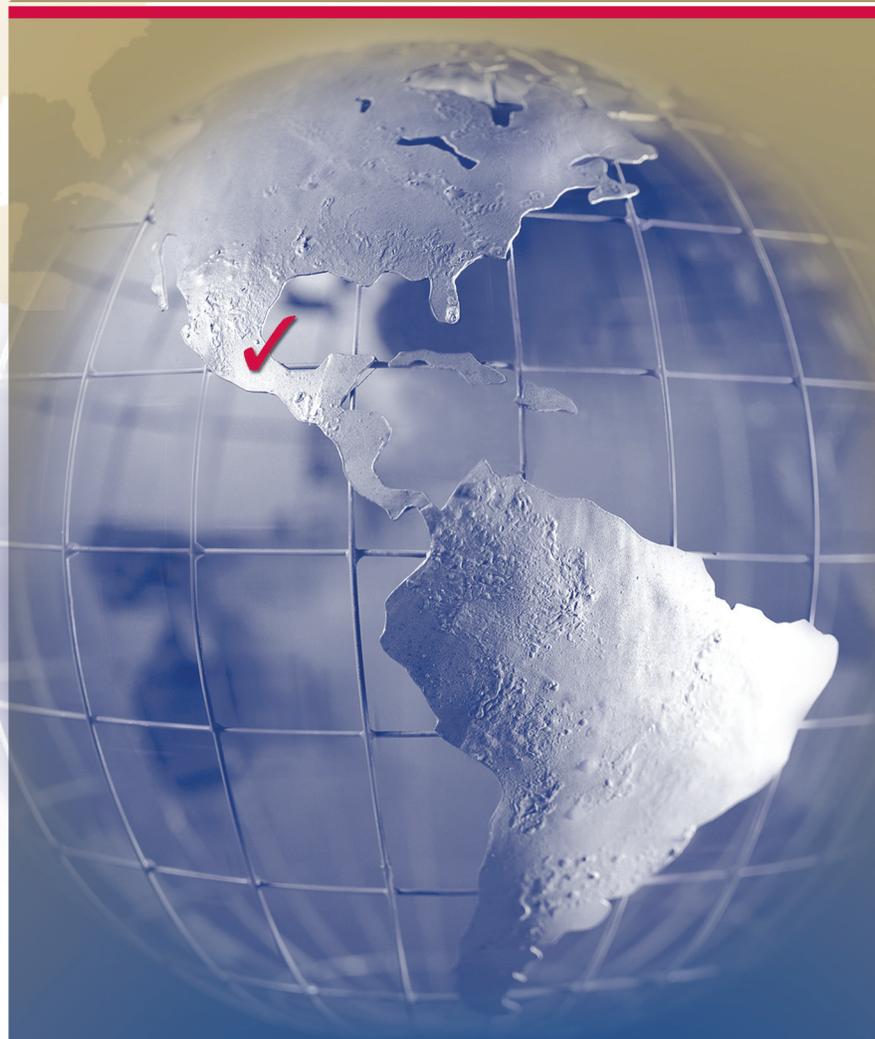




GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION IN THE STATE OF MEXICO

JULY 3, 2011

REPORT OF THE ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION



Parliamentary Confederation
of the Americas



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PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS

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INTRODUCTION

Created in 1997, the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA) is an interparliamentary organization that brings together the congresses and parliamentary assemblies of the unitary, federal and federated states, regional parliaments and interparliamentary organizations of the Americas.

Its goals include strengthening parliamentary democracy and building a community of the Americas founded on respect for human rights and dignity, peace, democracy, solidarity between peoples, social justice and gender equality.

To achieve this objective, COPA sought to take an active part in strengthening democracy in the Americas and so adopted the *By-laws of COPA Electoral Observation Missions* in May 2005.

From June 28 to July 4, 2011, a delegation of 12 COPA parliamentarians was in Mexico to observe the State of Mexico's gubernatorial election.

This was the 12th election observation mission organized by COPA,¹ which has developed electoral observation know-how and expertise over the years, and its first mission in a federated State.

The purpose of this report is to present the delegation's activities and findings during its visit to the State of Mexico, from June 28 to July 4, 2011. The report is divided into six sections:

- 1) Mission terms of reference**
- 2) Delegation members**
- 3) Mission activities prior to election day**
- 4) COPA mission findings**
- 5) Recommendations**
- 6) Conclusion**

¹COPA conducted observation missions during the following elections:

- Bolivian early general elections, December 18, 2005;
- Mexican presidential and legislative elections, July 2, 2006;
- First round of the Brazilian presidential and legislative elections, October 1, 2006;
- Nicaraguan presidential and legislative elections, November 5, 2006;
- First round of the Guatemalan presidential and legislative elections, September 9, 2007;
- Argentinian presidential and legislative elections, October 28, 2007;
- Paraguayan presidential election, April 20, 2008;
- Salvadoran general elections, March 16, 2009;
- Mexican legislative elections, July 5, 2009;
- Bolivian general elections and autonomy referendum, December 6, 2009;
- First round of the presidential elections in Colombia, May 30, 2010.

1. MISSION TERMS OF REFERENCE

In a letter dated March 10, 2011, the Electoral Institute of the State of Mexico (IEEM) invited COPA's Committee on Democracy and Peace to form a delegation of international observers for the State's gubernatorial election on July 3, 2011.

After considering the matter, Jacques Chagnon, President of COPA and President of the National Assembly of Québec, sent a letter to the members of COPA's Executive Committee, asking them to inform their respective parliamentary assemblies of the planned mission and to recruit parliamentarians as observers for this electoral process.

In a letter dated June 24, 2011, COPA's President informed the State of Mexico's electoral authorities of the composition of the delegation, which would be led by **Mrs. Zulma Gómez**, First Vice-President of COPA and Senator of the Republic of Paraguay.

On June 29 and 30, as well as on July 1 and 2, 2011, the delegation held important working meetings with political party representatives, electoral authorities, Mexican political pundits and representatives of civil society organizations to gather information on the electoral process and the prevailing situation in the State on the eve of the vote.

On election day, the delegates dispersed to different regions of the State of Mexico to observe the vote in some 50 voting centres. The centres were chosen so as to ensure the COPA delegation obtains as broad a sample as possible of both urban and rural regions.

Three candidates faced off in the July 3 election, as follows:

Candidates for the July 3 election for the Governor of the State of Mexico

| Candidate | Party | Coalition |
|-----------------------------|--|--|
| Luis Felipe Bravo Mena | Partido Acción nacional – PAN (National Action Party) | |
| Eruviel Ávila Villegas | Partido revolucionario institucional – PRI (Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI)) | Unidos por Tí (PRI, PVEM, Nueva Alianza) |
| Alejandro Encinas Rodríguez | Partido de la Revolución Democrática – PRD (Party of the Democratic Revolution) | Unidos Podemos Más (PRD, PT, Convergencia) |

The election campaign for State Governor, supervised by the Electoral Institute of the State of Mexico (IEEM), officially began on Monday, May 16, 2011, and ran until June 29, 2011.

