



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

The First Five-Year Plan

for Economic and Social Development
of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
(2026–2030)

Public Consultation Document

June 2026

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Economic and Social Development of
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(2026 - 2030)
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Foreword

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) is conducting a public consultation on the formulation of the First Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (2026 - 2030). Members of the public are welcome to submit their views on or before 14 August 2026 through the following means:

Online submission: hk5yplan.gov.hk or scan the QR code

Email: hk5yplan@cmab.gov.hk

Post: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
12/F, East Wing, Central Government Offices
2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong
(Please state on the envelope “Submission of views for the public consultation on Hong Kong’s Five-Year Plan”.)



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Respondents submitting views on behalf of an organisation should provide details of the organisation they represent.

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For access to or correction of personal or organisational data contained in your submission, please contact the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau in writing through the means of contact above.

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Background

This year marks the beginning of the 15th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development of the People's Republic of China (National 15th Five-Year Plan). The National 15th Five-Year Plan Outline is the blueprint and action agenda for the country's economic and social development over the next five years. It provides crucial guidance for Hong Kong to further integrate into and serve the overall national development, while clearly defining future development opportunities.

To proactively align with the national development strategies and seize the significant opportunities arising therefrom, to precisely identify Hong Kong's unique positioning in the overall national development for taking an active role, and to drive Hong Kong's long-term high-quality development, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) is for the first time formulating the First Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (2026 - 2030) (hereinafter referred to as "Hong Kong's Five-Year Plan"). This represents a vital step of the HKSAR Government in exercising executive-led governance, deepening reforms, and enhancing governance efficacy. In light of Hong Kong's distinctive characteristics and actual circumstances, and drawing on the consensus and strengths of all sectors of society, Hong Kong's Five-Year Plan will be an overall action agenda that systematically maps out strategic directions for Hong Kong's economic and social development in the next five years. It will also serve as an important vehicle for actualising the "people-oriented" governance philosophy.

By formulating and implementing the Hong Kong's Five-Year Plan, Hong Kong will be able to better leverage its advantages, including its status as an international centre for finance, maritime, and trade, and its roles as an international innovation and technology (I&T) centre and as a core engine in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area), and thus serve as a "participant" and "facilitator" in the country's new development paradigm of "dual circulation". This will bring continuous impetus to Hong Kong's economy, while enhancing the well-being of citizens and promoting social stability and prosperity.

Hong Kong's Five-Year Plan will clearly articulate Hong Kong's development vision and strategic directions for the next five years, covering

areas such as the economy, industries, spatial planning, infrastructure, green transition, as well as areas concerning people's livelihood and well-being including healthcare, education, housing, and security governance. Through this forward-looking, strategic, and operable guiding document, we aspire to develop a sustainable dynamic cycle that combines economic development and improvement of people's livelihood, enabling the public to clearly understand the blueprint for future development and reap the compounding benefits brought about by national development and international opportunities, thereby enhancing the citizens' livelihood and well-being.

In the process of formulating Hong Kong's Five-Year Plan, the HKSAR Government will uphold the following principles: to fully, faithfully, and resolutely adhere to the principles of "One Country, Two Systems", "Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong", a high degree of autonomy, put the principle of "patriots administering Hong Kong" into practice, and enhance Hong Kong's efficacy of law-based governance to provide a strong safeguard and stable environment for economic and social development; to adopt a people-oriented approach, and protect and improve people's livelihood in the course of pursuing development; to embrace high quality development and high-level internationalised development, deepen domestic and international two-way collaboration, and expand international connections and enhance global influence; to persist in deepening reform and improve Hong Kong's competitiveness and development impetus through institutional and policy innovation; to adopt a market-led and government-guided approach to foster a free, efficient, and orderly world-class business environment, and give full play to the advantages of Hong Kong's free market economy; and to follow a holistic approach to development and security, enhancing the resilience of the economy and society.

Purpose

This public consultation document aims to gather views from all sectors of society, forge consensus, and jointly outline the vision and roadmap for Hong Kong's development in the next five years. The HKSAR Government sincerely invites citizens, stakeholders, and members of different sectors to actively engage in this consultation exercise by offering views and suggestions, so as to work together to create a better future for Hong Kong, chart a new course for its growth, and realise high-quality development, and pen a new chapter for Hong Kong's economic and social development from stability to prosperity. The public consultation document is divided into six parts, setting out key topics to facilitate public discussion. We welcome views from all sectors on any issues relating to Hong Kong's Five-Year Plan.

Part 1

Accelerate Northern Metropolis Development and Advance Spatial Planning in Other Areas

Introduction

The HKSAR Government will, in light of Hong Kong's long-term development needs, accelerate the development of the Northern Metropolis, and alongside spatial planning in other areas and urban renewal initiatives, optimise the allocation of land resources and develop Hong Kong into a more vibrant and liveable city. As a key new strategic development space in Hong Kong, the Northern Metropolis will primarily accommodate the development functions of I&T, post-secondary education, and health, and medical innovation, etc., while fostering closer integration with the Greater Bay Area in terms of I&T and talent resources.

Hong Kong's Five-Year Plan should be guided by the principle of “planning-first, infrastructure-led, industry-driven, and livelihood-oriented”. Through the complementary interplay of Northern Metropolis development, urban renewal, transport facilities, and smart city construction, it will promote the co-ordinated development of industries, housing, leisure, and public services, thereby building a more vibrant, smart, and liveable city.

