



PRESIDENTIAL AND LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS IN PARAGUAY

APRIL 21ST, 2013

REPORT OF THE ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION



Parliamentary Confederation
of the Americas

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INTRODUCTION

Created in 1997, the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA) is an interparliamentary body that brings together the congresses and parliamentary assemblies of the unitary, federal and federated states, the regional parliaments and the interparliamentary organizations of the Americas.

Its goals include strengthening parliamentary democracy and building a community of the Americas founded on respect for dignity and human rights, peace, democracy, solidarity between peoples, social justice and gender equality.

To achieve these goals, COPA indicated that it wished to actively contribute to strengthening democracy in the Americas by adopting the *By-Laws of COPA Electoral Observation Missions* in May 2005.

A delegation of 17 COPA parliamentarians visited Paraguay from April 17 to April 22, 2013, to observe general elections held on April 21, 2013.

It was the 14th COPA¹ electoral observation mission. Over the years, COPA has developed know-how and expertise in electoral observation. In addition, this was the 2nd electoral observation mission in to be held in Paraguay.

The main objectives of this report are to introduce COPA missions during its time in Paraguay from April 17 to 22, 2013, and to present the main awareness of the activities of the mission of the COPA during her stay in Paraguay, from 17 to April 22, 2013, and to present the main comments by parliamentarians about the elections of April 21. The report was divided into eight parts:

- 1) Terms of reference of the mission;**
- 2) Composition of the delegation;**
- 3) Pre-electoral political context;**
- 4) Legal and institutional framework of the April 21, 2013 elections;**
- 5) Mission activities before Election Day;**
- 6) Mission activities before Election Day;**
- 7) COPA mission findings;**
- 8) Conclusions and recommendations.**

¹ On this subject, see Appendix 1 presenting COPA electoral observation missions since 2005.

1. THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE MISSION

On November 23, 2012, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, President of the COPA and President of the National Assembly of Québec, was invited² by the Higher Court of Electoral Justice of the Republic of Paraguay to form a delegation of parliamentary observers in order to bear witness to the 2013 electoral process in Paraguay. In its December 1, 2012 meeting, held in Mexico City, Mexico, the COPA Executive Committee adopted a recommendation³ to dispatch an electoral observation mission to Paraguay.

On February 12, 2013, the President of the COPA sent a letter to the electoral authorities of Paraguay, informing them of the scheduled presence of a delegation of COPA parliamentary observers.

Subsequently, the President of the COPA, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, sent a letter to the members of the COPA Executive Committee in which he called upon them to inform their respective parliamentary assemblies of the mission and to recruit parliamentarians to act as observers during the electoral process. A similar letter was sent to COPA regional vice-presidents asking them to rally parliamentarians in their respective regions who might be interested in participating in the mission. Finally, a letter was sent to the presidents and speakers of the parliaments of the Americas to invite them to designate parliamentarians who wished to take part in the mission.

In a letter dated April 11, 2013⁴, the President of the COPA informed the electoral authorities of Paraguay of the formation of the delegation, headed by Mr. Gilles Chapadeau, President of the Committee on Democracy and Peace of the COPA and Member of the National Assembly of Québec.

On April 17, 18, 19 and 20, 2013, the delegation members attended important working meetings with presidency candidates, political party representatives, electoral authorities, Paraguayan political experts, representatives from international agencies dedicated to electoral observation, and representatives from civil society organizations. These meetings taught the delegation about the electoral process and the local situation on the eve of the ballot.

On Election Day, the observers visited four Paraguay departments, in addition to Asunción, to observe election operations in 46 polling stations. These visits were structured to allow the COPA mission to cover as many sample regions as possible, both urban and rural.

² The content of the letter of invitation is provided under Appendix 2.

³ The recommendation to send an electoral observation mission is presented under Appendix 3.

⁴ The content of the letter of designation is provided under Appendix 4.

2. COMPOSITION OF THE DELEGATION

The COPA delegation was led by **Mr. Gilles Chapadeau**, President of the Committee on Democracy and Peace of the COPA and Member of the National Assembly of Québec.

Below is a list of the parliamentarians who took part in the mission

TABLE 2.1: LIST OF PARLIAMENTARIANS WHO TOOK PART IN THE MISSION

Parliamentarian	Function/Country
Ms. Ileana Brenes Jiménez	Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica Costa Rica Deputy COPA Vice-President for the Central American region
Mr. Julio Rodolfo Solanas	Federal Chamber of Deputies Argentina Deputy
Mr. Juan Arturo Salim	Federal Chamber of Deputies Argentina Deputy
Mr. Raul Enrique Barranteguy	Federal Chamber of Deputies Argentina Deputy
Ms. Gloria Bidegain	Federal Chamber of Deputies Argentina Deputy
Mr. José Antonio Vilariño	Federal Chamber of Deputies Argentina Deputy
Mr. Jorge Ignacio Jarsun Lamónaca	Chamber of Deputies from the province of Salta Argentina Deputy
Mr. Antonio René Hucena	Chamber of Deputies from the province of Salta Argentina Deputy
Mr. Omar Alejandro Soches López	Chamber of Deputies from the province of Salta Argentina Deputy
Mr. Hector Miguel Calabro	Chamber of Deputies from the province of Salta Argentina Deputy
Mr. Oscar Raúl Díaz	Chamber of Deputies from the province of Salta Argentina Deputy
Mr. Jesús Ramón Villa	Chamber of Deputies from the province of Salta Argentina Deputy

Parliamentarian	Function/Country
Mr. Paes Landim	Brazil Federal Chamber of Deputies Brazil Deputy
Mr. Luis Eduardo Cherem	Legislative Assembly of the state of Santa Catarina Brazil Deputy
Ms. Gioconda María Saltos Espinoza	National Assembly of Ecuador Ecuador Deputy
Mr. Fausto Rafael Liz Quiñones	Parliament of Central America Dominican Republic Deputy

Parliamentarians received the technical and administrative support of **Patrick Giasson**, Adviser to the Committee on Democracy and Peace and coordinator of the electoral observation mission in Paraguay, of **Pierre-Luc Turgeon**, adviser in international cooperation to the Chief Electoral Officer of Québec, as well as of **André Brandão Henriques Maimoni**, Adviser to the Brazil Secretariat for COPA.

They were also able to benefit from the electoral expertise of **Ms. José Charette**, Director of Electoral Operations and assistant to the Chief Electoral Officer of Québec.

Finally, **Ms. Blanca Azucena Saade** (Salta, Argentina), **Ms. Cristina Bidegain** (Argentina) and **Ms. Magda Domiense** (Brazil) were also part of the delegation.

3. THE POLITICAL CONTEXT

3.1. OVERVIEW

The Republic of Paraguay is situated in South America, northeast of Argentina and southwest of Brazil. It shares a border with those two countries, as well as with Bolivia. Spanish and Guarani are the two official languages, and 95% of the population is of mixed Spanish and Amerindian blood; 90% of the population is Catholic and 61% lives in the cities. Almost 88% of the population speaks Guarani as their mother tongue.

In 2012, Paraguay's GDP calculated in terms of purchasing power parity (PPP) was US \$ 41.1 billion and its per capita GDP was US \$ 6,100. The farming sector accounts for 19.8% of domestic production, the manufacturing sector, for 19.4% and the service sector, for 60.8%. The labour force is proportionately distributed. The GDP shrank by approximately 0.5% in 2012.

Paraguay's Gini coefficient (measure of the overall distribution of income) is 53.9, which places it 14th in the world.⁵ (A country's income is less evenly distributed the closer it approaches to the number one ranking.) According to a 2010 estimate, 34.7% of the population lives below the poverty line.⁶

In 2012, according to *Transparency International*, the corruption perceptions index in Paraguay was 25, which places it 150th in the world out of 176 countries. (The last place ranking indicates the highest level of corruption.) According to the same organization, Paraguay's judicial independence index is 1.8 (138th out of 142 countries) and its press freedom index is 29 (80th out of 179 countries).⁷

⁵ The Gini coefficient is a number between 0 and 100. The lower it is, the more evenly distributed a country's income is.

⁶ CIA, 2012, *The World Factbook*. Online document. URL link:

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/pa.html>.

⁷ Transparency International, 2012. Online document. URL link: <http://www.transparency.org/country#PRY>. The corruption perceptions index classifies countries according to citizens' perception of corruption in the public sector. This is given as a number from 0 to 100, where 0 indicates that the country is perceived as highly corrupt, and 100, that it is perfectly clean. The judicial independence index uses a scale from 1 to 7, where 1 indicates that the judicial system is perceived as being highly influenced by government members, citizens or companies, and 7, that it is perceived as being entirely independent. The press freedom index measures the degree of journalistic freedom and the efforts made by the authorities to respect that freedom. The scale is from 0 to 100, with 0 indicating very little freedom of the press.