2. DELEGATION MEMBERS

The COPA delegation included **Zulma Gómez**, mission leader, First Vice-President of COPA and Senator of the Republic of Paraguay.

The other mission members were **Emilia Alfaro de Franco**, Deputy for the Republic of Paraguay, Vice-President of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas and member of the COPA Executive Committee; **Félix Carlos Baráibar**, Senator of the Republic of Uruguay and member of the COPA Executive Committee; **Gloria Bidegain**, Deputy of the Congress of the Argentine Nation and member of the COPA Executive Committee; **Alberto Monti**, Deputy for the Province of Santa Fe, Argentina; **Armando Enrique Sanchez Gómez**, Deputy of the Congress of the Republic of Guatemala; **Danielle Doyer**, Member of the National Assembly of Québec, Canada; **Hendrick W. Sakimin**, Member of the National Assembly of Suriname; **Patrick. C. Kensenhuis**, Member of the National Assembly of Suriname; **Walter Bonjaski**, Member of the National Assembly of Suriname; **Ope Pasquet Iribarne**, Senator of the Republic of Uruguay, and **Eber da Rosa Vásquez**, Senator of the Republic of Uruguay.

The parliamentarians were assisted technically and administratively by **Simon Bérubé**, advisor to the COPA Committee on Democracy and Peace, as well as **Denis Fontaine**, Assistant to the President and Secretary of the Electoral Representation Commission and Secretary General of the Chief Electoral Office of Québec.

Cristina Bidegain (Argentina), **Yessenia Dubón** (Guatemala), **Domingo Rojas Pereyra** (Dominican Republic), **Jesus Sosa** (Dominican Republic)², **Rehuel Lobato de Mesquita** (Suriname) and **Maria Rosario de León Manzor** (Uruguay) also accompanied the delegation.

3. MISSION ACTIVITIES PRIOR TO ELECTION DAY

3.1 Arrival of Delegation and Accreditation of Members

On arrival in Toluca on June 29, 2011, the COPA delegation issued a press release (Appendix I) announcing its objectives and the makeup of its delegation, and briefly introducing COPA.

3.2 Working Meetings with Representatives of Institutions and Organizations Involved in the Electoral Process

On June 29 and 30, as well as on July 1 and 2, 2011, the delegation attended several meetings to familiarize themselves with the State of Mexico's electoral system, to acquire a better understanding of the socio-political context in which this election was taking place and to learn more about the political drivers.

² Messrs. Rojas and Sosa participated in the IEEM's special guests program.

A copy of the program can be found in Appendix II of this preliminary report. The following sections give summaries of the discussions held and the information gathered during these working meetings:³

The electoral landscape: a summary of Mexican electoral reforms since 1946 – Wednesday, June 29, 2011, 5:00 p.m.

- Rodrigo Iriarte Garcia, attorney specializing in electoral law

Mr. Iriarte presented an overall portrait of state and federal electoral law reforms since 1946. He highlighted the inequalities in the institutionalization of the electoral authorities at the state level and briefly presented the electoral results of the last 10 years as they relate to the reforms implemented. Although the changes to the federal electoral system are reflected in federated entities, the State of Mexico has implemented its own special reforms in recent years, including:

- the elimination of common candidates;
- a reduction in the duration of electoral campaigns;
- a 10% reduction in the public funding of political parties.

Mr. Iriarte also presented the structure of the IEEM and the current election calendar.

Electoral Institute of the State of Mexico – Wednesday, June 29, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

- Jesus Castillo Sandoval, President of the IEEM General Council, accompanied by the Institute's advisors and directors

Mr. Castillo described the main steps leading up to the election day on July 3, 2011, mentioning that the election officers assigned to the more than 17,000 polling stations were randomly selected citizens. In all, 200,000 State citizens are involved in the electoral process, a number that in his view makes corruption difficult. Mr. Castillo also explained the workings of the preliminary result disclosure and the official ballot count, which would take place the Wednesday after the vote. The participants mentioned the low voter turnout and initiatives taken by the IEEM to address this problem. Lastly, Mr. Castillo informed the observers that the Federal Electoral Institute was responsible for updating the electoral list and issuing voter registration cards.

³ This report simply presents the views of the representatives of the institutions and organizations interviewed and should in no way be construed as an endorsement of their views.

The Partido Acción nacional (National Action Party) (PAN), Thursday, June 30, 2011, 1:30 p.m.

- Luis Felipe Bravo Mena, candidate

The candidate underscored the importance of having international observers present at Mexican elections. According to him, state electoral institutions do not have as strong a foundation as their federal counterpart. Mr. Bravo expressed his party's concerns about what he referred to as its "unequal treatment" by electoral institutions. According to the PAN, the PRI exceeded the permitted spending limit in the first 15 days of the campaign. He also denounced the use of the State police for the ruling party's benefit.

The PAN representatives also claimed that the seven IEEM advisors do not really represent the population and that the Institute lacks the trust and credibility needed to exercise its functions.

Mr. Bravo and his team invited the observers to pay special attention to what happens outside the voting centres on election day, saying they feared that a vote-buying system would be set up using mobile phone snapshots. They also raised the possibility that the PRI could incite people to vote by offering them food baskets. Finally, with an expected substitution rate of 30% for trained election officers, the PAN is worried that PRI sympathizers will be waiting outside at the crack of dawn to take the absent officers' place.

Meeting with the organization Grandeza Mexicana Nueva Generación, Thursday, June 30, 2011, 4:30 p.m.

- Jorge Alberto Embriz, representative

- Jorge Vargas Moreno, representative

Grandeza Mexicana Nueva Generación is a Mexican NGO founded six years ago comprising 35 civil society organizations from various fields. The organization, which has already observed a number of elections in Mexico, brought together and trained observers for the July 3 election. At the time of the meeting, the organization had certified 1,054 observers who were to be dispatched to over 40 municipalities in some 20 districts. The organization's representatives said that they had trouble having their members certified as observers. They also felt that the IEEM did not inspire as much confidence among the population as it should and that it would be better to have a unified electoral administration for all elected levels. They shared the PAN's concern about whether the election officers on duty on July 3 would in fact be those selected and trained by the electoral authorities.

One of Grandeza Mexicana's greatest worries is the low voter turnout. According to its representatives, a high turnout would dissuade the use of pressure tactics on voters. Concerning the PAN's allegations of unfair practices, they stated that they are not alone in this regard as all three political parties were experiencing the same thing. In their opinion, special attention should nevertheless be paid to the work of the police on election day.

The Unidos por ti (United for You) coalition (PRI-PVEM-Nueva Alianza) – Friday, July 1, 2011, 12:00 p.m.

- Eruviel Ávila Villegas, candidate

Mr. Ávila pointed out that his coalition was ahead in the surveys and had even picked up points since the beginning of the campaign whereas the PAN had fallen behind and the PRD coalition had made few gains.

