

## CHAPTER 6



# Summary of Conclusions

The main conclusions of our report are:

- As to its conduct and organisation, the Referendum was free and fair. Voters exercised their choice freely and in secrecy;
- We endorse, and commend, the critical role of the Director of Elections and his staff. The arrangements for the poll and the performance of the electoral officials were of high standard. They ensured a smooth and peaceful Referendum, and in doing so helped to further reinforce confidence in the electoral process;
- We welcome the adoption of the Code of Conduct and the guidance it provided to all political parties and electoral officials in the Referendum;
- The Constitutional Commission and its procedures deserve close and careful consideration. We believe an independent chairperson with no connection to party politics would greatly enhance its integrity;
- The Referendum has served to lay before the people of Seychelles the range of issues to be covered in a new Constitution. We believe the people, as well as the media, have legitimate interests in these matters. We suggest that opportunities be afforded for interested individuals and groups to express their viewpoints before the Constitutional Commission;
- With the commitment to the transition process and to multi-party democracy, we see the need to move forward with the work of the Commission so that the cause of democracy can be advanced without undue delay;
- We remain concerned about the issues recommended for attention by the Commonwealth Observer Group to the July election, especially in the linkages between party and state, the structure of the security agencies and the independence of the media. Such issues continue to cause dissension and dissatisfaction, and will require to be dealt with by all concerned – the Government, political parties and the Constitutional Commission.