3.2. BRIEF HISTORY

Paraguay won its independence from Spain in 1811. From 1865 to 1870, it was engaged in the War of the Triple Alliance against Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay. It was defeated after losing more than half its population, including two thirds of the adult male population, and approximately 169,000 km² of its territory. The war left the country in a state of economic stagnation for the next half century.

The Constitution was promulgated in 1870. In 1887, the two major national parties were formed, the *Colorado Party* and the *Liberal Party*, both ideologically liberal. In 1922, a civil war between two liberal factions tore the country apart. From 1932 to 1935, Paraguay was embroiled in another war with Bolivia, known as the Chaco War. Although the two countries signed a peace treaty in 1938, it was only in 2009 that their respective presidents signed an agreement definitively setting the boundaries of the northern Chaco region. In 1947, the country experienced another civil war, this time between adherents of the Colorado and Liberal parties.

In 1989, a coup d'état overthrew the government of General Alfredo Stroessner who, since 1954, had been at the head of the *Colorado Party*, the party in power for 60 consecutive years. Subsequently, General Andrés Rodríguez, second in command of the *Colorado Party* and instigator of the coup d'état, took the reins of power. The latter organized elections that he won with over 70% of the votes against his rival Domingo Laino, of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party (PLRA), the main opposition party.

In 1991, the *Colorado Party* organized a constituent assembly bringing together close to 200 representatives. The new constitution, which provides that the office of president is not eligible for re-election, was formalized in 1992. In 1993, the first elections considered to be fully democratic brought Juan Carlos Wasmosy to the presidency. The latter initiated an institutional and government modernisation. Among other things, laws were passed in an attempt to limit the historical influence of the military in political affairs.

The second half of the 1990s was characterized by recurrent political instability that threatened democratic consolidation. In 1996, a coup d'état attempt against President Wasmosy was led by General Lino Oviedo. Shortly before the presidential elections of 1998, the latter, a presidential candidate, was condemned to ten years of prison for this act. The elections were thus won by Raul Cubas Grau, the right-hand man of the General, whose release was immediately ordered. This release provoked a political crisis during which the vice-president, Luis Maria Argaña, was assassinated by supporters of General Oviedo. A popular uprising followed, known as "Paraguayan March", during which a dozen young people were assassinated by General Oviedo's snipers. Consequently, Mr. Cubas was forced to resign after having been in power for approximately one year, and the Senate President, Luis Angel Gonzalez Macchi, replaced him.

During his mandate, Mr. Gonzalez, who was accused of corruption by the opposition, faced increasing dissent. In 2000, a coup d'état led by General Oviedo's supporters was avoided, but plunged the country into a state of emergency for 30 days. In 2002, the country again found itself in a state of alert while demonstrations intensified and the population demanded the resignation of the president. Mr. Macchi was successful, however, in holding on to power until the 2003 elections.

In these elections, Nicanor Duarte Frutos was elected president and attempted to demonstrate his commitment to fighting corruption and poverty. Mr. Duarte Frutos was inspired by a more centrist ideology, in comparison with that of his traditionally very conservative *Colorado Party* predecessors, and tried to project an image of firmness in the management of his government. Despite efforts put into institutional reforms, the president was confronted with increasing opposition from Congress.

3.3. THE 2008 ELECTIONS

3.3.1. PRE-ELECTORAL CONTEXT

In March 2006, close to 40,000 persons poured into the streets of the Paraguayan capital, Asunción, to prevent President Duarte Frutos from amending the Constitution in order to be able to run for re-election. This demonstration, the most important since 1999, was mainly composed of students and supporters of Fernando Lugo, a former bishop and new arrival on the political scene.

The latter's address, focussing on the fight against social inequalities and corruption, and proposing a land reform project, led to the mobilization of several left-wing social movements supporting the "bishop of the poor" as presidential candidate. Despite this support, Mr. Lugo, who did not belong to any political structure, chose to join the *Concertación nacional*, a coalition of parliamentary opposition parties.

However, the candidacy of Mr. Lugo, as presidential candidate for the *Concertación nacional*, created tensions and breakups within this organization. On the one hand, the *Patria Querida* (Beloved Homeland) party left the *Concertación nacional* to support Pedro Fabul as presidential candidate. On the other hand, following the liberation of General Oviedo, the *Unión Nacional de Ciudadanos Éticos* (UNACE-National Union of Ethical Citizens) in turn left the organization to support General Oviedo as presidential candidate. Hence, the remainder of the *Concertación nacional*, such as the PLRA and the *Encuentro Nacional* (National Meeting), joined the left-wing movements and presented Mr. Lugo as presidential candidate under the banner of the *Alianza Patriótica para el Cambio* (APC-Patriotic Alliance for Change).

In December 2007, a primary election was organized by the *Colorado Party* to elect a successor to Duarte Frutos as presidential candidate. The former Education Minister, Blanca Ovelar, supported by the outgoing president, won against former vice-president Luis Castiglioni and *Colorado Party* president José Alberto Alderete, both of whom called attention to irregularities and contested the results.

The ranks of the *Colorado Party* were seriously divided by the process, which ended in a virtual tie between Ms. Ovelar and Mr. Castiglioni. The latter accused the electoral judges of doctoring the vote count in favour of his rival and alleged that the government had falsified polling station documents in 11 of the 17 departments. Ms. Ovelar nonetheless became the first woman to run for the office of president of Paraguay, a country in which women represent 49.6% of the population but account for scarcely 10% of the members of Congress.

3.3.2. ELECTIONS

The elections of April 20, 2008 were characterized by smear campaigns and accusations of fraud by all parties. There was also a rise in threats and intimidation aimed at the Paraguayan media covering the event.

Just prior to the elections, surveys such as that of the *Latinobarómetro* reported that the population had lost confidence in the political system. The same phenomenon had been observed before, for instance during the 2006 municipal elections, when the voter abstention rate reached 65%.

The main political parties and coalitions for the April 2008 elections were:

- *Alianza Patriótica para el Cambio* (APC) — Candidate: **Fernando Lugo**
- *Asociación nacional republicana* (ANR) or *Partido Colorado* - Candidate: **Blanca Ovelar**
- *Movimiento Teta Pyahu* (MTP)- Candidate: **Horacio Galeano Perrone**
- *Partido Humanista Paraguayo* (PHP) - Candidate: **Sergio Martínez Estigarribia**
- *Partido Patria Querida* (PPQ) - Candidate : **Pedro Fadul**
- *Partido de los Trabajadores* (PT) — Candidate : **Julio Lopez**
- *Unión Nacional de Ciudadanos Éticos* (UNACE) - Candidate : **Gen. Lino César Oviedo**

3.3.3. RESULTS

TABLE 3.3.3: RESULTS OF THE 2008 GENERAL ELECTIONS

Candidate	Party	Votes	%
Fernando Lugo	<i>Alianza Patriótica para el Cambio</i> (APC)	766,502	40.90%
Blanca Ovelar	<i>Asociación Nacional Republicana</i> (Partido Colorado)	573,995	30.63%
Lino Oviedo	<i>Unión Nacional de Ciudadanos Éticos</i> (Unace)	411,034	21.93%
Pedro Fadul	<i>Patria Querida</i> (PPQ)	44,060	2.35%
Sergio Esigarribia	<i>Partido Humanista Paraguayo</i> (PHP)	6,744	0.36%
Horacio Galeano Perrone	<i>Movimiento Teta Pyahu</i> (MTP)	3,080	0.16%
Julio Cesar Lopez Benitez	<i>Partido de los Trabajadores</i> (PT)	2,409	0.13%

Participation rate: 65.64%

For the *Colorado Party*, the elections marked the end of a reign that had lasted more than 60 years. The victory went to Fernando Lugo of the *Alianza Patriótica para el Cambio* (APC – Patriotic Alliance for Change), who became the first democratically elected president from the opposition ranks to accede to power peacefully.

3.3.4. OBSERVATIONS OF THE COPA ELECTORAL MISSION

COPA made a number of observations in its electoral mission report for the general election of 2008.

Generally speaking, and despite a few instances of minor irregularities, the members of the delegation agreed that the procedures prescribed by the Elections Act were respected and that, certain tensions notwithstanding, voting took place in an orderly fashion.

More specifically, the report mentions that voting got off to a late start at some polling stations, that there were some complaints (as when an elector could not cast her ballot even though her name was on the voters list), that there were altercations between the representatives of different political parties at the polling stations, and that some voting-table officials lacked sufficient training.

3.4. IMPEACHMENT OF FORMER PRESIDENT FERNANDO LUGO

3.4.1. CIRCUMSTANCES

On Thursday, June 21, 2012, the Chamber of Deputies of Paraguay voted by a large majority to impeach President Fernando Lugo. The Chamber maintained that he had failed to act appropriately following the bloody confrontations in Curuguaty between landless peasants and the police—confrontations which left 11 peasants and six police officers dead. His lack of leadership as a decision maker in the affairs of State, and scandals of a private nature, were also brought to bear.

