

# COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Paper 03/06

## Second Engagement Process on Population Policy

### Purpose

This paper –

- (a) reports on the progress of work related to the public engagement process on the Priority Area of Population Policy; and
- (b) invites Members' views on the draft Invitation and Response (IR) document as well as the public involvement programme for the engagement exercise.

### Background

2. At the last meeting on 16 December 2005, Members decided to take forward Population Policy as one of the Priority Areas during the second engagement process. Members also agreed that the Strategy Sub-committee (SSC) should be tasked to plan and implement a public engagement process on this Priority Area, including the establishment of a new Support Group, drafting of the IR document and the rollout of the public involvement stage.

#### *Interface with the Commission on Strategic Development*

3. The Committee on Social Development and Quality of Life of the Commission on Strategic Development (the CSD Committee) will also be discussing in 2006 the strategic issue of population policy. As such, there is a need to ensure a better interface between the work of both the Council for Sustainable Development (SD) and the CSD Committee. At its February meeting, the CSD Committee noted the current

developments on the Council for SD's front. Subsequently, Members of the CSD Committee discussed the issue of population policy at its workshop in late March, as well as its regular meeting in April. At the April meeting, Members of the CSD Committee noted and offered their views on the working draft of the IR document. The Committee would offer further views during the public engagement process and / or discuss the outcome of the process at its future meetings.

### **Progress of Work related to the Public Engagement Process**

4. Pursuant to the Council for SD meeting in December 2005, the SSC met to consider the composition of the Support Group and exchange views on the possible discussion scope of the Priority Area of Population Policy. The SSC also decided to set up a Support Group on Population Policy under the chairmanship of one of its Members, Professor Wong Siu-lun. The composition of the Support Group is at Annex A.

#### *Draft IR Document*

5. The Support Group has since been working on the IR document which is entitled *Enhancing Population Potential for a Sustainable Future*. A number of meetings and workshops as well as a brainstorming session have been held to define the discussion area and to prepare the IR document, having regard to the views raised by the SSC and the CSD Committee. Members may wish to consider and offer views on the latest draft of the document at Annex B.

6. In addition, to attract readership and encourage responses to the IR document, the Support Group will prepare an easy to read pamphlet on the basis of the IR document. We will keep the IR document itself in an appropriate length to provide the necessary information to the community for an informed dialogue.

#### *Public Involvement Events*

7. Having regard to the experience last time round, as well as the views of the SSC and the Support Group, it is currently planned that

the public involvement events for the upcoming engagement exercise will comprise –

- **forums** - to disseminate relevant information to the public to facilitate informed discussions;
- **workshops (or similar engagement events) to be organized by partner organizations** - to more effectively reach out to different sectors of the community (e.g. businesses, youth groups, professionals). Prospective partner organizations such as Business Environment Council, Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce, Hong Kong People's Council for Sustainable Development, Hong Kong Council of Social Service, Hong Kong Federations of Youth Groups, Roundtable <sup>(Note)</sup>, Family Planning Association of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Institute of Planners and Hong Kong Institute of Architects are being sounded out and invited to organize the workshops. Their responses so far have been positive and forthcoming; and
- **regional workshops** - to directly engage the district communities during the process. This is to address the Council for SD's views after reviewing the first engagement process that a greater effort should be made to involve the local communities in the second engagement process.

8. The public involvement stage of the engagement process on Population Policy will commence with the launch of the IR document at a dedicated **launching ceremony**, culminating with a **Strategy Summit** to summarize the views and findings of the process. The tentative plan is to launch the IR document by June 2006, and the involvement events will take place throughout the summer until October 2006. During the engagement process, **roving exhibitions** will be conducted to help raise

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<sup>(Note)</sup> Roundtable (Hong Kong Avant-Garde Policy Research Institute) was established in 2004 by a group of young people which aims at providing multiple-media channels for the youth to learn, discuss and express their ideas and viewpoints. It organizes regular seminars and academic conferences, produces online radio programs and publishes commentary articles to address various social issues from the youth perspectives. Members include young academics, professionals, journalists, district councillors, civil servants, etc.

public awareness of the issues at stake. A **dedicated website and bulletins** too will be prepared to keep the public informed of the exercise and to facilitate them to contribute their views. The Council Secretariat is making preparatory work for all these activities. A tentative schedule for the public involvement stage is at Annex C for Members' reference.

### **Way Forward**

9. Subject to Members' views, we will further revise the draft IR document and work out the details of the public involvement events for the engagement exercise, in consultation with the SSC and the Support Group on Population Policy. We will notify Members of the exact date and arrangement for the launching ceremony of the IR document, and will keep Members informed of future involvement events. To demonstrate the Council for SD's support of the participatory and inclusive mode of the engagement process, we encourage Members to participate in these events actively.

Council Secretariat  
April 2006