The candidate mentioned that his campaign had been conducted legally and that he recognized the IEEM's authority. He underscored the fact that the law governing the nomination of IEEM advisors had been adopted by all the State Congress parties. As regards campaign spending, he reminded those present that since his party collected the most votes in the 2009 elections, it only made sense that its campaign budget be adjusted accordingly.

As for the Electoral Tribunal's decision to the effect that the *Unidos por ti* coalition carried out partisan activities before the official start of the campaign, Mr. Ávila claimed that the Tribunal did not render its judgment based on hard evidence. He invited his adversaries to present real proof if in fact they had any. As for the allegations concerning the use of the police force for the advantage of the PRI, Mr. Ávila replied that the job of the police was to ensure peace and order.

The candidate clearly stated that he would respect the ballot results. He invited the observers to pay special attention to the different types of pressure that could be exerted at the polling stations as well as to the work of the police on election day.

The Unidos podemos más (Together We Can Do More) coalition (PRD, PT, Convergencia) – Friday, July 1, 2011, 3:00 p.m.

- Victor Manuel Camacho Solís, national coordinator of *Diálogo para la Reconstrucción de México* (Dialogue to Rebuild Mexico), Mexican leftist coalition running in the July 2012 presidential election

According to the representative of the coalition candidate, there should not be more than a handful of minor incidents on election day. Mr. Camacho was more troubled by what had already transpired during this campaign, which in his view was marred by inequities. He said he had noted many irregularities throughout the process and added that the IEEM favoured the PRI. He especially lamented the fact that the Institute did not sanction what he considers violations of electoral law, more specifically, the campaign spending by the *Unidos por tí* coalition.

Mr. Camacho claimed that the public administration of the State of Mexico and the social services offered by the government had served the PRI electoral campaign, citing as an example that the State government increased the number of regional government service coordination centres from 11 to 45, which happens to be the exact number of electoral districts. A video was presented showing the government preparing an action strategy for the July 3 election.

Mr. Camacho decried the absence of sanctions against those who violate electoral law. He invited the observers to pay special attention on July 3 to how the organs of the State are used to mobilize the vote, as well as to the use of police forces for political ends. Mr. Camacho stated that his coalition would not respect the outcome of the vote but would accept a ruling by the federal court.

Discussion on the Mexican political situation, Friday, July 1, 2011, 8:00 p.m.

- Dr. Jorge A. Schiavon Uriegas, professor at the *Centro de Investigación y docencia económicas (CIDE)*

The professor discussed the behaviour of politicians and the police in the drug war while contextualizing the public's decreasing confidence in the army. He argued that the electoral representation system, including elements of a mixed electoral system, favours the three main parties. As regards the federal police force, Professor Schiavon felt that it was used for political ends by the PRI back when the party was in power and that they are now used by the PAN government. He also felt that the outcome of the July 3 election was sealed when the two main opposition parties (the PAN and PRD) were unable to set their differences aside to form a coalition.

In the professor's opinion, the IEEM fulfilled its mandate appropriately, adding that it remained to be seen how complaints would be handled. In his view, the decisions rendered to date have been founded in law (notably, the pre-campaign spending) but the IEEM did not clearly explain the reasons for its decisions at the political level. As for the anticipated problems on election day, he believed that the country was paying so much attention to this election that none of the political players could afford to break the rules.

Women in the Mexican political system, Saturday, July 2, 2011, 12:00 p.m.

- Carlos J. Guizar Rivas, Director of International Relations, PAN Executive Committee

After presenting his party's ideology based on individual freedom, Mr. Guizar stated that if people had enough to eat, you wouldn't be able to buy their votes with food. He pointed out two big problems in his country: no respect for the law, and impunity. He stated that in general, the governments do not really represent the proportion of women in the country, and he decried the fact that although the quota for female candidates is respected, many women elected through party lists resign after a few months and turn their seats over to their husbands.

4. COPA MISSION FINDINGS

4.1. Composition and deployment of COPA Observation teams⁴

On election day, the mission members divided into five teams of observers. Each team observed the opening of the polling stations in the municipality of Toluca before heading across the

⁴ Some of the persons accompanying the delegates also completed observation grids.

territory. They later returned to Toluca, the State capital, to assist with closing the polling stations and the vote count.

1- The first team, made up of representatives from Paraguay and Suriname, that is, **Zulma Gómez, Walter Bonjaski** and **Simon Bérubé**, observed voting operations in approximately 10 voting centres in Toluca (opening and closing) and Naucalpan.

| Municipality | District | Section | Polling station | Arrival time | Departure time |
|--------------|----------|---------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|
| Toluca | 4 | 4125 | Contigua | 7:55 a.m. | 8: 44 a.m. |
| Toluca | 4 | 4125 | Contigua | 7:55 a.m. | 8:45 a.m. |
| Naucalpan | 24 | 2784 | Basica | 9:45 a.m. | 10:00 a.m. |
| Naucalpan | 29 | 2784 | Contigua | 9:45 a.m. | 10:00 a.m. |
| Naucalpan | 29 | 2785 | Basica | 10:10 a.m. | 10:25 a.m. |
| Naucalpan | 29 | 2785 | Basica | 10:15 a.m. | 10:30 a.m. |
| Naucalpan | 30 | 2812 | Contigua | 10:50 a.m. | 11:00 a.m. |
| Naucalpan | 30 | 2812 | Basica | 10:50 a.m. | 11:03 a.m. |
| Naucalpan | 30 | 2830 | Contigua | 11:15 a.m. | 11:25 a.m. |
| Naucalpan | 30 | 2830 | Basica | 11:17 a.m. | 11:25 a.m. |
| Naucalpan | 30 | 2808 | Basica | 11:32 a.m. | 11:52 a.m. |
| Naucalpan | 30 | 2808 | Contigua | 11:35 a.m. | 11:55 a.m. |
| Naucalpan | 30 | 2837 | Contigua | 12:21 p.m. | 12:32 p.m. |
| Naucalpan | 30 | 2837 | Basica | 12:21 p.m. | 12:30 p.m. |
| Naucalpan | 29 | 2823 | Basica | 2:12 p.m. | 2:26 p.m. |
| Naucalpan | 29 | 2823 | Contigua | 2:17 p.m. | 2:27 p.m. |
| Naucalpan | 24 | 2855 | Contigua | 2:37 p.m. | 2:49 p.m. |
| Naucalpan | 29 | 2855 | Basica | 2:37 p.m. | 2:50 p.m. |
| Toluca | 1 | 5327 | Basica | 5:56 p.m. | 7:15 p.m. |
| Toluca | 1 | 5327 | Contigua | 5:53 p.m. | 7:15 p.m. |

2- The second team, made up of representatives from Argentina, Québec and Suriname, that is, **Gloria Bidegain, Danielle Doyer, Patrick Kensenhuis** and **Denis Fontaine**, observed voting operations in approximately 15 voting centres in the region of Toluca.

