Presentation of Concluding Observations and Recommendations of Review of the Second Reports under the Two Covenants

Date: 20th January, 2017

Time: 10:00-12:00AM

Venue: 5F Auditorium, Ministry of Justice

[Host]

Our friends from the press, representatives from the Government and civil sectors, welcome to the press conference of presenting the Concluding Observations and Recommendations of the International Review of the Second State Report under the Two Covenants. The conference is presided by Minister without Portfolio, Lin, Mei-chu. Now let’s welcome Minister Lin to give us some words.

[Minister without Portfolio, Lin, Mei-chu]

Members of International Review Committee, Minister Chiu, Legislator Yu Mei-nu from the Legislative Yuan, staff of the Ministry of Justice, and representatives from the government and civil sectors, good morning. Welcome to the press conference of presenting the Concluding Observations and Recommendations of the Review of the Second State Reports under the Two Covenants.

Our country have ratified the Two Covenants since 2009, and successfully finished two State Reports, and held the International Review Meetings. First, on behalf of the government, I would like to express the gratitude to the 10 members of International Review Committee. They worked very hard. Within these few days, they barely had good eating and good sleeping. They’ve worked hard with our civil sectors and government on relevant issues. I heard that they finished their final report at about midnight. I am here to express my sincerest thankfulness to them.

I spent some time reading the Concluding Observations and Recommendations this morning. This truly can help us to connect with the international society, which is not an easy task. And most importantly, it provides us a lot of precious recommendations. I think these recommendations can surely help us to enhance and promote our performance on the international human rights in the future.

Of course, I also thank the representatives from the Government and civil sectors who are present. Because of your participation, during the three-day review, we can all understand the human rights situation in our country, what we have done, what we lack, and what we can improve through discussions and dialogues. By these dialogues, I think we can truly find the problems and try to find the reasonable solutions to them. Once again, thank you all who participate in our country.

The coverage of the rights protected by the Two Covenants is of great amount, including equality and non-discrimination, fair trial, freedom of speech, adequate standard of living, and right to work. The representatives from the Government and civil sectors had sufficiently exchanged their opinions, and had given explanations to members of International Committee over how these rights being practiced in our country during the three-day review.

Our members of International Review Committee discussed the opinions they heard and raised the relevant recommendations. Just like what I said, they made a comprehensive Observations and Recommendations at about midnight. This document is our important reference for promoting human rights in the future. Since these Observations and Recommendations are so important, I am honorable to receive the document on behalf of the Government. I hope that we will cherish the conclusion of the Review and work together. Once again, I thank all these members and all of you who are present, thank you.

[Host]

(Minister Lin receives the Concluding Observations and Recommendations.)

Next we invite the chairperson of ICCPR Review Committee, Mr. Nowak to give us a few words.

[Manfred Nowak]

Thank you very much, your Excellency’s ladies and gentlemen. Beginning, I would like to thank you for your kind word. It’s true that we worked until after the midnight last night, but here’s my special thanks to all the staff of the Ministry of Justice who assisted. In particular, our friend, prosecutor Wen-hsiang Chou, who is not listening but he was amazing in staying up with us, providing us with food and facilities we need, and to all the interpreters, who were still translating the document in the early morning. Maybe they finished at 6, and finally, also to those who manage at the last moment and other assistants and employees who are present.

This is only one sign of the spirit of cooperation in which we had been received 4 years ago, as much as during the review this week. As you all know, although Taiwan is not a member of the United Nations, therefore, cannot formally ratify UN treaties. It has voluntarily accepted 6 out of the 9 Core UN Human Rights Treaties, and has done quite remarkable job in implementing these obligations into domestic law, in particular, the two UN covenants. And Taiwan voluntarily subjected itself to hold review procedure by external independent experts, which is similar to the review procedure before UN treaty monitoring bodies.

This is truly unique and creative process that I don’t know any other country in the world would do, and it is even better than classic treaty monitoring procedure before the UN bodies. The delegations go to Geneva are often only small delegations. As we were invited to come here, we have more time, and we have very lively discussion with high number of governmental officials from all the different Yuans, and with very lively civil society.

It means, of course, a huge number of human rights issues have been brought to our attention and still being brought to our attention now. And of course, we had to restrict our Concluding Observations and Recommendations to the most important issues, and in particular, we were assessing the period since the first report to the last 4 years to what extent our recommendations have actually been implemented or not.