By a vote of 39 out of 42, the political parties constituting the Chamber of Senators found the President guilty of the accusations brought against him by the Chamber of Deputies. The impeachment thus became effective on Friday, June 22, 2012 and, as provided for in the Constitution, Vice-President Federico Franco of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party (PLRA) took over the reins of power until the next elections.

The whole process took less than 48 hours. On June 22, Fernando Lugo appealed the impeachment before the Supreme Court in a bid to have the political trial suspended on the grounds of unconstitutionality. Eight senior foreign affairs ministers of the Union of South-American Nations (UNASUR) came to Paraguay in an attempt to convince the Congress to suspend the process.

Contributing factors to this political crisis were the small degree of support enjoyed by Mr. Lugo on taking power and his obligation to govern without a parliamentary majority. After the Curuguaty incident, his opponents accused him of sympathizing with the peasants, who had occupied the private lands of a senator of the conservative party (*Colorado Party*). When this happened, the PLRA, with which Mr. Lugo had formed a governing coalition, withdrew its support and aligned itself with the *Colorado Party* in demanding Mr. Lugo's impeachment.

3.4.2. IMPEACHMENT PROCEDURE

Impeachment of the President is provided for under section 225 of Division VI (About Impeachment) of the Constitution of the Republic of Paraguay. It establishes that the President of the Republic may be subject to impeachment proceedings for malfeasance in office, for crimes committed in office or for common crimes. The accusation must be formulated by a two-thirds majority of the Chamber of Deputies; it is then up to the Chamber of Senators, with an absolute majority of two thirds, to uphold the accusation made by the Chamber of Deputies and, if necessary, to deliver a guilty verdict, in which case the President is relieved of his or her functions.

3.4.3. DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS

Confronted with his impeachment, Fernando Lugo accepted the decision but denounced what he considered “a coup, a parliamentary coup, a coup against the citizenry and democracy”. Mr. Lugo accused the leaders of the PLRA and the Unión Nacional de Ciudadanos Éticos (UNACE – National Union of Ethical Citizens) of being behind the Curuguaty massacre of June 15, 2012 that ultimately led to his impeachment.

The impeachment was greeted with strong reaction in the region. On June 28–29, 2012, representatives of the South American Common Market met in Mendoza, Argentina, and adopted a resolution to suspend Paraguay’s membership in the Common Market until such time as democratic elections are held; however, they did not apply economic sanctions.

The heads of States of the Union of South-American Nations (UNASUR) met in a special summit on June 29, 2012 to discuss the situation. They too suspended Paraguay’s membership in their organization until democratic elections are held in the country.

The Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), José Miguel Insulza, qualified the impeachment as a hasty decision that did not seem to fulfill all the legal principles with regard to the right to “a full and complete defence”. The OAS sent a special delegation to Paraguay from July 1 to July 3, 2012 for the purpose of meeting with the principal stakeholders. The delegation included the Secretary General and the permanent representatives of Canada, the United States, Mexico, Haiti and Honduras.

Brazil, Argentina, Colombia, Venezuela, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador and El Salvador denounced the impeachment and refused to recognize the government of Federico Franco. Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Peru, Bolivia, Colombia and Venezuela recalled their ambassadors to Paraguay, though in some cases for consultation. On October 17, 2012, Venezuela announced that it was expelling Paraguayan diplomats. At the beginning of November, Chile and Colombia announced the return of their ambassadors to Paraguay.⁸

⁸ See Appendix II for a list of international organizations that will be present in Paraguay to witness the unfolding of the general elections.

3.5. THE 2013 ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN

3.5.1. PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES AND MAIN POLITICAL PARTIES AND COALITIONS FOR THE APRIL 2013 ELECTIONS

TABLE 3.5.1: CANDIDATES FOR THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

Candidates	Political Parties	Coalitions/list
Horacio Cartes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asociación Nacional Republicana (<i>National Republican Association</i>) ou Partido Colorado (<i>Colorado Party</i>) 	No coalition List 1
Mario Ferreiro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partido Revolucionario Febrerista (<i>Revolutionary Februarist Party</i>) Partido Movimiento al Socialismo (<i>Movement towards Socialism Party</i>) Partido Demócrata Cristiano (<i>Christian Democrat Party</i>) Partido Paraguay Tekopyahú (<i>Tekopyahú Paraguay Party</i>) Movimiento 20 de Abril (<i>April 20 Movement</i>) Unidad Democrática para la Victoria (<i>Democratic Unity for Victory</i>) 	Avanza País List 3
Efraín Alegre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partido Liberal Radical Auténtico (<i>Liberal Radical Authentic Party</i>) Partido Democrático Progresista (<i>Democratic Progresist Party</i>) Partido Encuentro Nacional (<i>Encuentro Nacional Party</i>) Partido Social Demócrata (<i>Social-Democrat Party</i>) 	Alianza Paraguay Alegre List 4
Roberto Ferreira	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partido Humanista (<i>Humanist Party</i>) 	No coalition List 5
Lino Oviedo Sánchez	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unión Nacional de Ciudadanos Éticos (<i>National Union of Ethical Citizens</i>)⁹ 	No coalition List 7
Miguel Carrizosa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partido Patria Querida (<i>Patria Querida Party</i>) 	No coalition List 8
Ricardo Martín Almada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partido Blanco (<i>White Party</i>) 	No coalition List 10
Eduardo Arce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partido de los Trabajadores (<i>Workers Party</i>) 	No coalition List 14

⁹ A few days before the vote, the UNACE and *Paraguay Alegre* Alliance agreed on an alliance.

TABLE 3.5.1: CANDIDATES FOR THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC (CONTINUED)

Candidates	Political Parties	Coalitions/liste
Anibal Carrillo Iramain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partido País Solidario (<i>Solidary Country Party</i>) Partido Frente Amplio (<i>Frente Amplio Party</i>) Bloque Social y Popular (<i>Social Popular Block</i>) Partido de Participación Ciudadana (<i>Citizen Participation Party</i>) Partido Popular Tekojoja (<i>Tekojoja Popular Party</i>) Partido Comunista Paraguayo (<i>Paraguayan Communist Party</i>) Partido Convergencia Popular Socialista (<i>Socialist Popular Convergence Party</i>) Partido del Movimiento Patriótico y Popular (<i>Patriotic and Popular Movement Party</i>) Frente Social y Popular (<i>Social Popular Front</i>) Frente Patriótico Popular (<i>Patriotic Popular Front</i>) Partido de la Unidad Popular (<i>Popular Unity Party</i>) 	Frente Guasú List 40
Atanasio Galeano	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partido Patria Libre (<i>Patria Libre Party</i>) 	No coalition List 55
Lilian Soto	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Movimiento Kuña Pyrenda (<i>Kuña Pyrenda Movement</i>) 	No coalition List 69

3.5.2. SUMMARY CAMPAIGN CALENDAR¹⁰

Date	Event
August 21, 2012	Elections are called for the following positions: President; Vice-President; senators; deputies; MERCOSUR parliamentarians; governors; and departmental assembly members
December 9, 2012 to January 20, 2013	Parties, political movements and coalitions elect their candidates
December 10, 2012 to February 15, 2013	Candidacies for general and departmental elections are submitted
February 18, 2013 to April 18, 2013	Electoral publicity
April 6, 2013	Further opinion polls prohibited
April 21, 2013	Elections and disclosure of preliminary results
May 31, 2013	Candidates proclaimed elected

10. In accordance with Resolution 3/2012.

4. THE LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK OF THE APRIL 21, 2013 ELECTIONS

4.1. POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS AND ELECTORAL SYSTEM

The Constitution of 1992 of the Republic of Paraguay enacts the separation of the executive, legislative and judicial powers, thus ensuring balance, coordination, control and reciprocity between the three branches (s. 3).

The **executive power** is held by the President of the Republic, who combines the roles of head of State, head of the Government and commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces.

The president and vice-president are elected under a first-past-the-post system for a five-year term, and may not be re-elected.

The bicameral **legislative power** is exercised by the National Congress. The Upper House is composed of 45 senators and 30 substitutes, the Lower House of 80 Members and an equivalent number of substitutes.¹¹

Members and senators alike are elected every five years under a proportional representation system (Hondt method¹²) with closed lists¹³ (Act 834, s. 258); they may be re-elected. An open-list system was used for the first time in these elections, as opposed to the closed-list system used in the past.

Under the Constitution of 1992, every democratically elected president of the Republic becomes, on completion of his or her term, a senator for life with the right to speak but not to vote.

Senators are elected on a country-wide basis. Members are elected on a departmental basis and the number of seats in each department is determined by the Superior Tribunal of Electoral Justice (TSJE) to reflect the population of that department.