| Municipality | District | Section | Polling station | Arrival time | Departure time |
|--------------|----------|---------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|
| Toluca | 1 | 5222 | Basica | 7:45 a.m. | 9:05 a.m. |
| Toluca | 1 | 5222 | Contigua | 7:45 a.m. | 9:05 a.m. |
| Toluca | 1 | 5194 | Contigua | 9:17 a.m. | NA |
| Toluca | 2 | 5303 | Contigua | 10:12 a.m. | 10:34 a.m. |
| Toluca | 2 | 5303 | Contigua | 10:12 a.m. | 10:22 a.m. |
| Toluca | 2 | 5304 | Basica | 10:41 a.m. | 11:00 a.m. |
| Toluca | 2 | 5304 | Contigua | 10:51 a.m. | 11:06 a.m. |
| Toluca | 2 | 5304 | Contigua | 11:09 a.m. | 11:16 a.m. |
| Toluca | 3 | 5305 | Contigua | 11:23 a.m. | 11:35 a.m. |
| Toluca | NA | NA | Basica | 11:36 a.m. | NA |
| Toluca | 2 | 5187 | Basica | 12:48 p.m. | 12:58 p.m. |
| Toluca | 2 | 5187 | Contigua | 1:00 p.m. | 1:10 p.m. |
| Toluca | 2 | 5169 | Basica | 1:20 p.m. | 1:27 p.m. |

| Municipality | District | Section | Polling station | Arrival time | Departure time |
|--------------|----------|---------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|
| Toluca | 2 | 5169 | Contigua | 1:33 p.m. | 1:39 p.m. |
| Toluca | 1 | 5207 | Contigua | 1:55 p.m. | 2:07 p.m. |
| Toluca | 1 | 5207 | NA | 2:00 p.m. | 2:15 p.m. |
| Toluca | 2 | 5285 | Contigua | 2:30 p.m. | 2:35 p.m. |
| Toluca | 2 | 5225 | NA | 2:35 p.m. | 2:40 p.m. |
| Toluca | 2 | 5275 | Basica | 3:07 p.m. | 3:12 p.m. |
| Toluca | 2 | 5275 | Contigua | 3:12 p.m. | 3:16 p.m. |
| Toluca | 2 | 5175 | Basica | 3:27 p.m. | 3:40 p.m. |
| Toluca | 1 | 5175 | Contigua | 3:31 p.m. | NA |
| Toluca | 2 | 5175 | Contigua | 3:40 p.m. | 3:43 p.m. |
| Toluca | 2 | 5292 | Contigua | 4:00 p.m. | 4:04 p.m. |
| Toluca | 2 | 5292 | Contigua | 4:05 p.m. | 4:09 p.m. |
| Toluca | 2 | 5292 | Contigua | 4:13 p.m. | 4:22 p.m. |
| Toluca | 2 | 5295 | Basica | 4:40 p.m. | 4:44 p.m. |
| Toluca | 2 | 5295 | Contigua | 4:45 p.m. | 4:52 p.m. |
| Toluca | 1 | 4125 | Contigua | 5:10 p.m. | 5:13 p.m. |
| Toluca | 1 | 4125 | Basica | 5:14 p.m. | 5:20 p.m. |
| Toluca | 1 | 4152 | Contigua | 5:21 p.m. | NA |
| Toluca | 4 | 4124 | Contigua | 5:27 p.m. | 5:33 p.m. |
| Toluca | 4 | 4124 | Contigua | 5:32 p.m. | 5:35 p.m. |
| Toluca | 4 | 4124 | Basica | 5:32 p.m. | 5:43 p.m. |
| Toluca | 2 | 5185 | Contigua | 5:55 p.m. | 7:15 p.m. |

3- The third team, made up of representatives from Guatemala, Paraguay and Uruguay, that is, **Armando Enrique Sánchez Gómez**, **Emilia Alfaro de Franco**, **Felix Carlos Baráibar** and **Yessina Dubón**, observed voting operations in approximately 10 voting centres in the municipalities of Toluca (opening and closing), Ecatepec and Coacalco.

| Municipality | District | Section | Polling station | Arrival time | Departure time |
|--------------|----------|---------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|
| Toluca | 2 | 5192 | Basica | 8:10 a.m. | 8:38 a.m. |
| Toluca | 2 | 5192 | Contigua | 8:10 a.m. | 8:40 a.m. |
| Toluca | 2 | 5192 | Contigua | 8:15 a.m. | NA |
| Toluca | 2 | 5192 | Contigua | 8:25 a.m. | 8:30 a.m. |
| Ecatepec | 21 | 1331 | Contigua | 10:20 a.m. | 10:45 a.m. |
| Ecatepec | 21 | 1331 | Contigua | 10:20 a.m. | 10:50 a.m. |
| Ecatepec | 21 | 1331 | Contigua | 10:25 a.m. | 10:50 a.m. |
| Ecatepec | 21 | 1331 | Basica | 10:25 a.m. | NA |
| Ecatepec | 21 | 1302 | Contigua | 11:00 a.m. | 11:20 a.m. |
| Ecatepec | 21 | 1302 | NA | 11:00 a.m. | 11:20 a.m. |
| Ecatepec | 21 | 1302 | NA | 11:00 a.m. | 11:20 a.m. |
| Ecatepec | 21 | 1302 | Contigua | 11:00 a.m. | 11:20 a.m. |
| Ecatepec | 21 | 1302 | Contigua | 11:05 a.m. | NA |
| Ecatepec | 21 | 1332 | Contigua | 11:30 a.m. | 13:45 a.m. |
| Ecatepec | 21 | 1331 | NA | 11:31 a.m. | 11:45 a.m. |
| Ecatepec | 21 | 1333 | Basica | 11:50 a.m. | NA |
| Ecatepec | 21 | 1333 | Contigua | 11:55 a.m. | 12:05 p.m. |

| Municipality | District | Section | Polling station | Arrival time | Departure time |
|--------------|----------|---------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|
| Ecatepec | 21 | 6020 | Contigua | 11:58 a.m. | 12:05 p.m. |
| Ecatepec | 21 | 1333 | Basica | 12:00 p.m. | 12:05 p.m. |
| Ecatepec | 21 | 1334 | Basica | 12:10 p.m. | 12:35 p.m. |
| Ecatepec | 21 | 1334 | Contigua | 12:15 p.m. | 12:35 p.m. |
| Ecatepec | 21 | 1334 | Contigua | NA | NA |
| Coacalco | 38 | 594 | Contigua | NA | NA |
| Coacalco | 38 | 594 | Basica | 2:10 p.m. | 2:25 p.m. |
| Coacalco | 38 | 594 | Contigua | 2:13 p.m. | 2:25 p.m. |
| Coacalco | 38 | 594 | Contigua | 2:15 p.m. | 2:25 p.m. |
| Coacalco | 38 | 653 | Contigua | 2 :30 p.m. | NA |
| Coacalco | 38 | 578 | Contigua | 2:34 p.m. | 2:50 p.m. |
| Coacalco | 38 | 653 | Basica | 2:35 p.m. | 2:50 p.m. |
| Coacalco | 38 | 653 | NA | 3 :00 p.m. | 3:15 p.m. |
| Coacalco | 38 | 595 | Contigua | 3 :00 p.m. | 3:15 p.m. |
| Coacalco | 38 | 653 | Contigua | 3:20 p.m. | 3:30 p.m. |
| Coacalco | 38 | 653 | Contigua | 3:40 p.m. | NA |
| Coacalco | 38 | 598 | Contigua | 3:45 p.m. | NA |
| Toluca | 2 | 5185 | Contigua | 5:55 p.m. | 7:15 p.m. |
| Toluca | 2 | 5185 | Contigua | 5:55 p.m. | 7:05 p.m. |
| Toluca | 2 | 5185 | Basica | 5:55 p.m. | 7:00 p.m. |
| Toluca | 2 | 5185 | Contigua | 5:55 p.m. | NA |

