

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.