



**SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**STATEMENT
ON THE RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG**

22 December 2021

Vilnius

The Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania,

referring to the draft Resolution on Human Rights in Hong Kong submitted to the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania in 2020; *stressing* that Hong Kong has long been an example of a vibrant and free society in East Asia and that the international community is deeply interested in Hong Kong's stability and prosperity; and *condemning* all steps that undermine the legitimacy of the Hong Kong elections,

building on the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, which establishes the right to life, liberty and security of person and freedom of expression and stresses that no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,

having regard to Resolution No XIV-65 of the Seimas of 10 December 2020 on the Long-term Guidelines and Continuity of the Foreign and European Policies of the Republic of Lithuania, which stresses that the fundamental values enshrined in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union are respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights,

emphasising that the decision of the People's Republic of China to impose the National Security Law on Hong Kong without consulting the Legislative Council of Hong Kong and thus violating Hong Kong's autonomy is in direct conflict with China's international obligations under the principles of the legally binding Sino-British Joint Declaration, registered with the United Nations, and undermines the 'One Country, Two Systems' framework enshrined in the Declaration,

responding to massive disqualifications, searches and detentions of Hong Kong's residents who participated in the primary elections of July 2020 and members of the Legislative Council of Hong

Kong (pursuant to the newly adopted National Security Law that restricts the freedoms of the people of Hong Kong, destroys Hong Kong's autonomy and, consequently, undermines preconditions for Hong Kong's prosperity); and *reacting* to the postponement of the general elections to the Legislative Council of Hong Kong,

taking into consideration the obligations of the People's Republic of China, as a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council, to 'uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights' and to 'fully cooperate with the Council',

pursuing the 'One China' policy,

noting that the new system of screening of candidates has restricted their freedom to stand in election and prevented opposition candidates from winning a single seat out of the 20 elected seats in the Legislative Council of Hong Kong of 90 members and that opposition candidates have been detained or still remain in prison pending trial,

calls on the People's Republic of China:

- 1) to ensure democratic processes in Hong Kong, guarantee the right to vote and be elected in free and transparent democratic elections, and comply with international agreements and treaties;
- 2) to repeal the National Security Law in Hong Kong and return to compliance with the 'One Country, Two Systems' framework;

encourages the European Parliament, the European Commission and its President Ursula von der Leyen to review and prepare a clear position on Hong Kong's status as a special administrative region of the People's Republic of China;

invites the President and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania to create a mechanism for facilitating access to political asylum for Hong Kong's political dissidents on the basis of the Conclusions of the European Council of 13 July 2020 on Hong Kong.

Chair of the Committee

Žygimantas Pavilionis