4- The fourth team, made up of representatives from Argentina and Uruguay, that is, **Alberto Monti**, **Ope Pasquet** and **Maria Cristina Bidegain**, observed voting operations in approximately 10 voting centres in Toluca (opening and closing) and Nezahualcoyotl.

| Municipality | District | Section | Polling station | Arrival time | Departure time |
|----------------|----------|---------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|
| Toluca | 2 | 5190 | Contigua | 7:55 a.m. | 8:55 a.m. |
| Toluca | 2 | 5190 | Contigua | 7:55 a.m. | 8:55 a.m. |
| Toluca | 2 | 5190 | Basica | 7:55 a.m. | 8:55 a.m. |
| Nezahualcoyotl | 25 | 3302 | Contigua | 10:20 a.m. | 10:30 a.m. |
| Nezahualcoyotl | 25 | 3302 | Basica | 10:25 a.m. | 10:40 a.m. |
| Nezahualcoyotl | 25 | 3302 | Basica | 10:26 a.m. | 10:35 a.m. |
| Nezahualcoyotl | 32 | 3060 | Contigua | 10:45 a.m. | 11:00 a.m. |
| Nezahualcoyotl | 32 | 3060 | Contigua | 10:50 a.m. | 10:58 a.m. |
| Nezahualcoyotl | 32 | 3053 | Contigua | 10:55 a.m. | 11:00 a.m. |
| Nezahualcoyotl | 32 | 3053 | Basica | 11:00 a.m. | 11:05 a.m. |
| Nezahualcoyotl | 32 | 3053 | Contigua | 11:00 a.m. | 11:10 a.m. |
| Nezahualcoyotl | 32 | 3059 | Contigua | 11:06 a.m. | 11:11 a.m. |
| Nezahualcoyotl | 32 | 3053 | Basica | 11:10 a.m. | 11:15 a.m. |
| Nezahualcoyotl | 32 | 3058 | Contigua | 11:12 a.m. | 11:17 a.m. |
| Nezahualcoyotl | 32 | 3058 | Contigua | 11:12 a.m. | 11:18 a.m. |
| Nezahualcoyotl | 32 | 3058 | Basica | 11:15 a.m. | 11:20 a.m. |
| Nezahualcoyotl | 32 | 3058 | Basica | 11:15 a.m. | 11:20 a.m. |
| Nezahualcoyotl | 25 | 3057 | Contigua | 11:27 a.m. | 11:35 a.m. |
| Nezahualcoyotl | 25 | 3057 | Contigua | 11:27 a.m. | 11:35 a.m. |
| Nezahualcoyotl | 25 | 3057 | Basica | 11:36 a.m. | 11:40 a.m. |
| Nezahualcoyotl | 25 | 3057 | Basica | 11:36 a.m. | 11:40 a.m. |

| Municipality | District | Section | Polling station | Arrival time | Departure time |
|----------------|----------|---------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|
| Nezahualcoyotl | 25 | 3074 | Contigua | 11:50 a.m. | 11:55 a.m. |
| Nezahualcoyotl | 25 | 3074 | Basica | 11:50 a.m. | 11:55 a.m. |
| Nezahualcoyotl | 25 | 3454 | Basica | 12:00 p.m. | 12:10 p.m. |
| Nezahualcoyotl | 25 | 3455 | Contigua | 12:02 p.m. | 12:10 p.m. |
| Nezahualcoyotl | 25 | NA | Contigua | 12:05 p.m. | 12:12 p.m. |
| Nezahualcoyotl | 25 | 3454 | NA | 12:08 p.m. | 12:10 p.m. |
| Toluca | 2 | 5188 | Basica | 5:55 p.m. | 7:25 p.m. |
| Toluca | 2 | 5188 | Contigua | 5:59 p.m. | 7:25 p.m. |
| Toluca | 2 | 5188 | Contigua | 6:00 p.m. | 7:25 p.m. |

5- The fifth team, made up of representatives from Uruguay, that is, **Hendrick W. Sakimin, Eber da Rosa Vasquez, Rehuel Lobato de Mesquita** and **María del Rosario de León**, observed voting operations in approximately 10 voting centres in Toluca (opening and closing), Tlalnepantla and Atizapan.

| Municipality | District | Section | Polling station | Arrival time | Departure time |
|--------------|----------|---------|----------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Toluca | 2 | 5198 | Basica | 8:07 a.m. | 8:55 a.m. |
| Toluca | 2 | 5198 | Basica | 8:07 a.m. | 8:55 a.m. |
| Toluca | 2 | 5198 | Basica | 8:07 a.m. | 8:55 a.m. |
| Toluca | 2 | 5198 | Basica | 8:10 a.m. | 9:00 a.m. |
| Tlalnepantla | 37 | 5025 | Basica y 2 Contiguas | 10:20 a.m. | 10:40 a.m. |
| Tlalnepantla | 37 | 5025 | Basica | 10:20 a.m. | 10:40 a.m. |
| Tlalnepantla | 37 | 5025 | Contigua | 10:20 a.m. | 10:45 a.m. |
| Tlalnepantla | 37 | 5025 | Basica | 10:20 a.m. | 10:40 a.m. |
| Tlalnepantla | 18 | 4950 | Basica | 10:55 a.m. | 11:15 a.m. |
| Tlalnepantla | 18 | 4950 | Contigua | 10:55 a.m. | 11:12 a.m. |
| Tlalnepantla | 18 | 4950 | NA | 10:55 a.m. | 11:15 a.m. |
| Tlalnepantla | 37 | 4950 | Contigua | 11:00 a.m. | 11:15 a.m. |
| Tlalnepantla | 18 | 4869 | Basica | 11:35 a.m. | 12:00 p.m. |
| Tlalnepantla | 18 | 4869 | Basica | 11:35 a.m. | 12:00 p.m. |
| Tlalnepantla | 18 | 4869 | Basica | 11:35 a.m. | 11:50 a.m. |
| Tlalnepantla | 18 | 4869 | NA | 11:35 a.m. | 12:00 p.m. |
| Tlalnepantla | 18 | 4915 | Contigua | 12:00 p.m. | NA |
| Tlalnepantla | 18 | 4915 | Basica | 12:08 p.m. | 12:30 p.m. |
| Tlalnepantla | 18 | 4915 | NA | 12:08 p.m. | 12:20 p.m. |
| Tlalnepantla | 18 | 4915 | Contigua | 12:11 p.m. | 12:30 p.m. |
| Atizapan | 16 | 391 | Basica | 1:50 p.m. | 2:20 p.m. |
| Atizapan | 16 | 391 | Contigua | 1:50 p.m. | 2:05 p.m. |
| Atizapan | 16 | 391 | NA | 1:50 p.m. | 2:05 p.m. |
| Atizapan | 16 | 391 | Basica | 1:55 p.m. | 2:05 p.m. |
| Atizapan | 16 | 404 | NA | 2:15 p.m. | 2:25 p.m. |
| Atizapan | 16 | 404 | Contigua | 2:15 p.m. | 2:30 p.m. |
| Atizapan | 16 | 404 | Contigua | 2:15 p.m. | 2:30 p.m. |
| Atizapan | 16 | 404 | Basica | 2:15 p.m. | 2:30 p.m. |
| Tlalnepantla | 18 | 4990 | Contigua | 2:35 p.m. | 3:00 p.m. |
| Tlalnepantla | 18 | 4990 | Contigua | 2:35 p.m. | 3:00 p.m. |