During the elections of April 21, 2013, in addition to choosing their president, vice-president, senators and Members, Paraguayans elected the governors who serve as the country's political officials in each department. Elected for a five-year term, the governors represent the executive power in implementing national policy (Constitution, s. 161). Members of departmental assemblies were also elected, the number varying on average between 10 and 20 depending on the department. Paraguay is divided into 18 departments, including that of the capital city, Asunción.

¹¹ The speakers currently in office are Miguel Abdón Saguier (Upper House) and Oscar Rubén Salomón (Lower House).

¹² Under this method the "list" votes of the parties are divided by 1, 2, 3, 4, etc., and the results classified from highest to lowest; the seats are then attributed in descending order to the parties with the highest results, until all seats are accounted for.

¹³ Electors do not vote for a particular candidate but for the list of a particular party, alliance or movement.

Municipal elections are the only ones not held on the same day as general elections. The last municipal elections took place in November 2010.

Finally, Paraguayans were asked for the second time to elect 18 representatives to the Mercosur Parliament (Parlasur).¹⁴

TABLE 4: SEATS TO WIN FOR EVERY TYPE OF ELECTION

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS - April 21, 2013¹⁵	
The candidate who obtains the most votes is elected President (first-past-the-post system).	

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS - April 21, 2013	
SENATORS	45 senators and 30 substitutes
Voting system	Open-list proportional representation (d'Hondt method)
Number of electoral districts	A single national electoral district (s. 223 of the national Constitution)
DEPUTIES	80 deputies and 80 substitutes (number of seats in proportion to the population of each department)
Voting system	Open-list proportional representation (d'Hondt method)
Number of electoral districts	18 departmental electoral districts (s. 221 of the national Constitution)
PARLASUR MEMBERS	18 parliamentarians and 18 substitutes
Voting system	Open-list proportional representation (d'Hondt method)

DEPARTMENTAL ELECTIONS - April 21, 2013	
Governors and departmental assembly members	- 17 governors - assembly members (number varies from one department to another)
Voting system	First-past-the-post system

14. Each member country elects 18 parliamentarians to represent them in the Mercosur Parliament.

15. In accordance with Resolution 65/2012.

4.2. ELECTIONS ACT

Paraguay's Elections Act (*Codigo electoral*), Act 834/96, was adopted in 1996. It was amended in 2007, 2011 and 2012.

General elections are held every five years in April or May.

4.2.1. VOTE

Suffrage is universal and free, with direct voting under a one-person, one-vote system; a vote cannot be delegated.

Suffrage is universal and free, with direct voting under a one-person, one-vote system; a vote cannot be delegated. The right to vote is granted to all Paraguayan citizens who reside in the country, are 18 years of age or older, and are listed in the Permanent Register. In accordance with Act 4559/2012, Paraguayans who are 18 years old on January 16, 2012 were automatically entered in the Permanent Register.

With the passing of Act 7671/2011, which approved constitutional amendment No. 1 to amend section 120 of the national Constitution, Paraguayan citizens residing outside the country became eligible to vote. Hence the Superior Tribunal of Electoral Justice adopted Resolution 32/2013, which contains the Regulation to grant the right to vote to Paraguayan citizens residing in other countries. It was announced that 14 polling stations would be set up in Argentina, Spain and the United States.

Voting is compulsory, and failure to vote renders an individual liable to a penalty (ss. 4, 113 and 332).

Under section 91, the vote does not extend to:

- incarcerated individuals and people prohibited from voting by a court judgement;
- conscripts, members of the Armed Forces, members of the police force, and students enrolled at military or police academies;
- persons who can neither speak, hear nor express themselves in writing.

4.2.2. THE APPLICATION FOR ELECTIONS

Under section 85, any citizen can run for office in any of the various types of election. Electoral candidates are subject to the following rules:

- the candidate must not have previously participated in an election campaign with regard to the office he or she is seeking;
- the candidate must not have held an executive position with a political party in the past two years;

- the candidate must have the support of a number of electors that is at least equal to 0.5% of the valid votes cast in the last elections for the office he or she is seeking. An elector may not support more than one candidate and must provide his or her home address and identification number;
- the candidate must provide a sworn declaration detailing all campaign contributions received or to be received, and precisely identifying the contributors (this data may be verified by the Electoral Tribunal (art. 86)).

Political parties are prohibited from receiving direct or indirect contributions from foreign sources (e.g., governments, political parties, institutions, natural or legal persons), Paraguayan state-owned businesses and unions (s. 68). All political party funds must be deposited in Paraguayan banks or financial institutions. The Electoral Tribunal has access to the particulars regarding the amounts received and spent by each party. The central government funds the parties at the rate of 15% of the daily minimum wage for each vote obtained in the general elections (s. 72).

4.3. ELECTORAL AUTHORITIES AND INSTITUTIONS

The Constitution of 1992 stipulates that the Electoral Justice System (EJS) is part of the judiciary power. Under Act 635/95, which governs the EJS, the role of that entity is to judge, evaluate, organize, direct and supervise activities related to general, departmental and municipal elections. It also ensures that the rights and obligations of elected individuals are respected.

Though it remains subject to Act 635/95, the EJS is an independent body from both an administrative and a jurisdictional point of view.

La EJS consists of :

- the Superior Tribunal of Electoral Justice;
- electoral judges;
- electoral tribunals;
- the Electoral Registry Office;
- ancillary electoral organizations (civic assemblies);
- electoral counsel;
- polling stations.

4.3.1. THE SUPERIOR TRIBUNAL OF ELECTORAL JUSTICE (TSJE)

The TSJE (*Tribunal Superior de Justicia Electoral*) is the supreme authority in electoral matters. Among its many duties, the TSJE is responsible for convening, directing and supervising elections, administering the electoral register and managing the election resources allocated under the nation's General Budget (Act 635, s. 5).

Le TSJE is headed by three individuals, including a chair and a vice-chair, who are elected annually by the ministers of the Supreme Court of Justice. The current chair is Alberto Ramírez Zambonini, who, under section 4 of Act 635, is responsible for the legal representation and administrative supervision of the Electoral Justice System.

Le TSJE must call elections at least eight months before polling day.

4.3.2. ELECTORAL JUDGES

With four exceptions, each department capital has at least one electoral judge. The departments of d'Alto Paraguay and Concepción share a judge, as do the departments of Boquerón and Villa Hayes. The national capital, Asunción, has two judges (Act 635, s. 17).

The chief role of electoral judges is to assess applications and contestations related to the electoral register and to impose penalties for breaches of electoral law. Electoral judges are appointed by the Judicial Council.

4.3.3. ELECTORAL TRIBUNALS

Each electoral district has an electoral tribunal consisting of three members elected by the Judicial Council.

The tribunals' responsibilities include:

- judging contestations and appeals rejected by electoral judges;
- directing and supervising elections to ensure they are lawfully conducted;
- participating in the vote count.

4.3.4. THE ELECTORAL REGISTRY OFFICE (ERO)

The Permanent Register actually comprises two registers: a register of resident citizens, and a register of Paraguayans who, residing outside the country, do not have the right to vote (Act 834, s.106). Two persons appointed by the TSJE are responsible for the Permanent Register. The two parties, movements or alliances with the largest representation in Parliament name a representative to the ERO, who must subsequently be approved by the TSJE.

The role of the ERO is to register electors on the voters list, to operate the Permanent Register, and to keep track of political parties, alliances and movements.

To register and vote, electors must have an identification card. This card may only be issued by the Identification Department of the National Police Force (*Departamento de identificaciones de la policía nacional*), with the administrative support of the ERO.

An up-to-date copy of the electoral register for each district must be submitted to the ERO on the first business day in March of each year. This document must include persons who are newly registered, no longer registered, or suspended from the list. Before March 30, the ERO must send an up-dated preliminary version of the Permanent Register to the offices of each electoral district. A definitive version must be finalized at least 30 days before the election. On Election Day, each table in a polling station must be in possession of four copies of the Register (Act 834, s. 102).

4.3.5. CIVIC ASSEMBLIES

Civic assemblies are temporary electoral bodies composed of five members and their substitutes. Members are designated by the electoral tribunals on the recommendations of the parties, in a proportion that reflects the number of votes obtained by those parties in the previous election.

Civic assemblies look after the logistical and organizational aspects of Election Day (location of polling stations, dissemination of voting materials, etc.)

4.3.6. ELECTORAL COUNSEL

These persons are appointed by the Supreme Court of Justice, on the recommendations of the Judicial Council. Their role is to defend citizens and represent the public interest throughout the electoral process. Every district that has an electoral judge also has an electoral counsel who scrutinizes the operations of electoral institutions and reports to the Attorney General (s. 24).

4.4. VOTING OPERATIONS ON ELECTION DAY

4.4.1. POLLING STATIONS

Each municipality constitutes an electoral district, with the capital Asunción a district unto itself (Act 834, s. 107). There are 256 electoral districts in all.