Current Situation

Hong Kong has long faced a perennial shortage of land resources, with development space primarily concentrated in highly-developed urban areas. Land supply is constrained by topography, land use restrictions, and existing development patterns, making it difficult to support the long-term needs of economic diversification and industrial upgrading. In particular, sectors such as I&T, higher education and the cultivation of high-calibre talents all require sufficient land supported by forward-looking planning. As the key new strategic development space in Hong Kong, the Northern Metropolis can provide vast area of land for comprehensive planning to address the land

shortage. Complemented by the synergised development with Shenzhen and other Greater Bay Area cities, it will help expand Hong Kong's development capacity, enhancing its overall competitiveness and capability for sustainable development.

As the only city in the world with five universities among the global top 100, Hong Kong's competitive edge in post-secondary education is world-class. However, most of Hong Kong's post-secondary institutions are currently located in highly-developed urban areas, with limited room for expansion. The Northern Metropolis University Town will provide land for driving the capacity expansion and quality enhancement of these institutions, creating favourable conditions for the sustainable development of post-secondary education in Hong Kong. It will also facilitate coordinated development with industries in the vicinity, promote collaboration among industry, academia, and research, and advance the integrated development of education, technology, and talent, further consolidating Hong Kong's position as an international hub for post-secondary education, accelerating the development of an international I&T centre, and building Hong Kong into an international hub for high-calibre talents.

Meanwhile, quite some urban lots in Hong Kong face the problems of ageing buildings, misalignment between spatial planning and contemporary social development needs, and inadequate living amenities. Renewal of old districts should proceed having regard to community needs and sustainable development objectives, and should harness green and smart design to enhance operational efficiency, quality of life, and resilience of the city.

Policy Directions and Key Proposals

This document sets out the following preliminary and forward-looking policy directions for public discussion and refinement:

1. Accelerate Northern Metropolis development
 - Accelerate the release and development of space through diverse modes, such as in-situ land exchange, “large-scale land disposal”, the establishment of the industry park company, “Pay for What You Build”, and a dual-track system of direct land grant and tender, so as

to enhance land development efficiency and stimulate market investment interest.

- Increase the supply of housing and economic land by, in the next five years, delivering over 70 000 housing units and providing one million square metres of economic floor space. The economic land provided will serve as a vehicle for high value-added industries. Co-ordinate the distribution and timely provision of facilities related to housing, employment, education, healthcare, social welfare, recreation, and greening in the Northern Metropolis to build a new generation of community environment ideal for living, working, and travelling.
- Adhere to an infrastructure-led approach and press full steam ahead with a series of railway and major road projects under the new “Eight Vertical and Eight Horizontal” transport infrastructure layout, so as to improve connectivity within the Northern Metropolis and with other districts of Hong Kong, as well as strengthen the infrastructure connectivity in the Greater Bay Area through two cross boundary railway projects, namely Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Rail Link and Northern Link Spur Line, enhancing the transport connection with Shenzhen and other Greater Bay Area cities.

2. Position the University Town as a Key Engine for Northern Metropolis Development

- Promote the Northern Metropolis as an international hub for post-secondary education, support local institutions and attract other renowned Mainland and overseas institutions to establish or expand campuses and research centres in the University Town, and provide other ancillary and shared facilities, so as to enhance Hong Kong’s international reputation in education and research, and expand educational exchanges and collaboration with institutions around the world.
- Foster spatial connectivity between the institutional facilities and the industry parks, research institutions, start-ups and communities in the University Town, so as to strengthen the integrated development of industry, academia, and research sectors, and develop an international university town that integrates talent development and

the commercialisation of research and development (R&D) outcomes.

- Promote multi-disciplinary development, nurturing talents in short supply at the national level and to meet Hong Kong's development needs, such disciplines include life and health technology, health and medical innovation, artificial intelligence (AI), microelectronic technology, high-end professional services, smart manufacturing, and vocational and professional training, etc.

3. Drive industry development in Northern Metropolis through I&T

- Fully take forward the development of the Hong Kong Park of the Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone (Hetao Hong Kong Park) to form the “one zone, two parks” development framework with the Shenzhen Park, and accelerate the development of San Tin Technopole into a core engine for industry development in the Northern Metropolis.
- Leverage the Northern Metropolis' land and spatial advantages to develop a more comprehensive I&T industry chain, encompassing platforms for R&D, testing, manufacturing, demonstration and commercialisation.
- Strengthen the I&T ecosystem, and promote cluster development in key areas such as AI, advanced manufacturing, microelectronics, biotechnology, and data technology, etc.

4. Promote health and medical innovation, and development of biomedical industry

- Capitalise on the third medical school's permanent campus and the integrated medical teaching and research hospital in Ngau Tam Mei, as well as the development of San Tin Technopole, to create a cluster of life and health technology and health and medical innovation that integrates teaching, R&D, clinical trials, and technology transformation.
- Leverage the unique advantages of “one zone, two parks” of the Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone to establish a base for R&D and transformation

of biomedical technology, and with the Greater Bay Area International Clinical Trial Institute in the Hetao area as the core, drive the high-quality development of medical products in the Greater Bay Area, while promoting the use of real-world evidence to support the approval and registration of medical products so as to reform the evaluation mechanism for such products.