| Municipality | District | Section | Polling station | Arrival time | Departure time |
|--------------|----------|---------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|
| Tlalnepantla | 18 | 4990 | Basica | 2:35 p.m. | 2:45 p.m. |
| Tlalnepantla | 18 | 4990 | Contigua | 2:40 p.m. | NA |
| Atizapan | 16 | 397 | ND | 3:15 p.m. | 3:35 p.m. |
| Atizapan | 16 | 397 | Contigua | 3:15 p.m. | 3:30 p.m. |
| Atizapan | 16 | 397 | Contigua | 3:17 p.m. | 3:30 p.m. |
| Toluca | 2 | 5205 | Basica | 5:55 p.m. | 7:05 p.m. |
| Toluca | 2 | 5205 | Contigua | 5:55 p.m. | 7:05 p.m. |
| Toluca | 2 | 5205 | Basica | 6:00 p.m. | NA |

4.2 Aspects Observed

To help them perform their observation duties, the parliamentarians received an election observation grid prepared by the secretariat of the COPA Committee on Democracy and Peace (see Appendix III). The grid, a copy of which was filled out at all polling stations visited, is based on the provisions of the State of Mexico's Electoral Code and was divided into eight sections:

- 1) general information (on the observer and the polling station);
- 2) polling station;
- 3) election materials;
- 4) voters;
- 5) complaints;
- 6) other observations;
- 7) vote count;
- 8) overall evaluation.

Most of this information was gathered through conversations with polling station presiding officers.

The five teams of observers also strove to obtain a good sampling of voting practices by visiting voting centres in different types of neighbourhoods. Thus, in the State of Mexico, they visited voting centres set up in working-class, middle-class and affluent neighbourhoods. They also observed the voting in both rural and urban settings.

4.3. Polling Stations

According to the parliamentary observers, the site and set-up of most of the polling stations were acceptable. However, some felt that the space and location of the ballot boxes could be improved. A number of polling stations were set up outside, under a tarpaulin, complicating the work of officials when it started to rain.

| | YES | NO | No answer |
|---|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Suitable polling station site and set-up | 125 | 28 | 8 |
| Polling station is complete | 149 | 4 | 8 |

| | YES | NO | No answer |
|--|-----|-----|-----------|
| Presence of security forces | 41 | 113 | 7 |
| Presence of candidate/party representatives | 143 | 4 | 14 |
| Presence of election advertising on site | 12 | 138 | 11 |
| Acts of voter intimidation | 3 | 146 | 12 |

Most of the polling stations were fully staffed. In some cases, the president had to call in backups to serve as secretaries or voting officers. Very few citizens were spontaneously called to fulfill these functions.

Voting did not begin at the same time at all the polling stations. This is because the Electoral Code of the State of Mexico stipulates that polling stations can only be set up as of 8:00 a.m. Consequently, the casting of the first vote depended on how long it took to set up the equipment and on whether the polling station was located outdoors or under a fixed roof.

The vast majority of the polling stations observed had all the necessary equipment, save one, which was missing chairs and a table at the beginning of the day.

Security forces were present at less than half of the polling centres observed. Most of the observers noted that they were “regular” patrols. One parliamentarian noted an “excessive” presence of police, who asked the observers to identify themselves.

Political party representatives were present in almost every centre visited. However, it often happened that only two of the three parties were able to dispatch representatives.

Only a few parliamentarians noted election advertising at or near the voting sites.

Incidences of voter intimidation were reported in three observation grids. However, no details were provided on the nature and circumstances of these offences.

4.4. Election Materials

As regards the election materials, the parliamentarians noted that overall, the ballot boxes were well sealed and that in most cases, the voting booths assured the secrecy of the ballot. However, the boxes were improperly sealed in 42 polling stations and in 40 cases the layout of the voting booth did not guarantee voting secrecy.

| | YES | NO | + or - | No answer |
|---|-----|----|--------|-----------|
| Properly sealed ballot boxes | 116 | 42 | 1 | 2 |
| Voting booths ensuring ballot secrecy | 114 | 40 | 1 | 6 |
| Voters list | 159 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Ballots in sufficient quantity | 155 | 1 | 0 | 5 |
| Design of ballot (enables voter to clearly identify his or her choice) | 148 | 1 | 0 | 12 |

All the stations had an electoral list except for one, called a “special station,” which was used for voters wishing to vote in a district other than the one in which they were registered. All the polling stations were provided with a sufficient number of ballots, which were designed in such a manner as to allow voters to clearly indicate their choice.

As regards the election materials, the observers rated their quality from good to very good. The work of polling station officials was similarly rated, except in eight cases, where the observers found it poor.

| | Very good | Good | Poor | No answer |
|--|------------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| Election materials | 31 | 125 | 1 | 4 |
| Work of polling station officials | 33 | 116 | 8 | 4 |

4.5. Voters

In all the polling stations observed by the parliamentarians, waiting and voting times were very short, reflecting low voter turnout. The average waiting time was less than five minutes in all the stations. However, they were sometimes longer early in the day because the polling stations opened late.

Very few voters showed up at the voting centres without their registration cards and no one in the polling stations observed was allowed to vote without this legal piece of identification. Most of those whose names did not appear on the electoral list did not show up at the right centre. Apart from the “special” centres, the only people able to vote without appearing on the electoral list were the officers working in a specific polling station and registered in another electoral section.

4.6. Complaints

Generally speaking, there were few official complaints from the candidates’ representatives or citizens. Nonetheless, some of them complained informally to observers.

| | YES | NO | No answer |
|---|------------|------------|------------------|
| Complaints by party or candidate representatives | 24 | 129 | 8 |
| Complaints by voters | 12 | 136 | 13 |

The observers recorded 24 complaints from party representatives and 12 from voters; most of these voters' complaints were about how long it took for the polling stations to open. Some also complained about not appearing on the electoral list. Most of the party complaints were about the presence of election advertising near the polling stations or voters dressed in the colours of the candidates’ parties.