We divided our Observations and Recommendations into 3 groups: general issues pertaining to both covenants, and the very specific ones to the two different Covenants. Just name the most important general issues; the first one is that we strongly recommend to the Government to establish a fully independent National Human Rights Commission in accordance with the Paris Principles.

Secondly, we request of the Government to ratify the 3 further UN Core Human Rights Treaties against torture, against disappearances and on the rights of migrant workers. We also request the full implementation act and that means also the full incorporation of all the human rights into domestic Taiwanese law, and full application by the domestic courts and we would like to refer particularly to problems in the practice with the full applicability and judiciability of economic, social and culture rights.

We also think that more needs to be done in the field of human rights education, in particular, also to teach governmental officials the human right-based approach to various approaches and programs of the Government. With respect to corporate social responsibility, we particular stress on the responsibility of the Government, also control overseas operations of Taiwanese corporations if they interfere the human rights.

With respect to the past on the martial law, we strongly recommend the establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that should also include the security forces. We further note the phenomenon of rising economic inequality, which is undermining social coherence in the country.

Much of our observation dealing with all forms of discrimination and divide equality, and in that context we recommend the adoption of full, inclusive Anti-Discrimination Act and also emphasize particularly groups such as women, the LGBTI community, persons with disabilities, and very importantly, the rights of Indigenous peoples and their rights to participate in all affairs directly affect their interests and domains.

And the follow up action, we recommend the adoption of national human rights action plan, which should have clear targets, benchmarks, indicators, how to implement UN human rights treaties, but also our own recommendations.

With respect to the implementation of the ICCPR, I’d like to highlight the following issues. The first, and definitely the most important, is abolishing the capital punishment. If Taiwan wants to prove that it is really committed to international human rights, then this is our most important recommendation to the Government.

We also very concerned about overcrowding and other inhuman conditions of the detention and prison system. We recommend not only to build new and more modern places, but also to reduce the number of detainees, for instance, by reviewing the very harsh anti-drug policy. The further recommendation is the adoption of the Exile Act, and the full implementation of the principle of non-refoulement.

As during the first Review, we continue to be very concerned about the Criminal Speedy Trial Act, which leads to unreasonably long criminal proceeding up to 8 years, but at the same time, there are very long periods of trial-pending detention that clearly violate international human rights law.

We further recommend abolishing of the adultery as a criminal offense. We also concern about excessive surveillance both in relation to criminal procedure but also intelligence without proper overview.

With respect to freedom of assembly, we recommend the speedy adoption of, or amendment of the respective act. We encourage the Legislative Yuan to finally raise the marriage age of women to 18, so make it as equal as that of men.

We do congratulate the Government, the President and also the Legislator Yuan for their willingness to consider the adoption of same-sex marriage. In this case, Taiwan would once more show it could be a pioneer in human rights and non-discrimination in the Asia-Pacific Region.

In conclusion, I would like to make another general observation. In our exchange view with the Government, we always heard a particular argument: “We cannot change the laws because the poll shows that the majority of the people would be against abolishing capital punishment, against changing their adultery law, against same-sex marriage, etc.”

But we feel in a representative, very functioning representative democracy that the government elected by the people sometimes has to take unpopular reforms in order to comply with their international legal obligations.

It means to take the lead by example, and also by means of awareness-raising to dispel doubts by the population, which is often based on wrong information. That’s a question of information and the awareness-raising, for instance, the death penalty is not useful to prevent violent crime. There is enough evidence in many other countries to show the crime rate did not go up after abolishing the capital punishment.

With this, I would like to reiterate my very warm thanks to the Government and civil societies for a very lively exchange during the last few days. And I hand over to my colleague, Eibe Riedel, who was chairing the Committee of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

[Eibe Riedel]

Madam, Minister, ladies and gentlemen, as the outset, I would like to express sincere thanks to the Government of Taiwan not only to invite us all, but to conduct in-depth analysis of human rights situation based on the Two Covenants. As to arrange us a very constructive and high level dialogue, with many representation of various government departments, and organized meetings with very large number of NGOs.

Many issues were discussed during the three days of dialogues, and I can only pick up a few of them to illustrate the particular interest. In relation to the rights to work and rights in work, the situation of household foreign workers, they played a significant role. We recommend the care givers and domestic works, who continue to be excluded from the Labor Standard Act, should be better protected in their labor rights. And we also reiterate the recommendation which we made in 2013 to enact a Domestic Workers Protection Act.