5. Pursue other spatial planning initiatives and old district renewal

- Pursue old district renewal and reshape urban space through a dual-track strategy of redevelopment and revitalisation, complemented by the new space offered in the Northern Metropolis and other new development areas, so as to improve amenities including public space and enhance the liveability of urban areas.
- Harness the new development of Northern Metropolis and the renewal of old districts to progressively optimise the mix of unit sizes for public housing and raise the size requirements for private residential units in newly launched projects, so as to create favourable conditions for increasing the average living space per person.

Matters for Consultation

Members of the public may offer views on the aforementioned policy directions, viable policy tools, and the areas in which Hong Kong holds the greatest strengths or potential with regard to accelerating the development of the Northern Metropolis, taking forward the Northern Metropolis University Town, fostering I&T development, driving health and medical innovation, and promoting urban renewal.

Part 2

Economy, Finance, and Trade

Introduction

The HKSAR Government will, in line with the directions set out in the National 15th Five-Year Plan, fully leverage Hong Kong's unique advantages under "One Country, Two Systems" of enjoying strong support from the motherland and being closely connected with the world, so as to consolidate and enhance Hong Kong's status as an international financial centre, international trade centre, international maritime centre, and an international aviation hub, and to accelerate the development of high value-added maritime, aviation and related professional services. Hong Kong will also further strengthen its functions as a global offshore Renminbi business hub, an international asset management centre, and an international risk management centre, while promoting the development of new industries with competitive edge, such as commodities trading, high value-added supply chain services, etc.

Hong Kong's Five-Year Plan should seize new opportunities arising from changes in the global economic paradigm, geopolitical risks, supply chain restructuring, and digital transformation to drive the complementary and coordinated development of four major sectors, namely finance, trade, maritime, and aviation, thereby further enhancing Hong Kong's functions and roles in the country's high-level opening up.

Current Situation

Hong Kong has laid a solid foundation in international finance, trade, maritime, and aviation. Characterised by a mature institutional framework, free capital flow and the rule of law, Hong Kong's financial market has always served as an important platform for international capital allocation and risk management. At the same time, the Hong Kong International Airport is a world-leading aviation hub and cargo airport. On maritime, Hong Kong boasts a well-developed base for high value-added professional services, such

as maritime law, financing, insurance, arbitration, and ship management, and is hence well-equipped to further expand its high-end maritime services.

Meanwhile, the external environment is changing rapidly, global supply chains are undergoing accelerated restructuring, and regional competition is intensifying. Hong Kong needs to continuously deepen its financial market, strengthen connectivity with the Mainland and international markets, expand its international trade network, and step up efforts to attract businesses and investment, while leveraging I&T, digital platforms, and green transformation to enhance the added value and competitiveness of its maritime and aviation sectors.

Policy Directions and Key Proposals

This document sets out the following preliminary and forward-looking policy directions for public discussion and refinement:

1. Promote Hong Kong's high-quality development as an international financial centre
 - Deepen the collaborative development of equity, bond, asset management, and wealth management, as well as insurance and risk management markets, so as to consolidate Hong Kong's status as a global offshore Renminbi centre.
 - Consolidate and enhance Hong Kong's status as an international financial centre, and deeply advance "Finance+" empowerment for various industries (including fintech, green finance, and trade finance, etc.), thereby contributing to the national strategic goal of "accelerating China's development as a financial powerhouse".
 - Build a commodities trading ecosystem, strengthen connectivity with capital markets in the Mainland, and expand cross-boundary investment and financing channels, so as to facilitate Mainland enterprises to "go global" and "bring in" overseas capital.
2. Enhance Hong Kong's status as an international trade centre
 - Expand the international economic and trade network, enhance Hong Kong's function as an ideal platform for Mainland enterprises to go

global, and continuously optimise the environment for foreign investment to guide industry development.

- Build a high value-added supply chain services centre, strengthen Hong Kong's roles as an international business and trade platform and a professional services hub, and drive the synergised development of supporting services, such as trade finance, insurance, testing and certification, legal services and arbitration.
- Actively enhance the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement, with a focus on further liberalising trade in services to contribute to the country's high-level opening up; actively promote regional co-operation in digital trade, expedite the digitalisation of trade documents, and strengthen the function of the convention and exhibition industry as a two-way platform to support Mainland brands in international expansion, while attracting overseas enterprises to introduce quality products and services into the Mainland market.

3. Consolidate and enhance Hong Kong's status as an international maritime centre

- Promote the digitalisation, smart transition and green transformation of Hong Kong's maritime industry, further expand green fuel bunkering and smart port development, and optimise route coverage and regional collaboration, so as to strengthen Hong Kong's role as an international transshipment hub, thereby enhancing the overall competitiveness of the port and shipping industry.
- Consolidate Hong Kong's advantages as an international maritime centre and ship registry to enhance its attractiveness to international maritime enterprises.
- Develop a high value-added maritime services ecosystem, and drive the development of high value-added maritime services, including maritime finance, ship leasing, ship management, marine insurance, maritime law, and arbitration.

4. Consolidate and enhance Hong Kong's status as an international aviation hub
- Expand the aviation network and traffic rights arrangements, and actively explore high-potential markets such as the Middle East, Central Asia, Africa, and South America, so as to strengthen the connectivity of Hong Kong as an international aviation hub.
 - Optimise the regional collaborative and intermodal network of the Greater Bay Area, promote the airport-based intermodal arrangement, cargo hinterland co-operation, and sea-air intermodal transshipment to enhance the cargo transshipment and handling efficiency.
 - Support the development of aircraft leasing, aircraft parts processing and trading, aviation training, and related professional services, build a more comprehensive high value-added aviation industry chain, and build an internationally competitive low-altitude economy ecosystem.

