



For discussion on 9 February 2021

Submission to the Subcommittee to Study the Development of Textbooks and Teaching Materials for Kindergartens, Primary and Secondary Schools

1. Hong Kong Unison is a non-governmental organization that focuses on the education rights of local ethnic minorities and "Chinese as a second language" education. This submission is on "**Development of Textbooks**" for non-Chinese-speaking ("NCS") students.

Measures to encourage publication of textbooks for NCS students

2. Due to the relatively small NCS student population (about 18,350 students in primary and secondary schools), textbook publishers lack motivation to develop and publish textbooks for NCS students. Developing appropriate teaching materials falls on the shoulder of teachers. Although the Education Bureau (EDB) does not directly participate in the compilation and publication of textbooks, support measures such as financial subsidy should be provided to publishers to develop quality textbooks for NCS students to learn Chinese; thus alleviating the unnecessary burden on teachers and aligning similar Chinese levels across the board.

Current usage rate and evaluation of the EDB commissioned Chinese Language textbook for NCS students

3. The EDB has commissioned the Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University to develop a set of Chinese Language Subject textbooks for reference by schools that admit NCS students and these textbooks and workbooks have been distributed to primary schools. To follow up on the suitability and effectiveness of the aforesaid set of textbooks, the EDB should collect utilization rate of the textbooks and stakeholders' comments to make further adjustment and improvement. Such data should be made available to the public.