The working condition of foreign fishers working in Taiwanese fishing vessels was also discussed and we recommended that Taiwanese laws be strictly applied to many of them, and they should be strictly applied to Taiwanese flags fishing vessels engage in illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing. As this is a complex issue, we suggest the Government conduct of inquiry on the fishing operation, particularly in relation to the long liners which sail out to sea and not return home harbors for very long period of time.

We also recommended that the gender role stereotypes which are persisting should be eliminated, which is centered for fathers should be provided to increasing their participation in child care and parental leave.

The issue of child labor under the family rights of Article 10 was addressed, and this is the problem in most countries, not something specific to Taiwan. We noted there is a great number of underage students also work. The students do not receive the minimum wage, have no insurance and often work long night hours.

Under the right to housing, we look extensively the issue of force eviction, the situation of informal settlers and the Committee recommends the human rights of these people should be guaranteed, and that existed legislations should be amended to bring about the necessary protection promised by the ICESCR.

Under the right of housing, the situation of homeless people plays a significant role like in all other countries. This is major human rights problem needing urgent attention. We recommend, therefore, a National Homeless Welfare and Human Rights Act should be enacted containing comprehensive definition of homelessness.

In relation to the right of health, the article 12, we noted that life expectancy varies considerably. In the most affluent regions and counties, life expectancy is 85.3 years, as compare to 62.5 years in the least affluent areas. And we request that the Government takes steps beyond cooperation consultation between different government departments. Professional and scientific research should accompany with the effort already taken by the Government in this field.

Under the right to health, issue of immediately remove of low level radiation wastes from Orchid Island was again discussed in 2013 and was noted the process of referenda of the Ministry of Economic Affairs to determine a new site for the disposal of such wastes has been stalled. We recommend, therefore, a concrete plan and specific time frame for this issue should be set and that, thereby, the rights of Indigenous community should not be overlooked.

In the dialogue, a public representation of the non-government organizations, the high incident of sexually transmitted diseases, STDs, among adolescences was discussed. The alarming increase of the number of syphilis and gonorrhea affecting boys of between the age of 15 and 19, in particular, and that unsafe sex practice are on the increase was also discussed. The governmental authority has undertaken a lot of steps to address the issue of sex education for adolescences, but we recommended that additional steps should be taken, such as more actively engaging civil society organizations, and the Government should set up public debate while the mass media to raise the awareness in the general population.

The Committee also recommended providing the specific curriculum on the right to sexual and reproductive health for both boys and girls at all levels of education, which should be comprehensive, scientifically accurate and up to date. At this respect, I would like to revalue to the new General Comment No. 22 on sexual and reproductive rights adopted by the Committee of Economic Social and Cultural Rights last year.

On the situation of LGBTI persons, the example of the problem of intersex people was one that singled out, and we suggest that the enforcement of Taiwan should formulate policy guidelines, such as on the prohibition of medically unnecessary operations removing otherwise healthy reproductive organs.

As you can see from the issues discussed, a very wide variety of problems on economic, social and cultural rights were addressed. We appreciated, and I restate this, the open, frank and very constructive dialogues with many departmental staff that came to us. And the detail and informative submissions by Taiwanese civil society that had made our review process considerably easier.

So, we concluded that important steps were taken in the reporting period justifying this unique process, but despite these achievement in part of rights realization, quite a number of problems remain. Thank you.

[Minister without Portfolio, Lin, Mei-chu]

We thank the two chairpersons very much, for they just shared their thoughts with us. I would like to ask if there is any other member of the Committee who wants to share with us.

[Heisoo Shin]

Thank you. Good morning. I have been participating in this review of ICCPR and ICESCR two times now, as well as CEDAW’s review two times, so for me, I think I am the person who comes to Taiwan very often. And I commend this government initiative. So, I say about Taiwan’s efforts to voluntary ratify and made this review very much to people in Geneva as well as other sites whenever I had the chance.

While I believe that there is a good, strong, political will of Taiwanese Government to meet the obligation under international law, but at the same time, I have a little doubt whether there is any real will for implementation. Because when I see the result is not satisfactory to me.