Matters for Consultation

Members of the public may offer views on the aforementioned policy directions, viable policy tools, and the areas in which Hong Kong holds the greatest strengths or potential with regard to consolidating and enhancing its status as an international centre for finance, trade, and maritime, as well as an international aviation hub, and developing high value-added maritime, aviation, commodities trading and high value-added supply chain services.

Part 3

Innovation, Technology, and Industry Development

Introduction

The HKSAR Government will closely align with strategies under the National 15th Five-Year Plan, and fully leverage Hong Kong's unique advantages to accelerate the city's development into an international I&T centre and an international hub for high-calibre talents, nurture and grow emerging and future industries, expedite the upgrading and transformation of traditional industries, and build up new competitive edges, thereby promoting the high-quality development of Hong Kong's real economy.

Hong Kong's Five-Year Plan should seize opportunities presented by the new round of technological revolution, and through leveraging its advantages in internationalisation, high degree of openness, business facilitation, a sound legal system, and world-class educational resources, strengthen collaboration across government, industry, academia, research, and investment sectors, and attract and retain targeted talents. It should also, having regard to local circumstances, develop new drivers for technological innovation and new industrialisation, facilitate the expansion and quality enhancement of high-end service industries, and vigorously drive the restructuring of traditional industries, removing obstacles to industry development. By doing so, Hong Kong will be able to achieve diversified development, and thus contribute to the country's realisation of high-level self-reliance in science and technology and establishment of a new development paradigm.

Current Situation

In recent years, the HKSAR Government has actively collaborated with the I&T sector to intensively roll out a number of development strategies and blueprints. Notable results have been achieved in the I&T ecosystem, talent attraction, and industry diversification. Hong Kong's I&T ecosystem and industry scale have expanded substantially over the past decade. In terms of international recognition, Hong Kong ranks among the top globally in the World Digital Competitiveness Ranking and the World Talent Ranking. With

a world-class healthcare system, advanced research infrastructure, and close connectivity with the world, Hong Kong is uniquely positioned to develop into a health and medical innovation hub. On the other hand, as a geographically small city, Hong Kong has long been constrained by scarce land resources and relatively high costs. Its industrial scale remains modest and its industrial base is relatively narrow. There remains a certain degree of mismatch between the commercialisation mechanism for R&D outcomes and industry demand.

Policy Directions and Key Proposals

This document sets out the following preliminary and forward-looking policy directions for public discussion and refinement:

1. Accelerate the development of Hong Kong as an international I&T centre
 - Optimise I&T parks, laboratory facilities, testing platforms, and data infrastructure to support the commercialisation of R&D outcomes.
 - Further increase investment in basic scientific research, and drive the development of key sectors including frontier technologies, life and health technology, advanced manufacturing, new energy, microelectronics, and data science.
 - Deepen the implementation of the AI+ Initiative, accelerate the transformation of AI R&D outcomes and development of application scenarios, promote the deep integration of AI across various industries, and refine the framework for AI and data governance.
 - Guide enterprises to increase investment in and support for I&T development, explore more application scenarios for R&D outcomes in areas such as AI, digital technologies, and life and health technology, and strengthen the collaborative framework across government, industry, academia, research, and investment sectors.
 - Accelerate and enhance efficiency in the construction of the Hetao Hong Kong Park and San Tin Technopole, so as to foster coordinated development at upstream, midstream, and downstream levels, and build a comprehensive I&T industry ecosystem.

- Strengthen connectivity with the Mainland in data, capital, talents, markets, etc., and provide more facilitation measures and safeguards for the industry, academia, research, and investment sectors in both the Mainland and Hong Kong to leverage their respective strengths.
- Develop Hong Kong into a health and medical innovation hub, accelerating pharmaceutical R&D and clinical trials, as well as the development of biotechnology and precision medicine as industries, while attracting global pharmaceutical enterprises and top-notch talents to Hong Kong.

2. Develop Hong Kong as an international hub for high-calibre talents

- Advance the integrated development of education, technology, and talents to attract more researchers, elite students, and enterprises to pursue development in Hong Kong; and undertake far-sighted and strategic planning for educational resources in light of Hong Kong's development directions and needs, so as to strengthen applied education and skills training, accelerate the interdisciplinary and frontier cross-disciplinary development, and facilitate enterprises in nurturing their own industry talents.
- Refine the strategies for nurturing, attracting, and retaining targeted talents, intensify efforts to recruit global talents, and review the effectiveness of talent policies for dynamic adjustments, so as to retain talents genuinely needed by Hong Kong and help them integrate into the city.
- Facilitate Hong Kong talents in travelling to and from the Mainland and working there, and foster regional talent flow so that talents can have greater room for advancement while serving and contributing to the national development.
- Attract non-local students to study in Hong Kong, establishing the "Study in Hong Kong" and "Study Tour in Hong Kong" brands; and encourage publicly-funded universities to actively organise more exchange activities to broaden the international perspectives of local students.

