



COPA electoral observation mission in Bolivia

PARLIAMENTARIANS SALUTE AND CONGRATULATE THE BOLIVIAN PEOPLE ON CONDUCTING SUCCESSFUL GENERAL ELECTIONS

La Paz, December 8, 2009 – A delegation of nine parliamentarians from the **Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA)** led by Edda Acuña, COPA president and senator of the province of Buenos Aires, observed the early general election in Bolivia held December 6, 2009. The COPA delegation, consisting of parliamentarians from the Chamber of Deputies of Argentina, the Chamber of Deputies of the province of La Pampa (Argentina), the Chamber of Deputies of the province of Santa Fe (Argentina), the National Assembly of Québec (Canada), the Congress of the State of Mexico (Mexico), and the Legislative Council of Anzoátegui (Venezuela), reported that voting was orderly and in compliance with the rules in effect.

On election day, the delegates went to urban and rural areas in the large Department of La Paz to observe balloting in almost fifty polling stations.

Delegation members reported some delays in the opening of several polling stations, but did not witness any significant irregularities. They were impressed by the rigor and sense of civic duty shown by citizens and electoral personnel during the election. Delegation members also underscored Bolivians' respect for their institutions and enthusiastic participation in the election process.

In addition to observing the polling stations on election day, the COPA delegation held important meetings with various key actors. Shortly after arriving on December 2, delegates met with political party representatives, authorities from Bolivia's multinational Legislative Assembly and National Electoral Court, as well as representatives from civil society and other international observers in order to gather information on the electoral process and the situation prevailing in the country on the eve of the election.

This was COPA's 10th observation mission and its second in Bolivia. 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.

- 30 -

Source and information:

Christiane Bérubé
COPA Democracy and Peace Committee Advisor
COPA Secretariat of Québec
Phone: + 1-418-644-2888
Email: copa@assnat.qc.ca