



Delegation of members of Parliament of the Americas to observe the 1st round of the Colombian presidential election

Bogotá, May 26, 2010 – Parliamentarians representing the **Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas** (COPA) arrived today in Colombia to observe the 1st round of the presidential election set for May 30. The Senator of the province of Buenos Aires and President of COPA, Ms. Edda Evangelina Acuña, will head up the electoral observation mission from May 26 to 31.

An estimated thirty parliamentarians coming 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 Legislative Assembly of the Federal District (Mexico), 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) are also taking part in the mission.

Invited by Colombia's National Electoral Council and the National Registrar of Civil Status 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 the state of 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 Colombian electoral authorities.

This is the 11th 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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