3. Promote the integrated development of traditional industries with competitive edge and new industries, expand the range and scale of industries, enhance the competitiveness of professional services, and achieve long-term diversified economic development
- Empower the upgrading, transformation, and brand-building of traditional industries through technology, upgrade the local industry chains, enhance cost-effectiveness and align with market needs, and support industries in which Hong Kong enjoys a competitive edge and a good international reputation, such as Chinese medicine, medical products, food, and cultural and creative industries, in expanding their markets.
 - Leverage Hong Kong's advantages in its common law system, as well as international legal talent and dispute resolution services, to consolidate its status as an international legal and dispute resolution services centre.
 - Improve the protection for I&T outcomes and the legal framework to provide industries with a better environment and fertile soil for development.
 - Promote the creation, protection, management, and commercialisation (which covers valuation, financing, assignment, licensing and other transactions) of intellectual property, so as to build a more robust intellectual property market ecosystem.

Matters for Consultation

Members of the public may offer views on the aforementioned policy directions, viable policy tools, and the areas in which Hong Kong holds the greatest strengths or potential with regard to accelerating Hong Kong's development into an international I&T centre, a health and medical innovation hub, and an international hub for high-calibre talents, as well as fostering industry development.

Part 4

People's Livelihood and Social Development

Introduction

With the goal of promoting people's well-being, the HKSAR Government will continuously enhance policies on education, healthcare, housing, social welfare, labour and elderly care, and boost the sense of fulfilment, satisfaction, and security amongst citizens. Hong Kong's Five-Year Plan should, on the foundation of maintaining social stability and increasing public service efficiency, address the challenges of changes in manpower supply as well as the diversification of economic and social needs, etc., so as to provide more comprehensive and sustainable safeguards for people's livelihood.

Current Situation

Hong Kong has established relatively sound systems in areas such as education, healthcare, social security and public housing, etc. However, it is facing considerable challenges arising from factors such as ageing society, changes in manpower supply, housing needs, growing healthcare demand, and pressures on social services and public finance, etc. On education, there is a need to further promote diverse pathways for further studies and career development, and nurture talents to meet future development needs; in respect of healthcare, it is necessary to continuously strengthen hospital services, primary healthcare in the community, specialist services as well as healthcare manpower; as regards housing, there is strong demand from the public for affordable and adequate accommodation, and the supply of public housing still requires acceleration; social welfare, labour, and manpower policies, as well as elderly care services should also be continuously optimised in response to an ageing society and the stress arising from family caregiving.

The HKSAR Government has introduced and continued to take forward various measures to improve people's livelihood, which include expanding primary healthcare services, increasing public housing supply, introducing the Basic Housing Unit regime to eradicate substandard subdivided units in an

orderly manner, continuously enhancing the quality of basic education, and strengthening community and residential care services for the elderly. These endeavours have effectively addressed the challenges of an ageing society, healthcare, and housing, actualising a policy direction that is people-oriented and seeks to continuously improve people's livelihood. At the same time, the HKSAR Government will ensure fiscal prudence and sustainability as required by the Basic Law.

Policy Directions and Key Proposals

This document sets out the following preliminary and forward-looking policy directions for public discussion and refinement:

1. Education

- Continuously enhance the quality of basic education, strengthen students' literacy in language, humanities, sports and arts, mathematics and science, STEAM, and digital technology, etc., and reinforce the promotion of national education and values education.
- Promote better articulation across primary and secondary education, post-secondary education, and vocational and professional education and training, and provide students with diverse pathways for further studies and employment.
- Strengthen the internationalisation of higher education, collaboration across industry, academia and research sectors, and applied research, to nurture talents that meet the needs of Hong Kong, the country, and the international community.

2. Healthcare

- Enhance the primary healthcare system, and strengthen community health management as well as prevention, and early diagnosis and treatment of chronic diseases, so as to improve public health.
- Deepen public healthcare reform, expedite the increase of public healthcare service capacity and efficiency, and develop healthcare infrastructure, so as to enhance the sustainability of the healthcare

system; and enhance the quality and efficiency of private healthcare services.

- Promote the development of smart healthcare and healthcare information infrastructure to enhance service efficiency and quality.
- Strengthen Chinese medicine services and Chinese-Western medicine collaboration, medical education, as well as health and medical innovation, nurture healthcare talents, and drive the application of medical technology.

3. Housing

- Increase supply and advance public housing projects continuously by constructing more public rental housing units and subsidised sale flats and providing Light Public Housing, so as to meet the housing needs of families with different income levels, and continuously enrich the housing ladder for home ownership.
- Eradicate substandard subdivided units in an orderly manner to ensure the provision of a safe, hygienic, and adequate living environment for grassroots tenants.
- Accelerate land development and old district renewal, enhance land use efficiency and the sustainability of housing supply, and improve the living environment and quality of life.

4. Social welfare

- Comprehensively and steadily advance a multi-tiered and financially sustainable social security assistance system; provide upward mobility opportunities for children and young people from disadvantaged families; and proactively identify individuals and families in need and provide them with targeted assistance.
- Strengthen family support services, enhance support for working families in childbearing, and expand community childcare and after-school care services.

5. Labour and manpower

- Enhance employment services, support the training, retraining and upskilling of the local workforce, and assist citizens in adapting to emerging industries and job roles.
- Strengthen the protection of labour rights, foster harmonious labour relations, and continuously improve occupational safety and health, labour remuneration and protection, and employment relationships.
- Provide territory-wide training opportunities for continuous skills upgrading, so as to bolster impetus for economic development and competitiveness.
- Optimise the balance between the importation of labour and the promotion of local employment with regard to an ageing society and changes in manpower supply.

