

Members' Forum on Reviewing the Election Arrangements of the Council

8 April 2022



Hong Kong Institute of
Certified Public Accountants
香港會計師公會

“ Opening remarks by President

Ms. Loretta FONG, President of HKICPA

Revising the Election Arrangements of the Council of the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants

修改香港會計師公會理事會選舉安排



Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau

財經事務及庫務局

Need for Review: Views Received by Government

檢討的需要: 政府收到的意見

- ▶ Appropriate amendments should be made to the existing election method of the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (“HKICPA”) Council so that the HKICPA could adjust to its professional functions more effectively under the new regulatory regime of the accounting profession and establish an institutional linkage with the Accounting and Financial Reporting Council (“AFRC”) under the new regulatory regime to be commenced on 1 October 2022

香港會計師公會(「公會」)理事會現有選舉方法，應作適度修改，使該會能更有效適應將在**2022年10月1日**生效的新會計專業規管制度下的專業功能，並且在制度上與會計及財務匯報局(「會財局」)建立合乎新制度的運作關係。

Need for Review: Views Received by Government

檢討的需要: 政府收到的意見

- ▶ Current election nomination requirement and threshold is relatively low. Need to better ensure elected Council members have sufficient professional experience and thorough understanding of the sector
現有參選提名要求及門檻偏低，須更能確保當選理事擁有足夠的專業經驗及充分理解行業
- ▶ The election mechanism should ensure professionalism of the Council
選舉機制該能保證理事會的專業性
- ▶ The annual election cycle has taken up too much HKICPA resource and attention and brought frequent Council membership changes, making it difficult for the Council leadership to focus on professional initiatives
每年舉行的選舉用上公會太多資源及精力以及理事會成員變更，難以讓理事會領導班子專注專業舉措

Specific Suggestions Received

收到的具體建議

Raising Nomination Threshold 提高提名門檻

- ❖ To require candidates having participated in Council business, possessing specified professional experience, high moral standards and no criminal record 候選人須曾參與公會事務或有特定專業經驗，具備良好道德操守及沒有刑事罪行紀錄
- ❖ To increase the required number of nominations obtained from the profession 增加需從業界取得的提名人數目
- ❖ To require candidates to obtain nominations from other key players in Hong Kong's accounting regime, such as the AFRC, the accounting sub-sector of the Election Committee, etc. 要求候選人須從香港會計制度的其他主要成員中取得提名，例如會財局及選舉委員會的會計界分組界別等
- ❖ To establish a nomination committee composing of key stakeholders of the accounting profession to vet qualification and validity of nominations of candidates for performing the statutory functions of HKICPA
設立由會計專業的主要持份者組成的提名審核委員會，負責審核候選人的資歷及提名是否適合履行公會的法定功能

Specific Suggestions Received

收到的具體建議

Alteration to Election Cycle 修改選舉週期

- ❖ To extend the election cycle for elected Council members from annually to biennially
延長當選理事的選舉週期，由每年一次至每兩年一次
- ❖ To keep the term of elected members at two years OR to extend the term of elected members to four years
當選理事的任期維持兩年或延長至四年
- ❖ To keep the term of President and vice-Presidents at one year
會長及副會長的任期維持一年

Focus of our review

我們的檢討焦點

We therefore intend to focus on the necessary changes to the Council composition and election in the following two main areas 我們因此打算聚焦於下列兩項有關理事會組成及選舉的改動 –

- ❖ **Nomination** : to change nomination thresholds which will better ensure representativeness and professionalism of candidates, and facilitate closer partnership between HKICPA and AFRC
- ❖ **提名** : 改動提名門檻要求，藉此加強候選人的代表性及專業性，以及推動公會與會財局更緊密的合作關係
- ❖ **Election cycle** : to modify to enable a more stable leadership for HKICPA to handle the key regulatory changes and development of the profession in the immediate coming years
- ❖ **選舉周期** : 提出改動，令公會可有更穩定的領導班子應付未來幾年重大的規管制度變化及行業發展

Our Guiding Considerations

我們主要的考慮原則

- ▶ The change to the election mechanism of HKICPA Council should be conducive to its new professional role and working relationship with AFRC under the new accounting regulatory regime 公會理事會選舉機制的改動須有助公會履行在新會計規管制度的專業角色以及與會財局的工作關係
- ▶ The Council composition and election should not undermine the independence of AFRC from the profession 理事會的組成及選舉不應影響會財局獨立於業界的地位
- ▶ The timing and scale of the change should facilitate rather than burdening HKICPA's work in adapting to the new regulatory regime 改動的時間表和規模應有助公會適應過渡至新會計規管制度，而非加重其負擔
- ▶ The change should be acceptable to the key stakeholder representatives of the profession 改動需得到業界主要有代表性的持份者接受