Many of us are professors teaching in the university, including myself, so this is our assignment to you for the next 4 years and I hope all your assignments done during the next 4 years, and we would see A+. So, for the next 4 years I hope to see that it would be national human rights action plan implemented by the Executive Yuan, and I also see Legislator Yu, Mei-nu, so I depend on you and your colleagues in the Legislative Yuan to do your homework, while I also expect that the Judicial Yuan would do their part for the next 4 years.

In conclusion I would like to see this is not as a one-time event, but a truly committed process. So until we see you next time, hopefully, you will all be diligent at your working and thank you very much.

[Minister without Portfolio, Lin, Mei-chu]

We thank the member of the Committee from Korea, who gave us instruction and assignment for everyone. Next, shall we invite Professor Cohen, please?

[Jerome Cohen]

I just have a few words. I am not a specialist in the UN human rights organization or anything else. I have learned a lot from the two chairpersons and the other Committee members about international human rights by the first meeting 4 years ago. I thought that was highly educational experience for me as well as everyone else. I want to communicate to you by huge respect for what my colleagues had done here. They have really contributive great amount that we were in Mainland China they were all be called *Laodong Mofan*, labor hero of socialism, and I hope this process is useful, and we would like to take credit for at least stimulating some concern about many matters we cover.

I agree with what Professor Nowak said that the review process here, although building on the actual UN committee on human rights and other review committee experience, is really better. It gets more time. We have more opportunity to hear from various government officials. It opens up more opportunities for the NGOs to appear, have personal contact, so I thought they did the better job of this time than even 4 years ago. So, this could set an example for more thorough kind of review by the official UN human rights committees.

I want to endorse another point that Professor Nowak made about Taiwan taking the lead in terms of establishing progress on many human rights points. We heard an argument that we frequently hears in the course of hearing that in Taiwan, we are not advanced country, and if the US hasn’t done this, and if Japan hasn’t done this, how could we be expected to do anything? I think that’s an old-fashioned point. It does not comport the economic, social reality and it doesn’t comport with the needs of Taiwan to be seen as a leader in human rights. You *are* an advanced country.

This morning I thought that Taiwan can even go further in borrowing from the UN experience and building on it. We only meet here every 4 years. Many of the subjects we addressed are very complicated. They require much longer study and thought than we can give in very brief visit. UN also has a practice, designated experts as special rapporteurs, who were invited to visit a country to examine as specific time and for a longer period. For example, some years ago Professor Nowak was invited, after 10 years waiting for the opportunity, by Mainland China to come and give a report on the practice of torture. He spent a lot of time in preparation in the country and preparing the very influential report. You could interpret his mandate very narrowly and just focus on torture specifically. Instead, he gave PRC a very comprehensive critique on criminal justice system. They may not invite him back again, but it was a wonderful precedent I think from which many people in China learned, and from which many of us on the outside learned. You may expect that some of these are controversial questions. You could invite special rapporteurs and build upon that UN experience.

While we were meeting this week, there was huge interest worldwide in a statement made on Saturday by the Chief Justice of China to the assemble high court judges of the country, in which Zhou Qiang, the head of the court system, and noted to be quite enlighten person on the Communist Party leadership. He lectured and even warned the judges of China that they should not in their work respect the international values that you people has done such a good job in the last quarter of the century in putting into effect. He told them they should not reflect support for constitutionalism or independent judiciary or separation of powers, for all of that so called Western value should go out of the window. This is quite interesting contrast with our considering here. Chairman Mao once said, “Never under estimate the power of making it an example.” This is pretty good negative example was taking place in Beijing now.

My final point is to elaborate on significance of Taiwan’s human rights progress. This is the hugely different place from the place I first visited in 1961. This is not only an intrinsic importance because of way you have come practice human rights improving your lives, but it also has profound political significance. Your security, the right to enjoy all political and civil rights is in stake in the next period to come. And you need to not only practice human rights to the extent possible but also to let the world know your progress, and of course it’s especially important in the US where we have, not the international, but Taiwan Domestic Relation Act. The Taiwan Relation Act, I should say. “Domestic”, that is ambiguous commitment to come to the defense of Taiwan.

The American people need to know why they should fulfill the commitment. The more they know of your practice and progress, that the more likely that is, the people will have the ideological motivation to come to your defense, despite the uncertainty of Mr. Trump’s inauguration today, and despite the difficulty of the US government has been involved in the Near East and elsewhere.

