



Parliamentarians satisfied with the election process in Bolivia

La Paz, December 20, 2005—A delegation of parliamentarians from the **Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA)** headed by Mr. Éric R. Mercier, a member of the Québec National Assembly, observed the presidential, legislative, and prefectorial elections in Bolivia on December 18, and expressed satisfaction with the voting process. The delegation also included Mr. Luciano Genro, member of the Federal Congress of Brazil, and Mr. Pablo Franco Hernández, member of the Federal Congress of Mexico.

On voting day, delegates spread out around the capital city area of La Paz to observe the election process in more than twenty polling stations. The members of the delegation noted that the electoral procedure was respected and that the vote ran smoothly. “I was impressed with the responsible citizenship and seriousness demonstrated by the Bolivian citizens in this election,” declared Mr. Mercier. “However, our delegation regrets that, with the application of the new legislative provisions, some voters were left off the electoral list and could not exercise their right to vote,” he added.

It was at the request of Republic of Bolivia authorities that COPA president Guillermo Landázuri Carrillo decided to send the delegation. Upon arrival on December 15, the delegation met with the main players in the electoral process to take stock of the situation in the country as it headed into the election.

It was COPA’s first electoral observation mission since adopting a regulatory framework for missions at its General Assembly in Foz do Iguacu in May 2005.

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 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.