

## CHAPTER 4

### THE VOTING SYSTEMS

#### Section 1 – Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections

4.1 Apart from ex-officio members and EC members nominated by designated bodies of the relevant subsectors, the rest of the EC members for 36 subsectors are to be elected by eligible individual voters or corporate voters in the relevant subsectors at the ECSS Ordinary Elections. The voting system is the “first-past-the-post” system. A candidate has to be nominated by not less than 5 subscribers (i.e. registered voters of the subsector concerned) other than the candidate himself/herself. There were 13 contested subsectors and 23 uncontested subsectors in this election.

4.2 The number of seats of EC member to be returned by elections in each of the 13 contested subsectors varied from 12 to 80. A voter might vote for as many candidates as the number of seats as assigned to a subsector under the CEEO at the subsector ordinary elections, and no more. The candidates elected would be the candidate who obtained the highest number of votes followed by the candidate with the second highest number of votes, and so on, until all the vacancies were filled. In the event that there was still one vacancy to fill and the remaining most successful candidates had the same number of votes, the RO would have to determine which one of these candidates should be elected to fill the last vacancy by drawing of lots. The RO would publicly declare the candidates who are elected at the elections and publish the results of the elections in the Gazette.

4.3 For the 23 uncontested subsectors, the RO had publicly declared, by a notice published in the Gazette, that the validly nominated candidates of the aforesaid subsectors were duly elected.

## **Section 2 – Chief Executive Election**

4.4 For the CE Election, a candidate is required to have not less than 188 EC members nominating him/her, with not less than 15 EC members from each of the 5 sectors of the EC. Each EC member may nominate one candidate only, and the nomination shall not be withdrawn or revoked. In accordance with the CEEO, a poll shall be held in a contested election as well as in an uncontested election, and different voting systems will be adopted as appropriate. In both cases, if a candidate obtains more than 750 valid votes, he/she is returned at the election.

4.5 Where there are only two validly nominated candidates at the close of nomination period, the candidate who has obtained more than 750 valid votes in that single round of voting conducted for them will be returned at the election. The RO shall as soon as practicable publicly declare the candidate as elected in the election, and publish the result of the election in the Gazette. However, if no candidate has obtained more than 750 valid votes in that single round of voting and no candidate is returned at the election, the RO must publicly declare that no candidate is returned at the election, and publish the declaration and the result of the poll as well as a notice of termination of the proceedings for the election in the Gazette. In such a case, there will be a new round of nomination and the electoral process shall be repeated until a candidate is returned.

4.6 Where there are 3 or more validly nominated candidates, a candidate who has obtained more than 750 valid votes in the first round of voting at the election will be elected. Otherwise, all other candidates will be eliminated

except those who have obtained the highest and the next highest number (or the next highest and the same number) of valid votes, or those who obtained the highest and the same number of valid votes. If there are only two remaining candidates, a single round of voting shall be conducted for these two candidates as mentioned in paragraph 4.5 above. Otherwise, the aforesaid voting and elimination process shall be repeated until one candidate obtains more than 750 valid votes, or until two candidates remain, for which a single round of voting will be conducted as mentioned in paragraph 4.5 above. If one candidate obtains more than 750 valid votes at the end of any subsequent round of voting, the RO shall as soon as practicable publicly declare the candidate as elected in the election, and publish the result of the election in the Gazette.

4.7 In the event that only one CE candidate is validly nominated, each elector may cast either a “SUPPORT” vote or a “NOT SUPPORT” vote. The candidate shall be returned at the election if the number of valid “SUPPORT” votes obtained by him/her exceeds 750. The RO shall then publicly declare him/her as elected at the election, and publish the result of the election in the Gazette. Otherwise, the RO shall publicly declare that no candidate is returned at the election, and publish the declaration, the result of the poll and a notice of termination of the proceedings for the election in the Gazette. There will then be another round of nomination and, if necessary, the electoral process will be repeated until a candidate is returned.

