



COPA electoral observation mission in Colombia

PARLIAMENTARIANS SALUTE AND CONGRATULATE THE COLOMBIAN PEOPLE ON CONDUCTING SUCCESSFUL PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Bogotá, May 31, 2010 – A delegation of 24 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 1st round of the presidential election in Colombia held May 30, 2010. The COPA delegation, consisting of parliamentarians from the Honourable 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 Mexican Union, the Congress of the State of Mexico (Mexico), the Congress of the State of Tabasco (Mexico), the Chamber of Senators of Paraguay and the Regional Legislative Council of the State of Anzoátegui (Venezuela), reported that voting was orderly and in compliance with the rules in effect.

On election day, the delegates went to the capital, Bogotá, to observe balloting in about a hundred polling stations.

Members of the delegation did not witness any major irregularities. However, they observed that many polling booths were not set up in such a way that the secrecy of the vote would be ensured. They were impressed by the rigor and sense of civic duty shown by citizens and electoral personnel during the election. Delegation members also underscored the peacefulness of the election day and Colombians' respect for their institutions.

In addition to observing the polling stations on election day, the COPA delegation held important meetings with various key actors. Shortly after arriving on May 26, delegates met with political party representatives, Colombian electoral authorities, as well as representatives from other organizations of national and international observers in order to gather information on the preparation of the electoral process and the situation prevailing in the country on the eve of the election.

This was COPA's 11th observation mission. 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.

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Source and information:

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