



PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS (COPA)
15TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Salta, Argentina,
October 11-14, 2016



COMISIÓN DE
DEMOCRACIA Y PAZ
CONFEDERACIÓN PARLAMENTARIA DE LAS AMÉRICAS

Meeting of the Committee on Democracy and Peace
October 12, 2016

**INITIATIVE TO REFORM SECTION 1, A AND SECTION 2 OF THE BY-LAWS OF
COPA ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSIONS**

As written, we submit the following amendments to the plenary assembly:

ART. 1 AIMS

The electoral observation missions of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA) have the following aims:

- a. To testify impartially, to the voters and to the international community, as to the conduct of the electoral process (presidential and legislative elections, referendums, **as well as state and provincial elections or any equivalent legal entity**) and to certify their legality through electoral observation.

(...)

ART. 2 PROVISIONS FOR ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSIONS

2.1 Origin and processing of applications

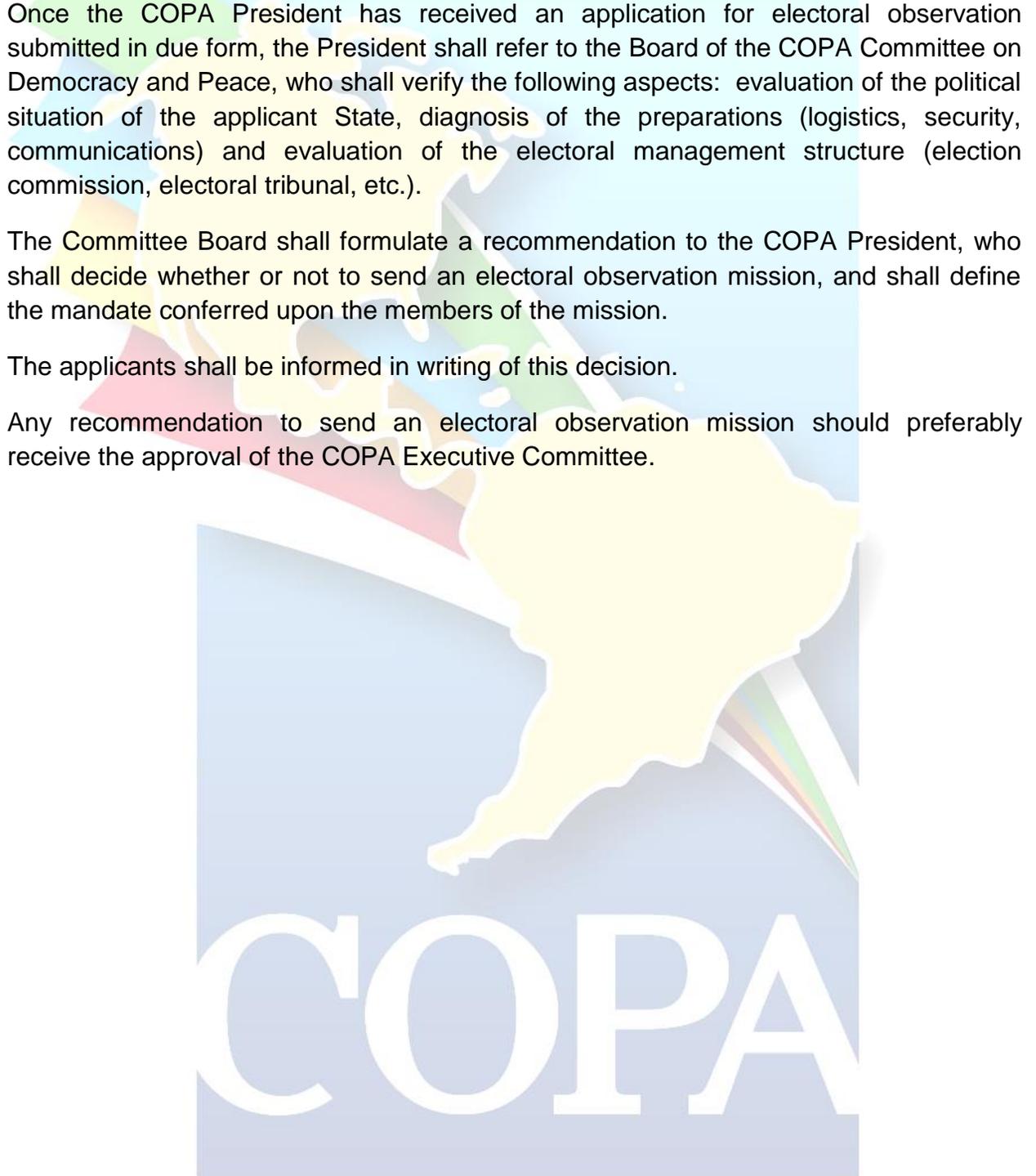
Any application for an electoral observation mission to be sent under the auspices of COPA must be submitted in writing to the President of COPA two (2) months before the election is to be held.

In order to be considered, any application must receive the approval in writing of the governmental authorities responsible for foreign affairs of the applicant State.

The electoral processes concerned shall be presidential and legislative elections, as well as referendums, should the need arise. **State and provincial elections or any equivalent legal entity should also be considered.**

COPA will only send one electoral observation mission between two general assemblies.

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Once the COPA President has received an application for electoral observation submitted in due form, the President shall refer to the Board of the COPA Committee on Democracy and Peace, who shall verify the following aspects: evaluation of the political situation of the applicant State, diagnosis of the preparations (logistics, security, communications) and evaluation of the electoral management structure (election commission, electoral tribunal, etc.).

The Committee Board shall formulate a recommendation to the COPA President, who shall decide whether or not to send an electoral observation mission, and shall define the mandate conferred upon the members of the mission.

The applicants shall be informed in writing of this decision.

Any recommendation to send an electoral observation mission should preferably receive the approval of the COPA Executive Committee.