

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

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

1.1 The term of office of the fourth-term Chief Executive (“CE”) expires on 30 June 2017. In accordance with the Basic Law and the Chief Executive Election Ordinance (Cap. 569) (“CEEEO”), an election is required to be held to return a candidate for appointment by the Central People’s Government to fill the vacancy in the office of the CE for a 5-year term commencing on 1 July 2017. The CE Election was held on Sunday, 26 March 2017, and this date was fixed in accordance with section 10(1) of the CEEEO. Pursuant to section 12 of the CEEEO, the polling date was published by notice in the Gazette on 10 June 2016 by the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (“SCMA”).

1.2 Annex I to the Basic Law provides that the CE shall be elected by the Election Committee (“EC”). As such, prior to the conduct of the CE Election, Election Committee Subsector (“ECSS”) Ordinary Elections are required to be held to constitute an EC for nominating and electing the fifth-term CE. The ECSS Ordinary Elections were held on 11 December 2016. The new term of the EC commenced on 1 February 2017.

Section 2 – The Scope of the Report

1.3 The Electoral Affairs Commission (“EAC”) is required under section 8(1), (5) and (6) of the Electoral Affairs Commission Ordinance (Cap. 541) (“EACO”) to submit a report on the 2017 CE Election and the 2016 ECSS Ordinary Elections to the CE within 3 months of the conclusion of the CE Election.

1.4 This report describes how the two elections were conducted and supervised by the EAC at various stages and sets out the relationship between the two elections. In addition, it gives a detailed account of the preparatory electoral work, the implementation of the electoral arrangements and the handling of complaints. It also puts forth the EAC's recommendations for improvements in future elections taking into account the experience gained from the two elections and having reviewed the effectiveness of the electoral arrangements.