6. Elderly care

- Continue to follow the principle of “ageing in place as the core, with institutional care as back-up”, and continuously strengthen community and residential care and support services, so that the elderly can receive appropriate services that suit their circumstances and needs; and optimise cross-boundary elderly care measures to provide more choices for Hong Kong elderly persons who wish to retire in the Mainland.
- Encourage the “young-olds” to participate in social affairs to achieve active ageing; and strengthen respite and carer support services to alleviate the burden on caregivers.
- Support elderly employment, encourage the elderly to participate in social affairs, and develop the silver economy and build age-friendly communities, so as to address the needs of an ageing society.

Matters for Consultation

Bearing in mind the obligation of the HKSAR Government to maintain sustainable fiscal prudence, members of the public may offer views on the aforementioned policy directions, viable policy tools, and the areas of greatest concern to Hong Kong in education, healthcare, housing, social welfare, labour, and elderly care.

Part 5

Development of Regional Co-operation

Introduction

The HKSAR Government will actively integrate into and serve the overall national development, fully leverage Hong Kong's unique advantages of enjoying strong support from the Motherland and being closely connected with the world, elevate the level of regional co-operation, deepen the integrated development with the cities of the Greater Bay Area, deeply participate in high-quality co-operation under the Belt and Road Initiative, and continuously develop international exchanges and co-operation, so as to consolidate Hong Kong's role as an important window for the country's high-level opening up.

Hong Kong's Five-Year Plan should underscore regional co-operation as a key to driving high-quality development, institutional innovation and external connection. It should deepen the development of the Greater Bay Area as a strategic fulcrum of the country's new development paradigm, a demonstration zone of high-quality development, and a pioneer of Chinese modernisation, build a world-class city cluster to better integrate into and serve the overall national development, and enhance Hong Kong's functions and roles in the country's overall development and global co-operation network.

Current Situation

The development of the Greater Bay Area has entered a new phase with greater breadth and depth. As the most internationalised city in the Greater Bay Area, Hong Kong possesses distinct advantages in finance, I&T, maritime, aviation, trade, legal services, healthcare, and other high-end professional services. Hong Kong and the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area can complement each other in respect of manufacturing, technology transformation, logistics, market capacity, and industrial support. The potential for co-operation is immense.

In the National 15th Five-Year Plan period, Hong Kong will play a more active role as a two-way bridge, driving deep integration with other Greater Bay Area cities through industry development, jointly advancing the full-chain development of I&T, elevating the level of connectivity in infrastructure as well as rules and standards, and facilitating the efficient and convenient flow of people, goods, capital and information while forging closer people-to-people bonds. In addition, Hong Kong will make good use of major co-operation platforms such as Qianhai, Nansha, and Hetao, etc. to pursue further policy innovation and institutional breakthroughs, and further promote successful policies to other Mainland cities, so as to make greater contributions to the country's deepening of reform and expansion of high-level opening up.

At the same time, Hong Kong will continue to deeply participate in high-quality co-operation under the Belt and Road Initiative, leverage its strengths as international finance, maritime, and trade centres as well as international aviation hub, and in professional services, and expand collaboration in areas such as green development, digital economy, I&T, tourism and legal and dispute resolution services. Given the profound changes in the international state of affairs, Hong Kong needs to deepen international exchanges and further expand its global co-operation network, so as to better fulfil its important roles as a “super connector” and “super value-adder”.

Policy Directions and Key Proposals

This document sets out the following preliminary and forward-looking policy directions for public discussion and refinement:

1. Deepen the development of the Greater Bay Area and build a world-class bay area
 - Strengthen co-operation in technological innovation and the synergised development of emerging industries, promote the transformation and cross-boundary applications of R&D outcomes, support the accelerated development of an international I&T centre in the Greater Bay Area, and promote complementarity, differential development as well as collaboration among industries.

- Advance “hard connectivity” in infrastructure, and strengthen collaboration with the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area in areas such as aviation, shipping, rail, and land transport, etc.
 - Advance “soft connectivity” in rules and standards, deepen the alignment of rules and mechanisms, facilitate cross-boundary vehicle transport, enhance the level of market integration, facilitate the efficient and convenient flow of people, goods, capital, and information, and strengthen the overall competitiveness of the Greater Bay Area.
 - Advance “connectivity of hearts” among residents of the three places, develop the Greater Bay Area into a quality living circle for living, working, and travelling, and foster youth development, co-operation in people’s livelihood, and cultural exchanges.
 - Leverage Hong Kong to promote the Greater Bay Area as an “international hub” for high-quality development of the country’s construction industry and water sector.
2. Advance the development of key co-operation platforms, and strengthen collaboration with other areas, provinces, municipalities, and autonomous regions in the Mainland
- Make good use of key co-operation platforms such as Qianhai, Nansha, and Hetao, etc. to drive institutional innovation, industry collaboration, and high-level opening up, so as to provide replicable and promotable experience for the country’s deepening of reform and expansion of opening up, while deepening co-operation with provinces and municipalities beyond the Greater Bay Area to foster synergised development for mutual benefits.
 - Support the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Co-operation Zone as a platform for early and pilot implementation, strengthen co-operation between the two places in finance, construction, intellectual property, legal services, and youth innovation and entrepreneurship, so as to broaden the scope for Hong Kong’s professional services sectors to access the Mainland market; support Nansha in serving as a high-standard gateway for opening up, and deepen co-operation in maritime, I&T, education, and talent exchange; and accelerate the development of the Hetao Shenzhen-

Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone, and build a platform for high-level R&D collaboration and outcome transformation.

