

International Organizations (Privileges and Immunities) (International Organization for Mediation Preparatory Office) Order gazetted

The International Organizations (Privileges and Immunities) (International Organization for Mediation Preparatory Office) Order (the Order) was gazetted today (December 23).

Pursuant to the Joint Statement on the Future Establishment of the International Organization for Mediation signed by the People's Republic of China and various foreign states, the International Organization for Mediation Preparatory Office (IOMed Preparatory Office) will be set up in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR).

The Order seeks to recognise the legal status of the IOMed Preparatory Office in the HKSAR, and implement the privileges and immunities as provided under the Arrangement on the Establishment of the International Organization for Mediation Preparatory Office in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region signed between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Central People's Government and the Government of the HKSAR on October 21, 2022, and enables the IOMed Preparatory Office to commence its substantive operations in early 2023.

"The establishment of the IOMed Preparatory Office in the HKSAR is an important step for taking forward the work relating to the negotiation of the relevant international convention and the other preparatory work relating to the establishment of the IOMed. The DoJ will fully support the work of the IOMed Preparatory Office to strengthen the HKSAR as an international legal and dispute resolution services centre in the Asia Pacific region under the National 14th Five-Year Plan and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area development plan", said the Secretary for Justice, Mr Paul Lam, SC.

The Order was made by the Chief Executive in Council under the International Organizations (Privileges and Immunities) Ordinance (Cap. 558).

The Order will come into operation today and will be tabled before the Legislative Council on January 11, 2023, for negative vetting.

Ends/Friday, December 23, 2022