Human rights not only get you enjoy the human rights, but is the best guarantee of your security in the future. You got to do much more to let the world know of your progress. It’s not enough to make that progress. You got to do more to advertise, to let people know about it. I am glad to see such a large group and some of the representatives of press here to start this off.

[Minister without Portfolio, Lin, Mei-chu]

Thank you. I think many members of Committee also want to address. However, there will be a banquet held by the President to thank the Committee. So, if we can let the press raise one or two questions first, and see if there is still time, then we invite our members of Committee to speak.

Thank you. Please tell us which media you belong to and make your question brief. Shall we preserve the time for members of Committee. Let the media ask question first.

[Journalist 1]

I am on behalf of Taipei Times and Liberty Times English. My question is about the issue of Indigenous people. President Tsai made a formal apology to the Indigenous peoples on behalf of Taiwan Government last August. I want to ask, during the four years, the recent meetings, and the dialogue with the Government and NGOs, do you find any progress of the Government? I would like to ask about the issue about Ping-pu people, for they are being treated as ordinary people by the Council of Indigenous Peoples. Ping-pu peoples have no rights. The leaders of Ping-pu people said that they are rejected by the Council of Indigenous Peoples, and they have no any rights. Therefore, I want to ask Ms. Jannie Lasimbang from Malaysia, who is the specialist of UN for issue of indigenous peoples and cares a lot about Taiwanese Indigenous peoples for a long time. Thank you.

[Minister without Portfolio, Lin, Mei-chu]

In order to save time, I will let the press ask another question first, and then we have members of Committee answer the questions.

[Journalist 2]

I have two questions to ask. First one is about what Mr. Nowak just mentioned, the uniqueness of this kind of review model, the meaning of this review model to Taiwan, could you share more details with us? Taiwan is not a member of UN, but we still have the Review Meeting. Could you explain for us about the importance of it? The other question is about the importance of Taiwan to the United States which Professor Cohen addressed. Could you elaborate that?

[Minister without Portfolio, Lin, Mei-chu]

Thank you. I will let the member of Committee speak first.

[Jannie Lasimbang]

Thank you very much, Taipei Times. Yes, this has been considered by the Review Committee very seriously. In fact, we have many recommendations in our Concluding Observations and Recommendations. We address this issue on the Ping-pu peoples’ identification, and we see that the Government has already started the process. The recommendations of the Review Committee focus on ensuring the Indigenous people, in particular also the Ping-pu peoples involved in this identification and their guarantee of full equal participation and representation.

Since the last Review, the Government had reviewed the older laws that violate the Indigenous People Basic Law and they recommended this be effectively enforced. In my view, we have to strengthen this and ensure that all this change and enforcement have done right the first time.

And I think the media and young people in the following of this process is extremely commendable. I think that would be the best way to actually monitor the process to work together to contribute, so I would like to acknowledge that many young people were there in this process, so do continue to do that. I believe there is a lot of misunderstanding of who Indigenous people are. I think that needs to be done by all the departments and the work of civil societies as well. Thank you very much.

[Miloon Kothari]

Good morning everybody. I just want to also response to the question on the Indigenous. I think the difference between what happen last time and now is the economic policies in Taiwan are working against not only the Indigenous but also against informal settlers and other across the country. We see a very clear claim of the right to property dominating over the right to land and housing. I think this is creating the problem, that is more land expropriations, more land consolidations. I would very sincerely to request the Government of Taiwan to re-formulate economic policies, so that particularly the economic, social and cultural rights are respected. I think that the market-based approach is not working for thousands of people in Taiwan, and it is leading to forced evictions, displacement, and large projects which also involved Indigenous people, not only the Indigenous. So, this is a serious flaw in national government. And as we pointed out earlier, the situation that the economic policies need to be re-formulated.

[Manfred Nowak]

Just speak to the question of why you have such unique process. Imagine, any other country that is really trying to their best effort to ratify, fully ratify UN human rights treaties and the UN still says, “No, you are not allowed.” And nonetheless they say, “OK, we still want to be bound by UN treaties and we do it on our own. We will invite fully independent experts do scrutinize what we are doing here.” That is something totally unique and being extremely cooperative. In our review process, civil society was invited, and reports we have received from civil society were extremely comprehensive and very critic. And all that have been taken into account into this review.

