



## **Commonwealth Observer Group Guyana National and Regional Elections 2011**

Dear Secretary-General,

The Commonwealth Observer Group has completed the final report of its observation of Guyana's National and Regional Elections, held on 28 November 2011. The Group is pleased to submit our report to you.

The 2011 elections built on the 2006 elections, and despite some shortcomings, represented further progress for the country in strengthening its democratic processes. Notably, the elections and their aftermath were not marred by violence, and there was significant improvement in the integrity of the voters' register – addressing a major recommendation of the 2006 Commonwealth Observer Group.

Overall, the elections were credible and many of the benchmarks for democratic elections were met, even though some concerns remain, particularly in respect to aspects of the campaign, and management of the tabulation process. In the report the Group has offered a number of recommendations for further strengthening the electoral process in Guyana, including measures to ensure a more level playing field between contestants in the campaign.

The Group notes that for the first time in Guyana, the party that won the presidency did not secure a majority of seats in parliament. We hope that all political parties will seize this historic opportunity to adopt a mature and constructive approach to governing the nation.

We wish to express our gratitude for the support provided to us by the Commonwealth Secretariat staff team.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this important mission. We hope that our report will contribute to the continued strengthening of democracy in Guyana.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denis Marshall". The signature is fluid and cursive.

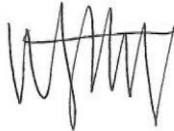
**Hon Denis Marshall QSO**  
Chairperson



**Hon Alan Ferguson**



**Mrs Taleya Rehman**



**Ms Wendy Sawatzky**



**Mr Gerald Burton**



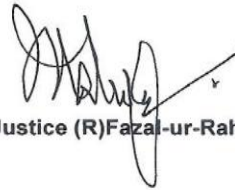
**Mrs Nana Oye Lithur**



**Ms Catherine Musuva**



**Mr Dafe Akpedeye SAN**



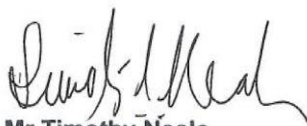
**Justice (R)Fazal-ur-Rahman Bazai**




**Mr Oliver Knight**



**Ms Adelle Zaira Roopchand**



**Mr Timothy Neale**



**Mr Goodwell Lungu**