

### **Question 1**

**Do you agree with our proposal to introduce a code provision ("CP") requiring an issuer's board to set culture in alignment with issuer's purpose, value and strategy?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

Yes, agreed with the proposal to introduce a CP requiring an issuer's board to set culture in alignment with issuer's purpose, value and strategy. After all, the culture of a company may influence how investors view the investment value of the company and shape the perception of other stakeholders

### **Question 2a**

**Do you agree with our proposal to introduce a CP requiring establishment of an anti-corruption policy?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

Yes, agreed. It suffices the disclosure of Aspect B7 Anti-corruption under Appendix 27 Environmental, Social and Governance Reporting Guide.

### **Question 2b**

**Do you agree with our proposal to upgrade a Recommended Best Practice ("RBP") to CP requiring establishment of a whistleblowing policy?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

Yes, agreed. This is crucial to upholding good corporate governance.

### **Question 3**

**Do you agree with our proposal to introduce a CP requiring disclosure of a policy to ensure independent views and input are available to the board, and an annual review of the implementation and effectiveness of such policy?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

Yes, agreed. This shall ensure the unbiased views and input from directors and INED are accessible to the board.

**Question 4a**

**Do you agree with our proposal regarding re-election of an independent non-executive director serving more than nine years ("Long Serving INEDs") to revise an existing CP to require (i) independent shareholders' approval; and (ii) additional disclosure on the factors considered, the process and the board or nomination committee's discussion in arriving at the determination in the explanation on why such Long Serving INED is still independent and should be re-elected?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

Yes, agreed with the proposal regarding re-election of Long Serving INEDs with 9 years or above. This shall justify why such Long Serving INED is still independent and shall be re-elected.

**Question 4b**

**Do you agree with our proposal to introduce a CP requiring an issuer to appoint a new independent non-executive director ("INED") at the forthcoming annual general meeting where all the INEDs on the board are Long Serving INEDs, and disclosing the length of tenure of the Long Serving INEDs on the board on a named basis in the shareholders' circular?**

No

**Please give reasons for your views.**

No, not agreed. The proposal shall limit the flexibility on choice of candidates. Given that INED has joined with several liabilities, it may be difficult to find a right candidate.

**Question 5**

**Do you agree with our proposal to introduce a new RBP that an issuer generally should not grant equity-based remuneration (e.g. share options or grants) with performance-related elements to INEDs as this may lead to bias in their decision-making and compromise their objectivity and independence?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

Yes, agreed with the proposal to introduce a new RBP as the first step.

**Question 6a**

**Do you agree with our proposal to highlight that diversity is not considered to be achieved by a single gender board in the note of the Rule?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

Yes, agreed. The proposal sends out a strong signal that companies need to embrace diversity in the board room through gender diversity.

**Question 6b**

**Do you agree with our proposal to introduce a Mandatory Disclosure Requirement ("MDR") requiring all listed issuers to set and disclose numerical targets and timelines for achieving gender diversity at both: (a) board level; and (b) across the workforce (including senior management)?**

No

**Please give reasons for your views.**

No, we suggest requiring corporates to disclose their policies in this aspect instead of numerical targets and timelines.

**Question 6c**

**Do you agree with our proposal to introduce a CP requiring the board to review the implementation and effectiveness of its board diversity policy annually?**

No

**Please give reasons for your views.**

No, not agreed. As the increase in workload is substantial compared to the benefits, we suggest the proposal to be established as a RBP instead.

**Question 6d**

**Do you agree with our proposal to amend the relevant forms to include directors' gender information?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

Yes, agreed. This will improve transparency and accessibility of the company's gender diversity at board level.

**Question 7**

**Do you agree with our proposal to upgrade a CP to Rule requiring issuers to establish a nomination committee chaired by an INED and comprising a majority of INEDs?**

No

**Please give reasons for your views.**

No, not agreed. We believe the proposal considerably restricts the flexibility of the company practices, and that the existing CP already ensures the independence of the majority of the INEDs.

**Question 8**

**Do you agree with our proposal to upgrade a CP to a MDR to require disclosure of the issuer's shareholders communication policy (which includes channels for shareholders to communicate their views on various matters affecting issuers, as well as steps taken to solicit and understand the views of shareholders and stakeholders) and annual review of such policy to ensure its effectiveness?**

No

**Please give reasons for your views.**

No, not agreed. In reality, there are few amendments to the shareholder communication policy made every year, thus review may not be necessary annually.

**Question 9**

**Do you agree with our proposal to introduce a Rule requiring disclosure of directors' attendance in the poll results announcements?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

Yes, agreed.

**Question 10**

**Do you agree with our proposal to delete the CP that requires issuers to appoint non-executive directors for a specific term?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

Yes, agreed.

**Question 11**

**Do you agree with our proposal to elaborate the linkage in the Code by (a) setting out the relationship between corporate governance and environmental, social and governance ("ESG") in the introductory section; and (b) including ESG risks in the context of risk management under the Code?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

Yes, Corporate Governance involves major decision making and should be involved in the risk management.

**Question 12**

**Do you agree with our proposal to amend the Rules and the ESG Guide to require publication of ESG reports at the same time as publication of annual reports?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

Yes, but flexibility should be allowed, such as including a summary of the ESG report in the annual report and a detailed ESG report will be published after.

**Question 13**

**Do you have any comments on how the re-arranged Code is drafted in the form set out in Appendices III and IV to the Consultation Paper and whether it will give rise to any ambiguities or unintended consequences?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

Yes. Words like “good attendance” could be subjective and ambiguous to the Board.

**Question 14**

**In addition to the topics mentioned in the Consultation Paper, do you have any comments regarding what to be included in the new guidance letter on corporate governance (i.e. CG GL) which may be helpful to issuers for achieving the Principles set out in the Code?**

No

**Please give reasons for your views.**

**Question 15a**

**Do you agree with our proposed implementation dates for all proposals (except the proposals on Long Serving INED): the financial year commencing on or after 1 January 2022?**

No

**Please give reasons for your views.**

No, it's a lot for companies to get used to the system of changes, there should be more than a year of time to prepare, say, on or after 1 January 2023.

**Question 15b**

**Do you agree with our proposed implementation dates for proposals on Long Serving INED: the financial year commencing on or after 1 January 2023?**

Yes

**Please give reasons for your views.**

Yes, agreed. We suggest aligning these implementation dates with those proposed in 15a (i.e. on or after 1 January 2023).