3. Deeply participate in high-quality co-operation under the Belt and Road Initiative

- Leverage Hong Kong's strengths as international finance, maritime, and trade centres as well as international aviation hub and in professional services to establish Hong Kong as an important functional platform and an international collaboration hub for high-quality co-operation under the Belt and Road Initiative.
- Bring together capital, projects, talents, technology, standards and professional services to build Hong Kong into a co-operation hub for Belt and Road countries and enterprises, and facilitate Hong Kong and Mainland enterprises to "go global" and "bring in" international resources.
- Foster practical co-operation with Belt and Road countries in green development, digital economy, I&T, tourism, and other new areas.

4. Deepen international exchanges and co-operation, and expand global co-operation network

- Fully leverage Hong Kong's advantages under "One Country, Two Systems" and its status as an international city, deepen exchanges and co-operation with different regions and international organisations, and enhance Hong Kong's functions as an international connectivity hub and a platform for high-level opening up. Attract more international organisations, multilateral institutions, enterprises, and talents to pursue development in Hong Kong, and enhance Hong Kong's participation and influence in international affairs, international arbitration, professional standards, conventions and exhibitions, and global governance.
- Consolidate co-operation with traditional markets, and expand co-operation with the Association of the South Eastern Asian Nations, Middle East, Central Asia, and other key emerging markets in areas such as trade and commerce, finance, I&T, education, culture, and

professional services, so as to build a more extensive, diverse, and stable network of international partners.

- Serve as a bridge connecting with the Chinese Mainland and the world, and facilitate Chinese rules and standards to “go global”.

Matters for Consultation

Members of the public may offer views on the aforementioned policy directions, viable policy tools, and the areas in which Hong Kong holds the greatest strengths or potential with regard to collaboration within the Greater Bay Area, high-quality co-operation under the Belt and Road Initiative, and the deepening of international exchanges and co-operation.

Part 6

Integrated Development of Culture, Sports, and Tourism, Green Living, and Other Areas

Introduction

With the aims of elevating the city's attractiveness, improving the quality of life, and building a liveable city, the HKSAR Government will promote the integrated development of culture, sports, and tourism to build a more distinctive, vibrant and appealing world city. We will continue to advance environmental protection and green transition, encourage a green lifestyle, and reinforce the city's resilience and public safety development, so as to enhance Hong Kong's capability to respond to various risks and governance standards.

Hong Kong's Five-Year Plan should regard the integrated development of culture, sports, and tourism, green transition, and security governance as key pillars for strengthening the city's competitiveness and people's sense of satisfaction. Through policy co-ordination, resource integration and community engagement, the fruits of development will be more widely shared by members of the public.

Current Situation

In recent years, the HKSAR Government has attached great emphasis to the integrated development of culture, sports and tourism. Hong Kong enjoys a profound foundation in Chinese and foreign cultures, and is a place where our fine traditional Chinese culture and diverse international art resources converge. The HKSAR Government has been actively promoting the development of culture and sports as industries with an international perspective, organising large-scale cultural and arts festivals, mega international sports events, and international exchange activities, as well as boosting the mega-event economy. The HKSAR Government has also been actively promoting sports in the community to foster the "Sport for All" culture. More resources have also been allocated to the training for elite

athletes and the development of team sports, enabling our athletes to achieve excellent results in national and international sports competitions. On tourism, Hong Kong possesses diverse tourism resources, including a unique cityscape, natural ecology, theme parks, cultural heritage, and communities with local characteristics, which create favourable conditions for the development of “Culture + Tourism”, “Sports + Tourism” and “Mega events + Tourism”.

Hong Kong’s vision is to achieve carbon neutrality before 2050, which is in close alignment with the “dual carbon” targets of the country. In terms of environmental protection and green development, Hong Kong has established sound frameworks and has been making continuous improvement in areas such as air quality, water and marine ecological environment quality, waste management, and environmental monitoring. However, issues such as high urban density, limited land resources, the risk of extreme weather events arising from climate change, local carbon emissions, as well as the handling of municipal solid waste and construction waste still pose challenges to our work in enhancing the liveability and long-term resilience of the city. The spatial co-ordination for greening and ecological conservation also requires long-term and systematic planning. On the other hand, the promotion of green and low-carbon development in the Greater Bay Area has provided Hong Kong with more collaboration opportunities in green development.

As for security development, Hong Kong needs to continuously improve its institutional safeguards and response capabilities in areas including public safety, cybersecurity and management of large-scale events, etc. to safeguard citizens’ daily lives and the stability of our society.

Policy Directions and Key Proposals

This document sets out the following preliminary and forward-looking policy directions for public discussion and refinement:

1. Develop and consolidate Hong Kong’s position as an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange
 - Promote fine traditional Chinese culture, and advance the inheritance of intangible cultural heritage and the development of museums.

