

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Section 1 – The Office of the Third-term Chief Executive

1.1 The term of office of the second-term Chief Executive (“CE”) is due to expire on 30 June 2007. An election was required to be held, in accordance with the Basic Law and the Chief Executive Election Ordinance (Cap 569) (“CEEEO”), to return a candidate for appointment to fill the vacancy in the office of the CE for a five-year term commencing on 1 July 2007. The poll was held on Sunday, 25 March 2007, and this date was fixed in accordance with the requirements of section 10(1) of the CEEEO. Pursuant to section 12 of the CEEEO, the Secretary for Constitutional Affairs (“SCA”) published the polling date by a notice in the Gazette on 5 January 2007.

1.2 Annex I to the Basic Law stipulates that the CE shall be elected by the Election Committee (“EC”). As such, prior to the CE election, EC subsector elections were required to be held to constitute an EC for electing the third-term CE. The EC Subsector Elections were held on 10 December 2006. The term of the EC commenced on 1 February 2007.

Section 2 – The Scope of the Report

1.3 The Electoral Affairs Commission (“EAC” or “the Commission”) is required under section 8(1), (5) and (6) of the Electoral Affairs Commission Ordinance (Cap 541) (“EACO”) to submit a report on both the 2007 CE Election and the 2006 EC Subsector Elections to the CE within three months of the conclusion of the CE Election.

1.4 This report describes how the Commission conducted and supervised the various stages of the two elections. It sets out the relationship between the two elections and the legislative framework and electoral guidelines governing the elections. It also covers the detailed electoral arrangements for the two elections, including an account of the complaint cases received in respect of the elections and the recommendations put forth by the Commission for future improvements.