



## **A delegation of representatives from the Americas will observe Bolivian elections**

**La Paz, December 15, 2005**—Mr. Éric R. Mercier, a member of the Québec National Assembly, is heading up a delegation of parliamentarians from the **Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA)** who will observe the presidential and legislative elections in Bolivia on December 18. Along with Mr. Mercier, the delegation will include Mr. Pablo Franco Hernández, member of the Mexico Federal Congress, as well as Ms. Luciana Genro and Mr. Paes Landim, members of the Brazil Federal Congress.

COPA president Guillermo Landázuri Carrillo decided to send the delegation after receiving a request in this regard from authorities in the Republic of Bolivia. Upon arrival today, the delegation will meet with the main players in the electoral process to take stock of the situation in the country as it heads into the election. On voting day, the delegates will spread out around the capital city area of La Paz to observe the elections at as many polling stations as possible.

It will be COPA's first electoral observation mission since adopting a regulatory framework for missions at its General Assembly in Foz do Iguazu in May 2005.

The parliamentarians will be assisted by Mr. Jacques Paquet and Mr. André Maimoni, from the Quebec and Brazil COPA secretariats respectively, as well as Ms. Francine Barry, assistant to the Chief Electoral Officer of Québec.

Founded in Quebec City in 1997, the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA) brings together over 300 parliamentary assemblies of unitary, federal, federated, and associated states, as well as the regional parliaments and interparliamentary organizations of the Americas. It promotes dialog on issues related to inter-American cooperation and continental integration and helps strengthen parliamentary democracy and build the Americas into a community founded on respect for human rights and dignity, peace, democracy, solidarity among peoples, social justice, and gender equality.

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Source: Jacques Paquet  
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