- Develop diversified cultural, arts, and creative industries, and enhance the sustainable industry ecosystem.
 - Develop mega cultural and creative events as international brands, facilitate international arts and cultural exchange, enrich Hong Kong's cultural substance and soft power, and foster people-to-people bonds.
2. Promote sports in the community, support elite sports, maintain Hong Kong as a centre for major international sports events, enhance professionalism in sports, and develop sports as an industry
- Promote community sports and fitness for all, encourage public participation in more recreation and sports activities, and cultivate a strong sporting culture to help members of the public enhance their physical and psychological well-being.
 - Support the development of elite sports and optimise the athlete support system.
 - Leverage platforms such as large-scale sports infrastructure and “M” Mark System to bring more major international and regional sports events to Hong Kong, and drive “Sports + Mega events” development, thereby driving the development of sports as an industry.
 - Deepen collaboration with the Greater Bay Area in sports exchange, talent nurturing, and event co-operation to enhance the benefits of regional collaboration.
3. Promote the integrated development of culture, sports, and tourism
- Leverage Hong Kong's strengths as an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange and Asia's Event Capital, and promote the integrated development of culture, sports, tourism, and mega events, so as to develop more tourism products and experiences with Hong Kong's unique characteristics and international appeal.
 - Effectively utilise the Kai Tak Sports Park and other large-scale venues for hosting more major international sports events, concerts, cultural activities as well as convention and exhibition events to

promote tourism, boost spending, and facilitate the development of related industries.

- Promote the integrated development of culture, sports, and tourism, and the deepening of travel experiences to attract high value-added visitors through developing and enhancing distinctive tourism products such as city walks, signature festive events, horse-racing tourism, culinary tourism, cruise tourism, island-hopping, and theme parks, etc.; deepen collaboration with Mainland provinces and municipalities to promote “multi-destination” tourism; and strengthen tourism services and supporting facilities, including application of smart tourism, cultivation of talents for the tourism industry, and development of Muslim-friendly facilities, so as to enhance the overall receiving capacity and travel convenience.

4. Promote green living as well as green and low-carbon transition

- Actively align with the country’s “dual carbon” targets through promoting energy-saving, carbon reduction, and low-carbon lifestyle; strengthen the promotion of green buildings, energy conservation, water conservation, and low-carbon transportation to encourage citizens to practise low-carbon living; promote waste reduction in the community, and enhance resources recycling and waste-to-energy system; and deepen collaboration in resources circulation in the Greater Bay Area and advance the development of “Zero Waste Bay Area”, with a view to facilitating the development of circular economy.
- Promote the long-term objective of net-zero electricity generation, including progressively ceasing the use of coal for daily electricity generation and increasing the share of zero-carbon energy in the fuel mix for electricity generation, so as to reduce carbon emissions.
- Support the wider adoption of electric vehicles and new energy transport, enhance supporting networks such as charging facilities, etc., and promote green transition in transport.
- Promote the development of autonomous vehicles in Hong Kong, and create a more convenient and safer travel experience for the citizens through smart mobility.

5. Strengthen ecological conservation and environmental protection as well as the building of a green and liveable city
 - Continuously improve the air quality, water quality, and overall urban environment, enhance the ecological environment quality and the city's liveability, and actively advance the building of "Beautiful Bays"; and strengthen natural ecology conservation, biodiversity protection, and management of country and marine parks so as to promote the co-existence of conservation and urban development.
 - Optimise land resources and create more high-quality public space via spatial planning and urban design; and enhance the harbourfront areas, public open space, pedestrian environment, and parks so as to elevate citizens' comfort and fitness level in their daily lives.
 - Facilitate smart city and green infrastructure development by further promoting green and intelligent buildings, smart traffic, and the application of innovative building construction technologies so as to build a safe, healthy, comfortable and liveable modern international city.
6. New energy, green technology, and innovative applications
 - Dovetail with the country's development in new energy technology by supporting and piloting technologies and solutions related to energy management, green buildings, waste treatment, environmental monitoring, and climate risk management.
 - Support the R&D, production and application of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) and hydrogen fuel, promote the low-carbon transition of the aviation industry and the traffic and transport sector, and develop Hong Kong into a demonstration platform for green and low-carbon hydrogen technologies.
 - Strengthen collaboration across industry, academic, and research sectors to promote the local application of technological outcomes achieved by higher education and research institutions, and facilitate the expansion and strengthening of promising green technology enterprises through financial and market-driven mechanisms.

7. Enhance the city's resilience and strengthen public safety

- Comprehensively strengthen security governance of the city, including public safety and cybersecurity.
- Promote inter-departmental collaboration, risk assessment, and early warning mechanisms, and formulate contingency plans to strengthen the capability to respond to natural disasters, extreme weather conditions, and emergencies, so as to resume the city's normal operation as promptly as possible in the aftermath of a disaster.
- Reinforce the concept of a safe and resilient city at the urban planning level to enhance the city's resilience against various macro-level challenges; incorporate safety design principles and digitalised site safety management into construction projects and public services; and establish a comprehensive defence system covering flood control and drainage, shoreline management, slope safety, water and drought disaster prevention and sustainable building design, so as to ensure that equal emphasis is placed on both development and safety.

Matters for Consultation

Members of the public may offer views on the aforementioned policy directions, viable policy tools, and the areas in which Hong Kong holds the greatest strengths or potential with regard to the integrated development of culture, sports, and tourism, green living, security development, and other policy areas.

