**Annex I**

**Report on the External Promotion Work on Hong Kong by**

**Commerce and Economic Development Bureau**

 Under “One Country, Two Systems”, Hong Kong has the distinctive advantage of enjoying strong support of the Motherland while being closely connected to the world. Our crucial role in key national strategies, including the National 14th Five-Year Plan, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area development and the Belt and Road Initiative (“BRI”), provide Hong Kong with unlimited opportunities and make Hong Kong the only place in the world where the global advantage and the China advantage come together in a single economy. To promote these unique advantages to the global audience, Hong Kong has, through its 14 overseas Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (“ETOs”), 16 Invest Hong Kong (“InvestHK”) consultant offices and 50 Hong Kong Trade Development Council (“HKTDC”) offices, provided coverage to 65 cities in 128 countries. The HKSAR Government (“HKSARG”) aims to set up more consultant offices of InvestHK and HKTDC along the Belt and Road.

1. The HKSARG has a total of 14 overseas ETOs[[1]](#footnote-1) located in the cities of Hong Kong’s major trading partners, covering 56 countries in Asia, Europe, North America, the Middle East and Oceania. ETOs are the official representatives of the HKSARG in countries under their respective purviews. Their primary responsibilities are to foster bilateral relations and liaison with government officials, business leaders and interlocutors in regions under their purview, organise or co-organise different promotional activities, and rebut misinformation where necessary, so as to tell the Hong Kong story by promoting our unique status under the “One Country, Two Systems” framework, our multi-faceted advantages and our commitment to core values such as the rule of law, free trade and multilateral co-operation. In addition, the ETOs provide support to the Chief Executive (“CE”) and Principal Officials’ overseas visits to attend international events and meet with high-level government officials, such as CE’s visits to the Middle East (February 2023) and ASEAN (July 2023).
2. The mission of InvestHK is to, through organising conferences, roadshows, seminars and marketing campaigns in both traditional and emerging markets, proactively engage potential investors and major stakeholders such as relevant government agencies, thereby attracting and retaining foreign direct investment. To achieve the above, InvestHK identifies and reaches out to multinational corporations and leading corporates in key geographical markets around the world, through the 17 Dedicated Teams for Attracting Businesses and Talents set up at 12 overseas ETOs[[2]](#footnote-2) and 5 Mainland ETOs, as well as 16 consultant offices in key locations not covered by the Dedicated Teams. As of September 2023, these Dedicated Teams have since their establishment conducted over 4 450 meetings with target enterprises and clients. Meanwhile, in the first nine months of 2023, InvestHK has completed 300 projects, an increase of 27% when compared with the same period in 2022. In this regard, InvestHK has, on a pro-rata basis, well-exceeded the corresponding performance indicator set out in the 2022 Policy Address, namely to attract at least a total of 1 130 companies to set up or expand their operations in Hong Kong from 2023 to 2025, an increase of 16% over the annual average number in 2020 and 2021.
3. HKTDC assists in developing Hong Kong’s external trade. With 50 offices globally, including 13 in the Mainland, it promotes, through international exhibitions, conferences and business missions, Hong Kong as a two-way global investment, trade and business hub. It also provides business support programmes, market research and industry information via digital and physical channels. Since the resumption of normalcy, HKTDC resumed its flagship “Think Business, Think Hong Kong” campaign in overseas markets to promote bilateral trade and investment between Hong Kong and major international partners. Moreover, the HKSARG and HKTDC jointly organised the eighth edition of the annual Belt and Road Summit in September 2023 to actively promote Hong Kong as a functional platform and a key link for the BRI, attracting some 6 000 participants, among them some 90 government and business leaders from more than 70 countries, and resulted in the signature of 21 memoranda of understanding.

**Commerce and Economic Development Bureau**

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1. The 14 ETOs are located in Berlin, Brussels, Dubai, Geneva, Jakarta, London, New York, San Francisco, Singapore, Bangkok, Sydney, Tokyo, Toronto and Washington DC respectively. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Dedicated Teams were not set up in the Geneva and Washington ETOs. The Geneva ETO is the representative of Hong Kong, China in the World Trade Organization and the Trade Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and is mainly responsible for handling issues relating to these organisations. The work on bilateral economic and trade relations with Switzerland is handled by the Berlin ETO. The Washington ETO is mainly responsible for liaising with the political circle in the United States, and the New York ETO is responsible for attracting businesses and talents in the eastern states of the United States. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)