



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

RESOLUTION ON THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN NICARAGUA

RECALLING that the Supreme Electoral Council announced the election call seven months late and that the election calendar does not take certain important aspects into account, notably recommendations made by the European Union, the Carter Center and the Organization of American States (OAS) in reports produced after the irregularities marking the 2011 election, raising questions as to the transparency and democratic nature of the electoral process;

CONSIDERING that the Government of Nicaragua refused monitoring by independent international observers for the upcoming November 6 elections;

CONCERNED by the revocation of the mandate of Deputy of 28 representatives elected by more than 30% of electors in the 2011 elections;

RECALLING that on June 8, 2016, after five years, the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court issued a decision recognizing the legitimacy of the recourses filed against the authorities of the Partido Liberal Independiente (Independent Liberal Party, PLI) – the political movement leading the national opposition coalition “Coalición Nacional por la Democracia” (national coalition for democracy) and comprising nine organizations – and designating Pedro Reyes Vallejos as the party’s new legitimate legal representative;

CONCERNED by the control exerted by the political party in power on electoral organization as a whole, including departmental, regional and municipal electoral councils, and by a procedure, deemed irregular, for establishing ID documents and the electoral list;

DENOUNCING the revocation of the right of representation of 28 deputies elected by more than 30% of electors in the 2011 elections;

CONSIDERING that, in light of these events, the public’s constitutional rights have been flouted, in particular, the principle of popular sovereignty and right to representation under Article 2 of the Constitution and the right to due process under Article 34 of the Constitution, following the arbitrary dismissal of the 28 National Assembly Deputies;

BEARING IN MIND that, in the Declaration of Managua for the Promotion of Democracy and Development [AG/DEC. 4 (XXIII-O/93)], “the member states expressed their firm belief that democracy, peace, and development are inseparable and indivisible parts of a renewed and integral vision of solidarity in the Americas; and that the ability of the Organization to help preserve and strengthen democratic structures in the region will depend on the implementation of a strategy based on the interdependence and complementarity of those values”;

We, the member parliamentarians of the congresses and parliamentary assemblies of unitary, federal, federated and associated States, regional parliaments and interparliamentary organizations of the Americas, gathered here in Salta, Argentina for the 15th General Assembly of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA) and the 14th Annual Meeting of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas;

EXPRESS our concern about the political consequences of the decisions of Nicaragua's Supreme Electoral Council in preparation for the November elections;

SHOW our support and solidarity with the Nicaraguan parliamentarians and the Nicaraguan People and stress the importance of solving the differences between the political forces in this country;

BRING these agreements to the attention of the members of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas and the international organizations with jurisdiction in these matters;

Respectful of the Nicaraguan legislation and the decisions made by its institutions,

ARE CONFIDENT that on November 6 will be held free, fair and observed elections in order to preserve peace;

SUPPORT measures aimed at restoring democratic order in this Central American country.

Unanimously adopted by the General Assembly of COPA on October 14, 2016, in the city of Salta, Argentina.



COPA

¡For a united Continent! 15th General Assembly