As for your second question, I fully agree with Professor Cohen. It is essential, not only, to be the most advanced country in human rights in Asia-Pacific region, but also to communicate that, of course, primarily to the people in the US, which is the strongest partner that you need. And there is not only Mr. Trump who seems to be sitting there. But also for instance of Europe Union, the EU could also possible be an important partner. They are following very much what’s going on, but for instance, for them it’s really essential to abolish the capital punishment in order to show you are the leader of human rights.

[Minister without Portfolio, Lin, Mei-chu]

Thank you. For the sake of time, we will have the last question.

[Journalist 3]

The State Reports were made by the previous government last year, and now we have a new DPP government. We wonder what the difference is between the new DPP government and the previous KMT government. Is there more insight about it? Last question is about transitional justice. One of the reasons for the DPP won the election is that they promised to improve the human rights situation in Taiwan, especially the transitional justice. However, it’s a pity that about the issue of the transitional justice, many people, including formal political prisoners, are disappointed on the new Government, who ignores the promise. For example, there is no approval of the Transitional Justice Act. Especially about the Article 9 of the National Security Act, which interferes the justice of wrong trials or injustice cases from appealing, is not abolished. I wonder if the Committee cares about it. Another thing is that I hope all the friends here can have chance to express their opinions. Thank you.

[Minister without Portfolio, Lin, Mei-chu]

Thank you. Professor Samar, could you answer the question, please?

[Sima Samar]

Good morning, everyone. On transitional justice, I think one of the issues that I think is really important is that, the justice is basic human right and one of the important ingredients of democracy. If you do not have justice, the democracy would not be a full democracy. The second issue is that the justice or provision of justice do not bound on time and location. So, I think it is important for Taiwanese Government in order to take a serious action to facilitate people’s access to the justice.

The current point I would like to raise in this regard is that, in order to have a sustainable reconciliation in the country, the Government has to take action and participate in making people access the justice and the information. Finally, I would say that we have to stop on human rights violation, not only in Taiwan, but we have to promote justice to the people who has been threatened by human rights violation.

Just use the time given to me I would like to have another point also. I think the ratification of documents on human rights should not be only bound to the member of UN. Because the importance is that you promote and protect human rights of the people who live in this country. I think it’s the responsibility of Government to do that. So, it doesn’t require the member of UN in order to apply these values and principles of human rights.

And I want to add a small comment on establishing the Human Rights Commission. Human Rights Commission needs to be established if you are serious on the promotion to implement human rights in this country. So, it requires being fully independent, inclusive, including people with disabilities, and also the indigenous people with enough financial support in order to be able to support protection, promotion of human rights. And thank you very much.

[Minister without Portfolio, Lin, Mei-chu]

Thank you. Originally, that was the last question. But for the request of the press, and we also inquired the opinion of the members of Committee. Since we had sufficient time to let the civil sectors to express their opinions, please make your address brief. The time is up. We need to respect the international etiquette for the members of the Committee, shall we?

[Representative of citizen group]

Thank you. I want to say that we need to have a rational brain. But we read the last page and we hope that we can be the pioneer the discrimination on fighting sexual orientation and gender identification in Asia-Pacific region. Then, have we assessed the impact of it? Have we disclosed clearly for the procedural justice? If there is no procedural justice, it has no justification on law. Another one, if the law amended, should we have clear rational dialogue in culture and education? If there is opposite opinions then you suppresses it, it is autocratic and feudal. Many children and parents, I know more than a thousand of parents in schools, they all against the content of gender equality education, improperly teaching materials. Then, on this issue, I also would like to inspire to face this issue. What is the label of “homophobia?” What is the label of “heterosexual hegemony?” What is the “gender spectrum?” Is the gender dissociated? Is the lust drifting? If a child who is born of disabled, if the children are conjoined twins, then we give them correction or treatment after the child was born immediately, that is humanism, and also is human rights. Then, we have many friends who have homosexual tendency; they are being depressed, for they cannot seek professional correction now. Because the law depresses them, excludes us… [*Time’s up*]

[Minister without Portfolio, Lin, Mei-chu]

You had sufficiently expressed your opinion, shall we end this session?

I have to apologize for not controlling the time well. I think we should show our respect to the members of Committee. Nonetheless, I thank the members of Committee for come from afar, and worked so late last night. And yet, today’s press conference took so long. Thank you. And I also thank everyone who provided observations and experiences. I believe that human rights in our country will be improved and promoted much better. Thank you.