Each table at a polling station consists of three members (one of whom is made presiding officer on the basis of a random name-draw) appointed by an electoral judge 15 days prior to the election, on the recommendations of the three political parties, alliances or movements with the largest representation in Parliament. Each member is of necessity from a different party, alliance or movement (Act 834, s. 177).

With the approval of the civic assembly, any party, alliance or movement that runs candidates in an election may designate a witness (*veedor*) for each voting table (*mesa receptora de votos*), 10 days before the election is held (Act 834, s. 189).

All parties, alliances and movements may assign two representatives and their substitutes to the voting centres (*local de votación*) where they are running candidates. A representative and substitute may likewise be appointed for each electoral district or electoral college (Act 834, s. 188).

Representatives have uninhibited access to voting centres and may scrutinize voting procedures and formulate complaints or contestations, in accordance with the Elections Act (Act 834, s. 188).

The legislation provides for one voting table per 200 electors, but permits a maximum of 300 electors per table.

4.4.2. ELECTRONIC VOTING

The potential of electronic ballot boxes was assessed in a pilot project during the 2001 municipal elections. The Unit for the Promotion of Democracy (UPD) of the Organization of American States (OAS) acted as advisor on the project through its program for strengthening electoral systems and processes. Brazil provided technical support and loaned electronic ballot boxes; the U.S. funded the project, which continued to run its course during the general elections of 2003 and the municipal elections of 2006.

Electronic ballot boxes gave rise to much debate during the 2008 electoral campaign. Most of Paraguay's political parties, alliances and movements spoke against their use, the sole exception being the *Colorado Party*. The TSJE settled the matter in February 2008, ruling that traditional ballot boxes alone would be used in the April 20 elections (resolution 12/08). Under Resolution 34/2013, traditional ballots were again used for the elections of April 21, 2013.

Paraguay's traditional ballots show the colours of each party or bear photographs of the candidates, in particular of the presidential and gubernatorial candidates. There is a separate ballot for each elected office (president, vice-president, Member, senator, governor, member of a departmental assembly and member of the *Parlasur*).¹⁶

4.4.3. POLLING DAY

Under the Elections Act, polling day begins officially at midnight; there is no advance polling.

Section 195 of the Act prohibits, on polling day,

- gatherings of persons within 200 metres of voting centres (except electors in line to vote);
- possession of a weapon within 200 metres of voting centres;
- public entertainments until two hours after the election;
- the sale of alcoholic beverages; and
- political party information outlets within 200 metres of voting centres.

Under Resolution 65/2012, on April 21, 2013, the voting tables open at 7 a.m. and close at 4 p.m.

16. As prescribed by Resolution 34/2013, a separate ballot must be used for each elected position.

The presiding officer and the other two members, with their substitutes, must be at the table by 6:00. The three members review the voting material: quantity of ballots, the register, cards identifying tables and candidates. Ballot boxes must be sealed with adhesive paper on which the members have affixed their signatures. The members are also responsible for ensuring that the premises are ready for the turn-out.

At 6:30, the members of the table must issue an attestation as to the composition of the table, to be included with the documents sent to the TSJE after the vote.

Electors vote in order of their arrival at the polls, with priority given to pregnant women, persons with reduced mobility or health problems, persons 75 or older, and electoral authorities and candidates.

Electors must show their identification card at the voting table. The presiding officer and members check that the card is valid and corresponds with the register; if there is a doubt, or if a witness or representative demands further verification of an elector's identity, the matter is decided by majority vote of the three officials at the table, who check the card against the register. Afterwards, the ruling must be issued as a document (s. 209).

If the elector's identity is confirmed, the two members sign the ballot on the back, in the shaded area reserved for that purpose. They must then check to see that the fingers of the elector's right hand are free of ink or any other substance.

After selecting the candidate of their choice in the voting booth, electors fold their ballots and return them to the table for the presiding officer's signature. A one-finger ink fingerprint is taken of each elector before he or she may deposit the ballot in the ballot box. The elector then receives a confirmation of participation bearing his or her name, identification number, electoral district number and voting table number.

Electors who are physically incapable of marking their ballot or depositing it in the ballot box may request the assistance of a reliable person for this purpose (s. 217).

To prevent election fraud, the TSJE recently adopted resolution 34/2013, which provides for such measures as bar codes and special paper for ensuring the security of the electoral envelope containing voting-table and other electoral documents. In addition, each table is identified by an alphanumeric code, and the members of the table are more effectively screened.

The same resolution provides for six ballot boxes at each voting table, according to the type of election: one for the President and Vice-President, one for the Chamber of Senators, one for the Chamber of Deputies, one for the parliamentarians of MERCOSUR, one for the position of governor and one for the departmental assemblies.

TABLE 4.4.3: BALLOT FOR EVERY TYPE OF ELECTION

Ballots	
Ballot Box 1: Election of the President and Vice-President	1 ballot
Ballot Box 2: Election of the Chamber of Senators	1 ballot – Senators
Ballot Box 3: Election of the Chamber of Deputies	1 ballot – Deputies
Ballot Box 4: Election of the parliamentarians of Mercosur (Parlasur)	1 ballot – Parlasur
Ballot Box 5: Election of the governors	1 ballot – Governors
Ballot Box 6: Departmental elections	1 ballot – Departmental assemblies

After 16:00 only electors who are already in line may vote. Next, members of the table who have not yet voted may do so. Closing of the polls may be postponed to compensate exactly for any interruptions that may have taken place during the day (ss. 218 and 219).

An interruption in the vote must be justified by the members at the table, who then inform the civic assembly. If a vote is definitively suspended, the votes cast up to that point do not count and are destroyed (s. 215).

In no case may a voting table operate without all three of its members present. If there is a substitution, an explanatory document must be issued to that effect (art. 216).

When the polls close, the number of persons who voted must be entered on the registry form. The whole must be signed by the members of the table and, of their own free will, by the witnesses of the different parties, alliances and movements (s. 220).

Voting is by secret ballot, but vote-counting is public and may be observed in silence by any elector, at a distance determined by the presiding officer of the table (s. 221).

The steps in vote-counting must be carried out without interruption. These steps are:

1. opening the ballot boxes;
2. counting the ballots (ballots that do not meet the applicable standards or are not signed by the members of the table are cancelled);

3. comparing the number of counted ballots with the number of electors who voted. Any difference must be entered in the Elections Statement. If the number of counted ballots exceeds the number of electors, the presiding officer destroys the surplus ballots. If the number of surplus ballots represents 10% or more of the total number of votes, all votes from the table are cancelled;
4. placing the ballots back in the ballot boxes;
5. reading the ballots aloud, according to type of election and political party. This is done by the presiding officer;
6. tabulating the ballots and submitting them to the witnesses, by category, beginning with the presidential election;
7. recounting the votes and announcing the results aloud;
8. issuing the Elections Statement (number of votes cast by category, and complaints).

The Elections Statement, the document attesting to the composition of the table, the register and any document of complaint or contestation, must be inserted in the electoral envelope, which is sealed and signed by the members of the table before being placed in a plastic envelope and submitted to the civic assembly; the latter issues an acknowledgement of receipt to the presiding officer and the electoral judges. In a final step, the package is submitted to the electoral judges and then to the tribunals of each riding for a comprehensive vote-count by district or department.

At the national level, votes are tabulated by TSJE. In the past elections, preliminary results were announced in the hours immediately following the closing of the polls, official results on May 31, 2013.

5. MISSION ACTIVITIES BEFORE ELECTION DAY

5.1. ARRIVAL OF THE MISSION AND ACCREDITATION OF MEMBERS

Upon its arrival in Mexico on June 27, 2012, the COPA delegation issued a press release¹⁷ to announce the composition of the delegation, and the purpose of the mission. The press release also included a brief description of COPA.

5.2. WORKING MEETINGS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES INVOLVED IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

On April 17, 2013, the delegation members participated in the program offered to international observers by the Superior Tribunal of Electoral Justice (TSJE). Within the framework of the program, the parliamentarians were able to meet with the presidential or vice-presidential candidates of the Colorado Party, Mr. Horacio Cartes; of the Alliance *Paraguay Alegre*, Mr. Rafael Filizzola (vice-presidency); and of the *Avanza País* coalition, Mr. Mario Ferreiro. In addition, they were present when the report from the Inter-American Union of Electoral Organizations (UNIORE) was presented.

On April 18, 2013, the members of the mission took part in the new program available to international observers, during which were held meetings with the presidential candidates of the *Patria Querida* Party, Mr. Miguel Carrizosa, and that of the Labour Party, Mr. Eduardo Arce. Moreover, the parliamentarians attended a presentation given by Dr. José María Cabral and Dr. María del Pilar Callizo on the role of political parties in Paraguay.

On April 19, 2013, still within the framework of the program offered to international observers, various managers at the TSJE presented their respective roles, and information on the electoral process. Information was also provided on the various plans concerning election organization, the punishment of offences, the power of the electoral authorities, submitting and recording the results, the electoral material and concerning the management of the register of electors. The latter activity ended the participation of COPA delegation members in the program offered by the TSJE.

