



COPA Electoral Observation Mission in Nicaragua

PARLIAMENTARIANS CONGRATULATE THE NICARAGUAN PEOPLE ON A WELL-RUN ELECTION DAY

Managua, November 6, 2006—A delegation of twelve parliamentarians from the **Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA)** led by Mr. Éric R. Mercier, chair of COPA’s Democracy and Peace Committee and a member of the Québec National Assembly, observed Nicaragua’s presidential and legislative elections, which took place on November 5, 2006. The COPA delegation, which included Ms. Edda Acuña, first vice president of COPA and senator of the province of Buenos Aires in Argentina, and Ms. Jhannett Madriz Sotillo, former president of COPA and member of the Andean Parliament for Venezuela, along with nine other parliamentarians from Argentina, El Salvador, Mexico, Paraguay, and Venezuela, noted that voting proceeded calmly and in accordance with electoral rules in effect for this election.

On election day, the delegates went to the capital city of Managua and the departments of Carazo, Granada, León, and Masaya to observe election proceedings at close to fifty polling stations. Delegation members noted that election procedures were observed and voting ran smoothly. “I was extremely impressed by the patience, enthusiasm, and responsible citizenship demonstrated by citizens with respect to this major election,” stated Mr. Mercier. “The members of the delegation want to point out in particular the diligence of the polling officials and political party representatives in accomplishing their task,” added Mr. Mercier.

In addition to observing polling stations on election day, the COPA delegation attended important meetings with political party and civil society representatives upon their arrival on November 2, to learn about the situation in the country.

This was the fourth electoral observation mission organized by COPA since it set up a regulatory framework for organizing such missions in May 2005.

Founded in Québec 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. By taking an increasingly active role in election monitoring throughout the Americas, COPA has established its strategic importance in the consolidation of democracy.