A party representative in a Toluca voting centre mentioned that he could not access the electoral lists.

A PAN representative in Naucalpan said she had a run-in with the municipal police and had to threaten to call the federal police before being allowed into the voting centre to which she had been assigned.

4.7. General Observations

The mission participants were asked to pay special attention to the following elements:

| | YES | NO | No answer |
|--|-----|-----|-----------|
| Respect for ballot secrecy | 129 | 15 | 17 |
| Presence of more than one voter in the voting booth | 13 | 135 | 13 |
| Electoral staff compliance with procedures | 143 | 2 | 16 |
| Voter understanding of procedures | 146 | 3 | 12 |
| Presence of unauthorized persons in the polling station | 5 | 142 | 14 |
| Visit by other international observers | 21 | 132 | 8 |
| Visit by national observers | 29 | 124 | 8 |
| Orderly conduct of voting | 141 | 9 | 11 |
| Interruption in voting during the day | 8 | 138 | 15 |
| Incidents (disturbances, intimidation, fraud, violence, tampering with results, etc.) | 5 | 139 | 17 |

Despite a few exceptions, the polling stations were set up in such a way as to guarantee voting secrecy. The observers noted that the voting took place in an orderly manner in the vast majority of the voting centres.

The COPA parliamentarians crossed paths with a few national and international observers. Only one observer was not certified by the IEEM.

The observers saw very few incidents of more than one voter in a voting booth and most of the cases involved children accompanying their parents. The rain interrupted the voting in eight polling stations.

4.8. Vote Count

The observers witnessed vote counting in some 15 polling stations and reported no incidents in this regard except for one party representative who contested a ballot. Overall, the process was carried out in a calm and transparent manner. Few comments were made on the transfer and transportation of the ballots.

4.9. Overall Evaluation

The parliamentarians were very satisfied with the activities surrounding the election day of July 3, 2011. Overall, the comments were positive both regarding citizen participation and the work of the IEEM staff. In fact, the entire voting process took place calmly and generally in compliance with applicable electoral rules.

The delegation did not witness any serious irregularity. They were impressed by the sense of responsibility and civic duty displayed by the voters as well as by the electoral officers. Lastly, they would like to highlight the respect shown by the residents of the State of Mexico toward the electoral process and the peaceful conduct of the election day.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of their observations, the COPA delegation has a few recommendations to improve the electoral process of the State of Mexico for future elections.

5.1. Improve sealing of ballot boxes

Special attention should be paid to better sealing the ballot boxes with the tape supplied by the IEEM. The presiding polling station officers should be systematically reminded in this regard.

5.2. Start the voting at 8:00 a.m.

The provisions of the Electoral Code of the State of Mexico require polling centre staff to begin setting up the polling stations at 8:00 a.m., creating inequality among voters because they do not have the same number of hours to vote. Depending on the time it took to set up the premises, the voting began at different times in different locations yet all the stations closed at 6:00 p.m. The delegation therefore recommends that both legislative and logistical measures be taken so that voting begins at the same time everywhere in the State.

5.3. Physical space

The observers noted that a number of voting centres were cramped, causing some confusion between voters waiting to cast their ballot and those in the process of doing so. As well, the voting tables were often very close to each other. Lastly, the ballot boxes were not always set up securely. The delegation therefore recommends that the voting premises be carefully selected to ensure there is sufficient space to allow the voting to proceed smoothly.

5.5. Ensure confidence in the IEEM

Based on the delegation's observations, the Electoral Institute did excellent work organizing the election day. In light of the presentations made by the various parties met by COPA before July 3, the delegation recommends that the IEEM take the necessary steps to gain the full trust of all the political parties, voters and civil society. One way of doing this is to diligently and promptly respond to complaints.

6. CONCLUSION

The COPA parliamentarians congratulate the Electoral Institute of the State of Mexico as well as the State's citizens for the smooth conduct of the election day held on July 3, 2011. They also commend the State's electoral authorities for helping to facilitate the independent deployment of the observers, as stipulated in the *By-laws of COPA Electoral Observation Missions*.

The COPA delegation would like to emphasize the warm welcome received from the members of institutions and organizations involved in the electoral process during the working meetings before election day, as well as the reception from and cooperation of the voters and electoral staff during their visits to the voting centres.

In order to ensure follow-up, this report will be sent to the electoral authorities of the State of Mexico. COPA members and the public can also view this report on the organization's Web site at www.copa.qc.ca.

Appendix I – Press Release, June 30, 2011



Delegation of members of Parliament of the Americas to observe the gubernatorial election in the State of Mexico

Toluca de Lerdo, June 29, 2011 – Parliamentarians representing the **Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas** (COPA) arrived today in Mexico to observe the July 3 gubernatorial election in the State of Mexico from June 29 to July 4, 2011.

An estimated 30 parliamentarians from different congresses of Argentina, the National Assembly of Québec (Canada), the Senate of the Republic of Colombia, the Chamber of Senators of the Republic of Paraguay, the Legislative Assembly of Salvador, the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica, the Central American Parliament (Parlacen), the Senate of Uruguay, the Congress of the Republic of Guatemala, the National Assembly of Suriname and the Regional Legislative Council of the State of Anzoátegui (Venezuela) will also take part in the mission.

Invited by the Electoral Institute of the State of Mexico as international observers, the COPA parliamentarians will cover as many polling stations as possible on election day. The delegation will also meet with key actors in the electoral process in order to be better positioned to assess election organization. Candidates and representatives of civil society and public organizations will be among those consulted by the COPA delegation. Following the mission, the parliamentarians will present a report of their observations to the Mexican electoral authorities.

This is the 12th such mission for COPA. By taking an increasingly active role in election monitoring throughout the Americas, COPA has established its strategic importance in the consolidation of democracy.

Founded in Québec City in 1997, COPA brings together over 300 parliamentary assemblies of unitary, federal and federated states, as well as the regional parliaments and interparliamentary organizations of the Americas. For additional information on previous COPA electoral observation missions, please visit the following website: www.copa.qc.ca

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Source and information :

Simon Bérubé

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COPA Secretariat of Québec

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Appendix II – Program



**COPA ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION
JUNE 28 - JULY 4, 2011
TOLUCA DE LERDO, STATE OF MEXICO**

Agenda

TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 2011

All day

Arrival of delegation and transfer to hotel

HOTEL

Hotel Crowne Plaza Toluca-Lancaster

Tel. (722) 2.75.44.75

(722) 4.77.10.00

Paseo Tollocan Oriente Num. 750, Col. Francisco I.

Madero, Cp. 52170 Metepec, México

<http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/cp/1/en/hotel/tlucp>

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 2011

Morning

Arrival of delegation and transfer to hotel

11:00 a.m.

Delegation tour of downtown Metepec

Afternoon

Dissemination of press release announcing the delegation's arrival and composition

5:00 p.m.

Meeting with Rodrigo Iriarte García, attorney specializing in electoral law

7:00 p.m.