In the afternoon, parliamentarians taking part in the mission held a working meeting with the leader of the OAS chief electoral observer in Paraguay, Nobel Peace Prize and former president of Costa Rica, S.E.M. Óscar Arias Sánchez. In addition, the participants held a working meeting with the President of Amnesty International for Paraguay, Mr. Fabián Forestieri.

On April 20, 2013, working meetings were held with representatives of the Paraguayan Association of women entrepreneurs, directors and professionals (APEP), with representatives of the election observation mission of the European Union, of the National Workers' Central (CNT) and the Unified

¹⁷ The press release dated April 17, 2013 is provided under Appendix 7.

Workers' Central (CUT). And finally, a second working meeting was also held with the presidential candidate of the Labour Party, Mr. Eduardo Arce¹⁸.

Summaries of the comments and information gathered during these meetings are reported below¹⁹.

5.2.1. PRESENTATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN UNION OF ELECTORAL ORGANIZATIONS (UNIORE) MISSION REPORT

- **Organization Representative: Mr. Manuel Carrillo Poblano, Coordinator of International Affairs of the Federal Electoral Institute (IFE)**
- **April 17, 2013 — 9:45 a.m.**

Within the framework of the information program offered by the Superior Tribunal of Electoral Justice (TSJE) to international observers, the COPA delegation attended the presentation of UNIORE pre-election mission reports.

In Paraguay for seven months, UNIORE carried out three missions ahead of the election of April 21, 2013. The first mission, carried out in October 2012, focused on the opinion of political parties, on State representatives and on pre-candidates with respect to the electoral process. Based on the findings, the majority of actors trust the TSJE, the general conditions of the electoral process promote free and transparent elections, and the political judgement of Lugo was legal²⁰.

In addition, certain reservations were allegedly issued by the actors met by UNIORE. First, there was the TSJE's lack of authority to enforce the law and the excessive spending generated by the electoral process.

Second, the UNIORE met with actors from civil society²¹ in February 2013. Among the positive points, the representatives met emphasized the confidence in the TSJE, political pluralism, as well as the strengthening of the political and legal system. Among the negative points, the representatives met expressed their concern over allegations of vote-buying²², excessive expenses associated with the organization of elections and the little control of electoral justice on the resources of political parties, particularly regarding financial resources.

The third mission was held by UNIORE in March 2013, and primarily technical in nature. This mission mainly focused on the Preliminary results transmission system (TREP). Through a

¹⁸ Two meetings took place between delegation members and the candidate of the Labour Party, Mr. Arce. This is due to the fact that several allegations made by the candidate during the first meeting required further clarification.

¹⁹ In this report, the members of the mission solely reported the comments made by representatives of the institutions in question; they do not, in any way whatsoever, endorse the views expressed by the representatives.

²⁰ According to UNIORE, only the *Frente Guasú* contended that the process did not abide by the law and that the dismissal in itself was therefore illegitimate.

²¹ These actors include representatives from NGOs, media, opinion leaders, academics and diplomatic corps in Paraguay.

²² According to UNIORE, these allegations were not corroborated by evidence.

verification process of the system in question, UNIORE noted that the system was reliable, functional, safe, and efficient.

5.2.2. FORUM ON THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN PARAGUAY

- **Participants met:**
 - o **Dr. Hugo Saguier Caballero, a former representative of the Government of Paraguay to the OAS;**
 - o **Dr. Eladio Loizaga, a former representative of the Government of Paraguay to the United Nations;**
 - o **Dr. Carlos Mateo Balmelli, a former Paraguayan general manager of *Itaipú Binational*.**
- **April 17, 2013 — 10 a.m.**

In general, all three participants expressed their confidence in the Paraguayan electoral justice, which includes the TSJE, the criminal courts and the Supreme Court. In addition, the participants agreed on the fact that there were adequate safeguards to ensure that the electoral process is carried out appropriately and peacefully. Finally, it should be noted that all three stated that the impeachment process of former president Lugo was constitutional and legitimate.

Mr. Balmelli particularly stated that the common objective of political actors was to consolidate democracy despite existing political divides. In addition, Mr. Balmelli mentioned that there was a gap between international and national reactions to the impeachment process of Lugo. Interestingly, Paraguayans overwhelmingly supported the process and, in the vast majority, recognized its legitimacy. Mr. Balmelli also has certain reservations, particularly in terms of media access. Indeed, he wishes increased regulations regarding election advertising and resources invested by political parties.

Finally, Mr. Loizaga Brugada noted the fact that Paraguayan electoral laws were among the most modern in the area.

5.2.3. MEETING WITH PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES FOR THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN ASSOCIATION (COLORADO PARTY)

- **Respectively candidates to the presidency and the vice-presidency of the Republic:**
 - o **Mr. Horacio Cartes and;**
 - o **Mr. Juan Afara.**
- **April 17, 2013 — 3:30 p.m.**

The comments made by Mr. Cartes essentially came in response to questions from international observers present in the room.

First, an observer inquired about Mr. Cartes' thoughts on whether or not it is necessary to initiate a land reform in Paraguay. The presidential candidate recalled from the outset that several initiatives are in place to support small producers. He made reference to a support initiative providing food

and fertilizers needed to cultivate land to 1,200 families, thus developing small scale agriculture. He also pointed out the need to establish a solid system of land title registry prior to undertaking an agrarian reform.

The second and last question concerned Brazilian funding in the field of energy in Paraguay. According to the observer who asked the question, several controversies surround the inflow of significant investments from Brazil, including the working conditions of Paraguayans hired in factories.

Mr. Cartes wished to recall that it is necessary and essential that Paraguay be present in the electricity market. He also recalled that these investments prevent the exodus of young workers to Brazil and gives them an opportunity to be involved in the development. Finally, he mentioned the fact that there is a supply of labour in Paraguay ready to be trained in order to meet the industrial needs related to Brazilian investment.

5.2.4. MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES FOR THE *PARAGUAY ALEGRE ALLIANCE*

- **Respectively candidates to the presidency and the vice-presidency of the Republic:**
 - o **Mr. Efraín Alegre and;**
 - o **Mr. Rafael Filizzola.**
- **April 17, 2013 — 4:15 p.m.**

Presidency candidate, Mr. Efraín Alegre, was originally scheduled to appear on the program, but it turned out that only the vice-presidential candidate, Mr. Filizzola, showed up.

From the outset, Mr. Filizzola said that, so far, the electoral process has been conducted accordingly. However, he insisted that his party would closely follow, from a technical standpoint and in collaboration with electoral officials, the issue on how preliminary results are transmitted.

When asked by an international observer whether it was necessary to regulate polls, Mr. Filizzola said that establishing a regulating mechanism would be delicate, considering that the Constitution establishes freedom of the press as an enshrined right.

The second question concerned political financing. Mr. Filizzola mentioned the existence of two major issues in connection with electoral legislation. The first concern lies in the impossibility, for political parties, to have equivalent access to popular funding given the unlimited nature of election expenses and of supporters of parties often associated with economic status.

The second problem is related to the origin of the funds. The law establishes that they must be disclosed; however, according to Mr. Filizzola, this does not seem to be the case.

Mr. Filizzola concluded on the theme of vote-buying. He mentioned a historical and recurring problem in Paraguay in this regard. According to him, the problem is greater during primaries than during general elections. In his opinion, legal bodies have not been efficient enough to stop vote-buying. However, he believes that the trend is shifting towards a decrease of vote-buying.

5.2.5. MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES FOR THE AVANZA PAÍS COALITION

- **Respectively candidates to the presidency and the vice-presidency of the Republic:**
 - o **Mr. Mario Ferreiro and;**
 - o **Ms. Cynthia Brizuela.**
- **April 17, 2013 — 5:15 p.m.**

From the outset, the candidates criticized the impeachment process for the former president, Fernando Lugo. In their view, this was a parliamentary coup. According to them, even if the mechanism is included in the constitution, some principles of law generally recognized have not been observed, such as the right to make a full answer and defence. They believe that Parliament benefits from too many powers. Public consultations should have been held.

The candidates then summarized the main lines of *Avanza País'* political program, basically large sums spent on education, health and social protection. As such, they wished to recall that a “social” type of investment only costs US \$ 140 per capita per year.

With respect to the electoral process, Mr. Ferreiro said that he trusted electoral institutions, despite the relative institutional weakness of Paraguay. According to the candidates, the Superior Tribunal of Electoral Justice is the only institution that has some credibility. In addition, election campaigns, including primaries, are much too long, which allows the two major parties, the PLRA and the Colorado Party, to spend large sums.

They deplored the fact that debates are not supervised. Several parties did not take part in the main debates because they were not happy with the formula.

As for media access, the candidates immediately pointed out its inequity. They proposed that political parties be entitled to free airtime or advertising space, as is the case in Brazil.

