

Annex - Questionnaire

Measures taken to implement the Convention and the commitments contained in the UNGASS political declaration, as well as good practices and progress made in the use of international cooperation mechanisms under the Convention¹

Country	The People's Republic of China
Implementing authority/authorities	Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR)
Corresponding paragraph(s) of the UNGASS political declaration and/or article(s) of the Convention	<u>UNGASS political declaration</u> Paragraphs 1, 3 and 12 <u>UNCAC</u> Articles 7 and 13
Title of initiative	"Support Clean Elections" programmes
Keywords of initiative	Corruption prevention, election, electoral procedures, electoral legislation, clean elections, education and publicity programmes
Short summary of initiative (please indicate the start date/duration if relevant)	ICAC assists the HKSAR Government in ensuring clean public elections by giving advice on the procedures and controls in all relevant electoral processes. To help candidates, election agents and voters understand the Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance (ECICO) and engage them in upholding a clean election culture, ICAC launches multi-faceted educational activities and extensive publicity campaigns (the programme) for public elections.
Detailed description of initiative	Over the years, ICAC has been assisting the HKSAR Government in ensuring clean public elections. Examples of the corruption prevention work include – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reviewing the electoral legislation amendments bills and election-related guidelines, leaflets, forms, etc. from the corruption prevention perspective. • providing corruption prevention recommendations to the HKSAR Government on the polling and counting procedures of public elections (e.g. 2021 Election Committee Subsector Elections, 2021 Legislative Council General Election and 2022 Chief Executive Election of Election). • compiling and issuing corruption prevention guides ("Best Practice Checklist on Membership Administration", "Corruption Prevention Guiding Principles for Return of Election Committee Nominated and Ex-officio Members") to

¹ Please use one form per initiative described

	<p>the participating organisations of public elections; and visiting the participating organisations to assist them in adopting the best practices with a view to enhancing their internal control and transparency of the election related processes.</p> <p>The multi-faceted education and publicity programmes contain –</p> <p><i>Preventive Education</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • briefings on ECICO for candidates, election agents and voters as well as for organisations such as political parties, professional bodies, trade associations and district organisations, universities, elderly’s centres and NGOs; • educational products for candidates, election agents and voters to better understand ECICO, alert them the common concerns and the importance of upholding clean elections. • dedicated websites to provide information on clean elections and a hotline to answer enquiries; and • election Enquiry Hotlines to answer public enquiries on ECICO. <p><i>Media Publicity</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extensive use of offline and online platforms to publicise clean elections messages to the general public through TV and radio channels, facilities of public transport and commercial buildings; infotainment channels and social media; as well as poster sites in districts and newsletters published by various organisations. • organising roving exhibitions in all districts in Hong Kong and staging outdoor interactive games to engage the public in supporting clean elections.
<p>Lessons learned in implementing the initiative</p>	<p>High expectation on fair and clean public elections – Members of the public have a high expectation on fair and clean public elections. The public election process is under stringent public and media scrutiny and every step needs to meet a high standard of and expectation for due process. Apart from a having sound system and procedures, thorough training of and practising by electoral staff is also important to ensure proper conduct of the processes.</p> <p>Adopting a client-oriented approach – As different target groups may have different concerns on election matters, preventive education should focus on the need of different target groups and disseminate specific messages through suitable channels. For instance, comprehensive briefings are conducted for candidates and election agents while mobile exhibitions and simple activities are organised for conveying the core messages to voters.</p> <p>Coping with changes – Flexibility and contingency measures are needed to be prepared for unexpected changes such as the COVID-19 epidemic which has impacted on the work schedule and educational activities for subsequent public elections.</p> <p>More use of online platforms – To enhance publicity mileage and spread intended messages promptly, the more extensive use of online platforms and social media is necessary while printed materials</p>

	<p>become supplementary to cater for people not used to accessing online channels. As such, all publications and reference materials on clean elections have been uploaded to the dedicated websites for easy reference and retrieval by the public.</p>
<p>Challenges encountered in implementing the initiative</p>	<p>Upholding clean elections requires not only the HKSAR Government’s efforts, but also the support of the participating organisations, candidates, their helpers and all electors. While every step requires sound control, the overall process needs to be efficient due to the huge number of voters and votes to be processed within a day. Election is not a day-to-day occurrence and the majority of electoral staff are not familiar with the procedures.</p> <p>To avoid stakeholders’ inadvertent contravention of new offences in ECICO, ICAC has to respond promptly to provide training in appropriate format to the stakeholders concerned.</p>
<p>Link to more information</p>	<p>Details of Expenditure, and Commitments (Paragraphs 5 & 10 of Programme 1), ICAC Controlling Officers’ Report: https://www.budget.gov.hk/2022/eng/pdf/head072.pdf</p> <p>ICAC Annual Report 2021 (Pages 15-16, 53-54): https://www.icac.org.hk/icac/annual-report/2021/pdf/AR2021_Full.pdf</p> <p>ICAC Press Release (2021-10-29): https://www.icac.org.hk/en/press/index_id_1212.html</p> <p>ICAC Press Release (2021-12-19): https://www.icac.org.hk/en/press/index_id_1246.html</p> <p>ICAC Post (Issue 43, August 2021): https://www.icac.org.hk/icac/post/issue43/en/main_article.html</p> <p>“Support Clean Elections” education and publicity programmes: https://www.icac.org.hk/en/ce/</p>