Tour of and meeting at the Electoral Institute of the State of Mexico (IEEM)

**D. Jesús Castillo Sandoval
President-Advisor**

THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 2011

- 10:00 a.m.** Delegation working meeting
- 1:00 p.m.** **Meeting with candidate Luis Felipe Bravo Mena (PAN)**
- 4:30 p.m.** Meeting with representatives of NGOs and institutions involved in the electoral process
- Jorge Alberto Embriz
- Jorge Vargas Moreno
Grandeza Mexicana Nueva Generación

FRIDAY, JULY 1, 2011

- 12:00 noon** **Meeting with candidate Dr. Eruviel Ávila Villegas (Unidos por tí coalition)**
PRI campaign headquarters
Depart hotel at 11:00 a.m.
- 3:00 p.m.** **Meeting with Victor Camacho Solís, representative of candidate Alejandro Encinas**
- 8:15 p.m.** **Meeting with Dr. Jorge A. Schiavon Uriegas, professor/researcher in international studies**
Antibes Restaurant, Hotel Crowne Plaza, Toluca

SATURDAY, JULY 2, 2011

- 10:00 a.m.** **Meeting with Rodrigo Iriarte García, attorney specializing in electoral law**
- 11:00 a.m.** Press conference
- 12:00 p.m.** **Meeting with Carlos Guizar Rivas, International Affairs Director, CEN (PAN)**
- 7:30 p.m.** COPA delegation working meeting:
 - Prepare and brief mission members
 - Presentation by Denis Fontaine, Chief Electoral Office of Québec
 - Prepare mission deployment on election day:
 - o Prepare deployment plan
 - o Form observer teams

SUNDAY, JULY 3, 2011: ELECTION DAY

- 7:00 a.m.** Depart from hotel

8:00 a.m. Set-up of polling stations

All day Dispatch delegation to polling stations

6:00 p.m. Ballot counting

7:00 p.m. Observe unveiling of preliminary results (IEEM)

MONDAY, JULY 4, 2011

Morning

- Delegation working meeting
- Observations
- Define a common position
- Prepare a press release
- Adopt a work plan to draft the final press release

Afternoon and evening

Members return to their home countries

Dissemination of COPA press release

Appendix III – Observation grid



**GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION IN THE STATE OF MEXICO
July 3, 2011**

COPA ELECTORAL OBSERVATION GRID

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of observer: _____

City/District/Department: _____

Voting centre: _____

Polling station: _____

Arrival time: _____

Departure time: _____

2. POLLING STATION

Opening time: _____

Reasons for any delay: _____

Polling station composition: _____

| | YES | NO |
|---|-----|----|
| Suitable polling station site and set-up | | |
| Fully equipped polling station | | |
| Presence of security forces | | |
| Presence of candidate/party representatives | | |
| Presence of election advertising on site | | |
| Acts of voter intimidation | | |

Details: _____

3. ELECTION MATERIAL

| | YES | NO |
|---|-----|----|
| Properly sealed ballot boxes | | |
| Voting booths ensuring ballot secrecy | | |
| Voters list | | |
| Ballots in sufficient quantity | | |
| Proper ballot design (enabling voters to clearly identify their choice) | | |

| | Very good | Good | Poor | Very poor |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|------|------|-----------|
| Election material | | | | |
| Work of polling station officials | | | | |

Details: _____

4. VOTERS

Number of voters registered: _____

Waiting time: _____

Average time required to vote: _____

Voters without voter ID: _____

Voters admitted although not on voters list: _____

Details: _____

5. COMPLAINTS

| | YES | NO |
|---|-----|----|
| Complaints by party or candidate representatives | | |
| Complaints by voters | | |

Details: _____

6. OTHER OBSERVATIONS

| | YES | NO |
|--|-----|----|
| Respect for ballot secrecy | | |
| Presence of more than one voter in the voting booth | | |
| Electoral staff compliance with procedures | | |
| Voter understanding of procedures | | |
| Presence of unauthorized persons in the polling station | | |
| Visit by national observers | | |
| Visit by other international observers | | |
| Orderly conduct of voting | | |
| Interruption in voting during the day | | |
| Incidents (disturbances, intimidation, fraud, violence, tampering with results, etc.) | | |

Details: _____

7. VOTE COUNT

Polling station closing time: _____

Vote count starting time: _____

Number of voters registered: _____

Number of people who voted: _____

Invalid ballots: _____

Blank ballots: _____

Administrative or organizational problems: _____

Challenges by representatives: _____

Details: _____

Level of security for the transportation of election material and the transmission of results (if observed):

Excellent ()

Average ()

Low ()

Details: _____

8. OVERALL EVALUATION

Irregularities to report: ()

Minor irregularities: () **Specify:**

Serious irregularities that could affect the integrity of the electoral process: () **Specify:**

Comments:

Appendix IV – Press Release, July 4, 2011



COPA Electoral Mission in the State of Mexico

COPA PARLIAMENTARIANS CONGRATULATE THE ELECTORS OF THE STATE OF MEXICO ON THE ORDERLINESS OF THE RECENT STATE GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION

Toluca de Lerdo, July 4, 2011 – At the invitation of Electoral Institute of the State of Mexico, a delegation of 15 parliamentarians from the **Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA)** observed the gubernatorial election of the State of Mexico held on July 3, 2011. The delegation was led by Zulma Gómez, First Vice-President of COPA and Senator of the Republic of Paraguay. The observers were able to note firsthand that voting proceeded in a calm and orderly manner, and that electoral rules were generally upheld.

The COPA delegation also included members of the following bodies: the Chamber of Deputies of the Argentine Nation; the Chamber of Deputies of the Province of Santa Fe (Argentina); the National Assembly of Québec (Canada); the Chamber of Senators of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay; the Congress of the Republic of Guatemala; the National Assembly of the Republic of Suriname and the Chamber of Deputies of the Dominican Republic.

On voting day, the delegates dispersed to different regions of the State where they observed the vote in some fifty voting centres, both urban and rural. The towns and cities chosen were Acatzingo, Atizapan, Chalco, Coalcalco, Ecatepec, Lerma, Naucalpan, Nezahualcoyotl, Tlalnapantla, Toluca and Valle de Chalco.

No major election irregularities were observed. The delegates were impressed by the sense of civic responsibility and the serious-minded attitude displayed by voters and election officials. Equally impressive were the high-minded conduct of the population on election day and the peaceful atmosphere in which the electoral process unfolded.

In addition to fulfilling their observation role at polling stations, the COPA delegates began meeting with key stakeholders right from the day of their arrival (June 29). Hence they were able to form a good idea of election preparations and the situation prevailing in the State and in the country on the eve of the vote. The people they met included representatives of political parties, two gubernatorial candidates, State electoral authorities and public figures.

This was COPA's 12th election observation mission. COPA's increasingly active participation in such missions in the Americas confirms its strategic role in the consolidation of democracy. Founded in Québec City in 1997, COPA brings together more than 300 parliamentary assemblies of the unitary, federal, federated and associated States, the regional parliaments and the interparliamentary organizations of the Americas.

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Source and further information:

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