Finally, the candidates expressed several doubts about the prevailing financing rules in Paraguay. They deplore the fact that publicly-funded institutions are unable to enforce these rules. As an example, they mentioned that the Colorado Party spent 1,600% more money during the campaign than *Avanza País*.

5.2.6. MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES FOR THE REPUBLIC OF THE LABOUR PARTIES AND OF THE *PATRIA QUERIDA*

- **April 18, 2013, 8:30 a.m.**

Presidential candidate of the Labour Party: Mr. Eduardo Arce*.

From the outset, we wish to point out that Mr. Arce was critical of the electoral system in general. He believes that, in reality, the media is the voice of business people. Mr. Arce and his party were in fact virtually absent in the media based on their ideologies against the interests of the ruling classes. According to him, the right has a lot more media coverage.

In addition, the amount of money invested in election advertising is completely unbalanced. Therefore, this iniquity would contribute to perpetuate the dominant political model. Still in connection with media access, Mr. Arce referred to the fact that four candidates among the eleven registered were invited to the televised presidential debate. In his view, this is a case of discrimination.

Finally, Mr. Arce described widespread vote-buying practises in Paraguay. These practises allegedly occur in secret locations, such as bars.

**It should be noted that Mr. Arce was met a second time by the COPA delegation on Saturday, April 20, 2013, considering that several of the allegations made by the candidate during the first meeting required further clarification. More details are found under 2.5.15 of this report.*

***Patria Querida* Party presidential candidate: Mr. Miguel Carrizosa**

Mr. Carrizosa first stated that the electoral process needs improvement. For example, he would like free public transit in order to ensure that political parties are not in charge of transporting constituents. He also deplored that small political parties cannot send representatives in polling stations due to their limited control. As such, Mr. Carrizosa evoked the issue of political representation around voting tables. The rule according to which the three parties having obtained the most votes in the previous election can have representatives in the voting centers causes several problems. For example, the fact that the PLRA and the UNACE agreed to an electoral alliance ensured that, in reality, only two coalitions controlled the voting tables²³.

Finally, Mr. Carrizosa estimated that there would be electoral fraud as in other elections, mainly through vote-buying, before the election. He stated that these practises are still a major issue in Paraguay. It should also be noted that Mr. Carrizosa has trust in the Superior Tribunal of Electoral Justice.

5.2.7. FORUM ON THE DEMOCRATIC AND SOCIAL ROLE OF POLITICAL PARTIES

- **Dr. José María Cabral, Dean at the *Nuestra Señora de la Asunción* Catholic University Law School;**
- **Dr. María del Pilar Callizo, academic and activist of the Authentic Liberal Radical Party (PLRA).**
- **April 18, 2013, 4 p.m.**

Both participants painted a general picture of the Paraguayan society and its recent history, of public participation and of the role of political parties in the current context.

First, they qualified the Paraguayan society as fundamentally conservative, which would partially explain why two political parties have existed for a century, namely the Colorado Party and the

²³ The three political parties that obtained the most votes in the general elections of 2008 are the following: the Colorado Party, the Authentic Liberal Radical Party (PLRA) and the National Union of Ethical Citizens (UNACE).

PLRA. The third option truly emerged during the 2008 elections, when Fernando Lugo was elected with the support of a progressive alliance. Since the disbanding of the left alliance, the Paraguayan society returned to its roots, with the Colorado-PLRA duo.

Subsequently, the speakers mentioned several shortcomings regarding citizen participation and civic engagement in Paraguay. Two reasons account for this phenomenon. The first is linked to the role of political parties. The latter invest little in citizenship education and in the commitment of activists during the elaboration of public policies or their political program. The second reason is related to the very nature of citizen participation in partisan activities. In reality, this participation originates from the exchange of services, and the search of future benefits from members; in other words, the citizen participation originates from party patronage. To better illustrate this phenomenon, Ms. del Pilar Callizo referred to the election of Mr. Cartes as presidential candidate for the Colorado Party and the impressive 1,100,000 votes he obtained. Therefore, for a democracy of 7 million inhabitants, this figure reflects the members' desire to take advantage of their presence in the Colorado Party and possibly benefit from that.

Finally, the two speakers noted the implications of the impeachment of former President Fernando Lugo on the immediate future. In their view, the challenge of this election truly lies in knowing whether Paraguay will reintegrate the regional organizations, and in finding solutions to the issue of citizen participation. They believe that a movement is currently emerging from the heart of society. This movement started to emerge during the 2008 elections and relies on true citizen participation, based on a meaningful civic engagement.

5.2.8. WORKING MEETING WITH THE ELECTORAL AUTHORITIES OF TSJE

- **Invited speakers:**
 - o **Electoral register:** Dr. Carlos María Santacruz and Mr. Sergio López, Director and Vice-Director of the electoral register;
 - o **Electoral logistics:** Mr. Alberto Muñoz, Director of the electoral material;
 - o **Voting system:** Mr. Luis Alberto Salas, Deputy Coordinator of the Election Coordination Commission;
 - o **Preliminary results transmission system:** Ms. Delia Mora, Computer Manager;
 - o **Electoral offences and frauds:** Ms. Fabiana Marín, Legal Counsel;
 - o **Training of electoral staff:** Mr. Carlos María Ljubetic, General Coordinating Officer of the Election Coordination Commission;
- **April 19, 2013, 8:30 a.m.**
- *Electoral register: Dr. Carlos María Santacruz and Mr. Sergio López, Director and Vice-Director of the electoral register;*

The electoral register listed 3,516,273 voters for the election of April 21, 2013. Anyone who turned 18 between January 1, 2012 and April 20, 2013 was automatically registered to vote. The review of the electoral register by the relevant administrative tribunal is performed at two different times: May 31 and October 31 of each year. All data is transmitted to the computer system branch.

Registration of out-of-country voters takes place in three countries: Argentina, Spain and the United States. Approximately 20,000 voters have taken on the right to vote from outside Paraguay.

The electoral register is developed in collaboration with all political parties and movements. Their offices are located at the headquarters of the TSJE.

According to the two representatives of the TSJE, no party would have expressed doubts on the electoral register.

Finally, there are 273 polling stations in Paraguay.

- *Electoral logistics: Mr. Alberto Muñoz, Director of the electoral material;*

The civic assemblies set up in each district verify if all the voting material is compliant.

Each voting table has between 200 and 300 voters. More than 23 million ballots were issued. The voting material is transported to departmental capitals in 25 military vehicles, while regular vehicles are in charge of bringing the material to the other sites. The material is collected through the same process used for deployment.

- *Voting system: Mr. Luís Alberto Salas, Deputy Coordinator of the Election Coordination Commission;*

The Paraguayan electoral process takes place in three main steps: calling, establishment and confirmation.

Elections are called eight months before the vote is taken; in the case of the 2013 election, the elections were called on August 21, 2012. The process begins with a primary election. As such, 31 political entities were supported by the TSJE. At the end of this step, the candidates are declared and formalized.

The establishment step basically comprises the election and the provisional vote-count.

As for the confirmation step, it is divided in two: the final vote-count, at the latest on May 15, and the announcement of the elected candidates on May 31.

- *Preliminary results transmission system (TREP): Ms. Delia Mora, Computer Manager*

Three transmission channels were available to polling stations in order to communicate the preliminary results to the TSJE headquarters by phone, fax or Internet. It should be noted that, according to Ms. Delia Mora, 90% of the voting tables were located in voting centers with access to the Internet.

One transmission centre (CTX) was installed in every polling station with up to 50 voting tables, two for those with up to 100 voting tables, and three for those with more than 100 voting tables.

A collector (*acopiador*) is in charge of collecting the acts of voting, as well as verifying that all the relevant information was provided, including the three signatures required from each member of a voting table.

The transmission centre operator then scans the acts of voting and sends them to the TSJE headquarters. The scanned image of the act of voting is then scanned by the mainframe, which verifies if it is indeed an original document. The system then encrypts the image of the act.

Before the data appears on the screen of staff members at the TSJE headquarters, the image is decrypted by the system. Through this process, the identification of the voting table is separated from the names of the parties, movements, alliances or coalitions, generating the results in letters and numbers in a disorderly way.

The TSJE publishes the data downloaded by the mainframe on its website, once they match the data that has been verified.

- *Electoral offences and frauds: Ms. Fabiana Marín, Legal Counsel;*

Three institutions are responsible to enforce electoral laws: the police, the electoral justice and the public prosecutor.

The legal framework relating to electoral offences and frauds basically includes the constitution, the electoral law (Act#635), the penal code, the code of penal procedure and the electoral code (Act #834/96). In all, 96 acts are punishable. In the case of electoral frauds, or if a public office holder failed to perform a duty accordingly, the offence is punishable by fine. As for electoral offences, they are processed through the normal criminal procedure. The penalties are determined under the penal code and, as such, they are deemed a criminal act.

