui Po and Kowloon City **by 50% by end-2024**. (EEB)
- 101. Progressively commence works for improving some sections and providing the missing links of a 60-km long Round-the-Island Trail **from 2023** onward with a view to connecting **90%** of the Trail **within five years**. (DEVB)
- 102. Complete the designation of **about 500 ha** of land at Robin’s Nest as country park **in 2024**. (EEB)
- 103. Allow tourist activities in all parts of the Sha Tau Kok Frontier Closed Area except Chung Ying Street through progressive opening starting from **early 2024**, subject to local consultation **in early 2023**. (SB)

Promotion of the Constitution, the Basic Law and National Security Awareness

- 104. Step up the promotion of the Constitution and the Basic Law by organising no less than **700** promotional activities (10% increase over 2022) with no less than **900 000** participants (10% increase over 2022) and no less than **25 million** views via online publicity (15% increase over 2022) **in 2024**. (CMAB/relevant bureaux)
- 105. Launch the Rule of Law Education “Train-the-Trainers” Programme by the Department of Justice in collaboration with legal professionals and law schools **in Q3 2023**. (DoJ)

106. Establish the “Security Bureau Youth Uniformed Group Leaders Forum” **by Q4 2022** to let outstanding members from youth uniformed groups of the disciplined and auxiliary services tender advice on matters including enhancing young people’s sense of national identity and national security. (SB)
107. Enhance the national security awareness of **about 10 000** youth uniformed group members of the disciplined services **by end-2023**. (SB)

Security

108. Launch public consultation on legislative proposals to enhance the protection of cybersecurity of critical infrastructure **in early 2023**. (SB)
109. Launch public consultation on the legislative proposals to regulate on-line and off-line crowdfunding activities for better transparency and accountability **by end-2022**. (FSTB)
110. **Rehabilitation of young persons in custody (PICs):**
- Launch the “Youth Lab” and “Change Lab” **by end-2022** to enhance psychological and counselling services for young PICs and those under supervision after release respectively.
 - Sign a memorandum of understanding with the Hong Kong Metropolitan University **in October 2022** to provide more comprehensive support for PICs who wish to continue their studies.
 - Set up four Multi-purpose Family and Rehabilitation Services Centres **between end-2022 and Q1 2023** for strengthening psychological and counselling services for discharged persons subject to supervision. (SB)

