



## **COPA delegation to observe the Paraguayan general elections of April 21**

Asuncion, April 16, 2013 – A **Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA)** delegation arrived today in Paraguay to observe the April 21 general election. Member of the National Assembly of Québec and President of the Committee on Democracy and Peace of COPA Gilles Chapadeau is leading the electoral observation mission, which will be on site from April 17 to April 22.

About 20 parliamentarians from the National Assembly of Québec, Canada, the Congress of Argentina, the Congress of the province of Salta (Argentina), the Congress of Brazil, the Legislative Assembly of Santa Catarina (Brazil), the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica, the National Assembly of Ecuador, the Federal Senat of Mexico and the Parliament of Central America will take part in the mission.

Invited by Paraguay's Superior Tribunal of Electoral Justice as an international electoral observer, the COPA delegation will cover polling station operations on election day in the area of the capital city of Paraguay, Asuncion.

The delegation will also meet with key actors in the electoral process. The candidates for the offices of president and vice-president of the Republic, the heads of public bodies, as well as civil society organizations and international organizations will be among those consulted by the COPA delegation. Following the mission, the delegation will present a report on its observations to the Paraguayan electoral authorities and to COPA authorities.

This is the fourteenth 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. COPA was also an observer at Paraguay's 2008 general election.

Founded in Québec City in 1997, the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas 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](http://www.copa.qc.ca).

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### **Source and information :**

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