Legislative Proposal (I): Raising Nomination Threshold

立法建議(一): 提高提名門檻

- ▶ To increase the number of nominations required from CPAs from 2 (i.e. 1 proposer and 1 seconder) to **10 (i.e. 1 proposer and 9 seconders)**
將所需的會計師提名數目由2名(一名提議人和一名附議人)增加至**10名(一名提議人和九名附議人)**
- ▶ To require nomination from **2 members of the Advisory Committee who are appointed by the Financial Secretary in consultation with the AFRC under the new regulatory regime of the accounting profession as seconders**
要求由**2名新會計專業規管制度下財政司司長在諮詢會財局後委任的諮詢委員會成員**附議提名

Legislative Proposal (II): Alteration to Election Cycle

立法建議(二): 修改選舉週期

- ▶ To extend election cycle for elected Council members from annually to **biennially**
延長當選理事的選舉週期，由每年一次至**每兩年一次**
- ▶ To keep the term of elected members at two years
當選理事的任期維持兩年
- ▶ Annual election cycle for Presidents and Vice-Presidents to remain unchanged
會長及副會長的選舉週期維持每年一次

Legislative Proposal (II): Alteration to Election Cycle (Cont'd)

立法建議(二): 修改選舉週期(續)

- ▶ To allow the Vice-Presidents to continue to serve on the Council as members after the expiry of their original term for stronger continuity between two terms
讓上屆副會長可在卸任後繼續以理事身份服務理事會，以加強兩屆理事會之間的延續性
- ▶ To **extend the term of office of seven Council members** as well as that of the **President and Vice-Presidents**, which will expire in end-2022, **to end-2023**
延長 2022 年年末屆滿的七名當選理事任期至 2023 年年末，也會延長 2022 年年末屆滿的會長及副會長任期至 2023 年年末

Legislative Proposal (III): Changes to Administrative Procedures 立法建議(三): 行政程序修訂

The HKICPA has from time to time reviewed its administrative procedures. At the HKICPA's suggestions, we intend to make changes to the Professional Accountants By-Laws in the following areas, with a view to enhancing the HKICPA's administrative efficiency. 公會過往不時檢視其行政程序。因應公會建議，我們打算就以下方面修訂《專業會計師附例》，提升公會行政效能 -

- ❖ Allowing greater flexibility for the procedures of general meetings by enabling the HKICPA to 為舉辦大會的程序提供更大彈性，容許公會
 - ❖ conduct general meetings online or in hybrid mode; 以線上或混合模式舉行大會；
 - ❖ adjourn or postpone a meeting for health and safety reasons; 可因應公共衛生或安全情況延期或押後會議；
 - ❖ send notices or documents by electronic means with specifications on the detailed requirements for issuing the notices and documents in a different manner; and 以電子方式發放通知及文件，並訂明以不同方式發放通知及文件的細節規定；以及

Legislative Proposal (III): Changes to Administrative Procedures (Cont'd)

立法建議(三): 行政程序修訂(續)

- ❖ Adjusting the Council election timeline stipulated in the By-Laws to extend the timeframe for return of nomination papers and circulation of the list of candidates for election by the HKICPA's Registrar from 7 to 14 days, so as to allow sufficient time for the HKICPA executive team to verify the information in the nominations.

調整《附例》訂明的理事會選舉時間表，將候選人提交提名，與公會註冊主任向會計師發出獲提名競選的候選人通知之間的期限，從7天增加至14天，以預留足夠時間讓公會的行政團隊核對提名資料。

Legislative Timetable

立法時間表

- ▶ In order to revise the election mechanism **before the HKICPA's 2022 Council election to be conducted from November to December**, we plan to submit the legislative proposals to the Legislative Council **in the current legislative session**.

公會2022年的理事會選舉將在11至12月舉行。為在該選舉前修改選舉機制，我們計劃在本立法年度內向立法會提交立法建議。

“ Brief remarks by

Hon Edmund WONG, Legislative Council Member
(Accountancy Functional Constituency)

Thank you

CPA



Hong Kong Institute of
Certified Public Accountants
香港會計師公會