

Our declaration on political reform

The popularity of Donald Tsang's administration has plummeted to a level as low as that of Tung Chi-hwa, which shows that neither the personal qualities nor the administrative experience of the Chief Executive are the roots of the governance crisis. The crisis originates from insufficient checks and balances bringing government-business collusion, from a lack of vision, political organization and talents leading to an inability to respond to the new political environment, and from low legitimacy and social support which makes the government lack courage and social support to push social reforms.

We believe that only the establishment of a genuine democratic political system can get Hong Kong out of the current deadlock. The electoral arrangements for the Chief Executive and Legislative Council should comply with the principles of universality and equality. If the government puts in unreasonable barriers barring any parties/groups from participating in the CE election, or just repackage the functional constituencies to keep the political privileges of the business sector, the current problems cannot be solved.

We believe that election by universal suffrage is a basic human right, and Hong Kong's social, cultural and political conditions are all ready for its implementation. The Chief Executive and Legislative Council should be elected by universal suffrage as soon as possible. Public opinion polls show that the majority of Hong Kong people agree with the implementation of universal suffrage in 2012. Even if this could not be achieved, the government should give out clear proposals and procedures of achieving universal suffrage. We urge:

- 1) the central government to reconfirm election by universal suffrage of the Chief Executive in 2017, and that the nomination threshold for candidacy should not be higher than one-eighth of the members of the nomination committee;
- 2) the central government to reconfirm election by universal suffrage for the whole Legislative Council by no later than 2020, with all functional constituencies abolished. The procedures for nomination, participation and voting of the Legco should comply with international standards of universality and equality;
- 3) the SAR government to propose democratizing reforms in 2012 and 2016, showing a clear roadmap leading to universal suffrage for the Chief Executive in 2017 and the whole Legislative Council in 2020.

We call on social groups from all sectors to join us, based on the above principles, and strive for universal suffrage together. We should show the strength and solidarity of civil society to make the Central Government understand that only by implementing genuine democratic reforms could the problems of Hong Kong be solved.