



COPA Electoral Observation mission

PARLIAMENTARIANS CONGRATULATE THE PARAGUAYAN PEOPLE FOR THE SUCCESSFUL CONDUCT OF THE ELECTIONS

Asunción, April 22nd 2013 – A delegation of 17 parliamentarians of the **Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA)**, headed by Mr. Gilles Chapadeau, President of the Committee on Democracy and Peace of the COPA and Member of the National Assembly of Québec, observed the general elections of April 21st 2013. The COPA delegation also included parliamentarians from the federal Congress of Argentina, the federal Congress of Brazil, the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica, the National Assembly of Ecuador, the Central American Parliament and from the parliamentary assemblies of the province of Salta (Argentina) and the state of Santa Catarina (Brazil). An electoral expert from the office of the Chief Electoral Officer of Québec and three advisors were also present to support the delegation during its mission.

On election day, the members of the delegation went to the capital, Asunción and to the departments of Presidente Hayes, Cordillera, Paraguari as well as the Central Department, in order to observe balloting in almost fifty polling stations. In spite of a few notifications, the members of the delegation noted that the electoral process was respected and that the vote was held in an orderly way. In addition, delegation members emphasized the citizens' civic-mindedness as well as their active participation in the elections. Lastly, the parliamentarians noted the transparency, availability and excellent work of the Superior Tribunal of Electoral Justice (TSJE) of the Republic of Paraguay.

Upon arriving on April 17th, and in addition to the electoral observation conducted in the polling stations, the members of the COPA delegation held important meetings with the country's presidential candidates, leading authorities of the Electoral Justice, as well as with representatives from the civil society, all with the aim of obtaining information on the politico-electoral situation prevailing in the country. A full report on the mission will be prepared and sent to Paraguay's electoral authorities.

This was the 14th electoral observation mission by the COPA which has established its strategic importance in the consolidation of democracy by taking an increasingly active role in election monitoring throughout the Americas. Founded in Québec City in 1997, this organisation 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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