- *Training of electoral staff: Mr. Carlos María Ljubetic, General Coordinating Officer of the Election Coordination Commission;*

This training is intended for five categories of individuals involved in the electoral process:

- Members of civic assemblies (*juntas cívicas*);
- Members of voting tables;
- Witnesses nominated by the political parties (*veedores*);
- Logistical assistants²⁴;
- Police forces.

It should be noted that 39 political organizations benefited from the training offered by the TSJE during the primaries.

Spates of training session are carried out. First, national trainers train departmental trainers who in turn train district trainers who ultimately train electoral officers in polling centres.

²⁴ Logistical assistants (*asistentes logísticos*) are in fact TSJE officials delegated in polling centres to support the civic assemblies of each district.

5.2.9. WORKING MEETING WITH THE HEAD OF THE OAS ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION IN PARAGUAY, S.E.M. ÓSCAR ARIAS SÁNCHEZ

- **April 19, 2013, 2 p.m.**
- **Were also present:**
 - o **Ms. Betilde Muñoz, Director of the OAS Department of cooperation and electoral observation;**
 - o **Mr. David Álvarez, Coordinator of the OAS electoral observation mission in Paraguay.**

The Organization of American States (OAS) is in Paraguay since July 2012. Its preferred strategy is essentially based on political support following the impeachment process for former President Fernando Lugo.

According to Mr. Arias, the TSJE is a credible and trustworthy institution. Similarly, the preliminary results transmission system (TREP) is effective, reliable and safe. In addition, the OAS participated in its development by providing technical support.

The OAS was deployed everywhere in Paraguay. Most of the observers arrived on Friday and Saturday, and received training.

Finally, according to Mr. Arias, the OAS' main objective is to provide stability in Paraguay in the wake of the political events that have shaken the country since June 2012 pursuant to the impeachment of its former president.

5.2.10. WORKING MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PARAGUAY, MR. FABIÁN FORESTIERI

- **April 19, 2013, 5:00 p.m.**

Amnesty International Paraguay has some 20,000 members, nearly 2,500 donors and has been present in Paraguay for 20 years. From the outset, Mr. Forestieri wished to clarify that Amnesty International was essentially concerned with respecting human rights within an electoral context.

According to him, the situation of Aboriginal communities is the most disconcerting in Paraguay. First, the supremacy of religion over the Paraguayan society and its conservative inclinations may have negative effects on certain indicators such as infant mortality. In addition, an agrarian reform is necessary according to Mr. Forestieri, given that 2% of the population owns 80% of lands. It should be noted that, historically, the relationship of Aboriginal communities with the land has been the very foundation on which their lifestyle is based. This uneven distribution of land ownership may have negative effects on Aboriginals.

To a larger extent, the judicial discrimination against vulnerable groups is a major issue in Paraguay. Access to justice might also be restricted in relation to a person's socio-economic group.

Mr. Forestieri noted that no candidate was truly able to address the issue of human rights, or, at least, none of them managed to start a public debate.

Mr. Forestieri also mentioned that the low participation of women in politics is also an issue that was raised, along with the homophobic content of the current political discourse.

5.2.11. WORKING MEETING WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PARAGUAYAN ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS, DIRECTORS AND PROFESSIONALS (APEP)

- **Head of the agency: Ms. Ibelice García Fernández**
- **Were also present:**
 - o **Ms. Irma Lévera, President;**
 - o **Ms. Ana Maria Ortiz, Vice-President.**
- **April 20, 2013, 9 a.m.**

First, it should be mentioned that the APEP has 200 members.

Its representatives are criticizing the fact that the nature of the election campaign is too masculine. Women are basically used as substitutes on electoral lists.

According to APEP representatives, the chances of a woman being a candidate depend more often than not on her financial resources, lending little importance to her personal journey.

Nonetheless, they still pointed out some positive elements in connection with the issue of women in Paraguay, within the electoral process of 2013. First, the law provides that women must represent at least 20% of electoral lists. However, this legislation should be strengthened to ensure that women do not find themselves at the bottom of the list, as is all too often the case. We must therefore work toward a more egalitarian legislation.

They also found that the emergence of a third political force in Paraguay is a pledge of hope for the future. This third option emerged during the 2008 general elections, with the “left” current linked to Fernando Lugo.

The representatives also pointed out the need to raise public awareness among Paraguayan women, so they may develop their self-confidence. According to them, several women have the necessary skills to have a career in politics; however, they never really get into politics.

A vote-buying mentality is allegedly well established in Paraguay, and would still be present in 2013. According to APEP representatives, such practises can be prevented through education.

Finally, the representatives at the meeting wished to highlight two particular issues with the electoral process: members at the voting tables and the out-of-country vote.

Regarding the issue of members at the voting tables, they wished to mention that witnesses mandated by political parties other than the main parties have more difficulty in obtaining information from them.

As for the out-of-country vote, they expressed certain reservations concerning the low voter registration. Several constituents were not able to register on the grounds that few registration

sites are deployed abroad. Therefore, access to registration should be facilitated, by, among others things, allowing embassies and consulates to register constituents.

5.2.12. WORKING MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION IN PARAGUAY

- **Deputy Chief of the European Union Election Observation Mission in Paraguay: Mr. Tomasso Caprioglio.**
- **April 20, 2013, 11 a.m.**

The European Union Election Observation Mission in the context of the Paraguayan general elections of April 21, 2013 had 52 short-term observers and 22 long-term observers. In addition, the delegation included seven deputies and five public servants. The European Union's mission was carried under three phases: the pre-election phase, the election itself and the post-election phase. It should be noted that they stayed in Paraguay until May 16, 2013.

From the outset, the two representatives present at the working meeting stated that the European Union would pay close attention to the preliminary results transmission system (TREP), amid some doubts that were expressed. They also expressed their confidence in the TSJE, by stressing its openness and transparency.

The representatives wished to emphasize the aspects needing close attention during the election, being aware that COPA mainly focuses on the voting aspect on Election Day.

First of all, exit polls systems—*boca de urna* in Spanish—are prohibited before the closing of polling stations, under section 306 of the Paraguayan Electoral Code. Exit polls are based on the following principle: individuals mandated by communications media, mainly radio stations, survey constituents upon their exiting polling stations to have an idea of voting trends during Election Day. Then, they publish updated results throughout the day.

Close attention should also be given to the composition of voting tables. According to European Union representatives, political parties allegedly bribe voting tables members not to show up. As a result, people in line are ultimately picked to replace the member appointed earlier.²⁵ The purpose of this practise would be to standardize political representation at voting tables.

Finally, from a broader standpoint, European Union representatives are criticizing the fact that money is a crucial element in the outcome.

²⁵ It should be noted that electoral laws provides a substitute for each member at a voting table. However, in reality, according to the European Union, the substitute is rarely contacted, and they pick a person in line instead.

5.2.13. WORKING MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF WORKERS OF PARAGUAY (CNT)

- **April 20, 2013, 2 p.m.**
- **Were also present:**
 - o **Mr. Antonin López, Secretary of international relations and the press;**
 - o **Mr. Mario Ruben Insfra, Training Manager;**
 - o **Mr. Diego García, Vice-President of the youth wing;**
 - o **Mr. Pedro Barra, Adviser.**

From the outset, union officials wanted to specify that the COPA was the only agency of electoral observers to have met with them during the electoral process of 2013.

The union includes nine sectors: farmers, metallurgy, textile, drivers, informal, business, public sector, food and education. Twenty-four individuals are members of the National Executive Committee. The union is also deployed under four regional entities, including one in Buenos Aires, due to the large number of Paraguayans living there. The CNT has 120,000 affiliates.

Representatives first commented on the impeachment of former President Lugo, which they described as a coup. According to them, the death of 11 farmers was planned in order to trigger an impeachment campaign against the former president. They clearly stated to be Lugo supporters. According to them, his rise to power marked the end of a regime that lasted for more than 60 years. Several changes were initiated by the former president, but they were never completed because he ran out of time. These changes notably concerned access to housing, infrastructure development, investment in health and education, and the restitution of land to farmers.

Freedom of association is compromised in Paraguay. The right of association is guaranteed; however, in reality, it is restricted by employer practises, on the grounds that any employee wishing to start a union is fired.

They wished to express their confidence in the Paraguayan electoral justice.

5.2.14. WORKING MEETING WITH CENTRAL CONFEDERATION OF WORKERS OF PARAGUAY (CUT)

- **April 20, 2013, 3 p.m.**
- **Were present:**
 - o **Mr. Bernardo Rojas, President;**
 - o **Mr. Milanio Morel, Finance Secretary;**
 - o **Mr. Sever Gimenez, member.**

As was the case with the CNT, the COPA is the only organization of electoral observers to have met with them during the electoral process of 2013.

From the outset, the representatives mentioned that to be a candidate meant having lots of financial resources. Essentially, it means that only wealthy people can get elected. As such, they argued that

Mr. Horacio Cartes, presidential candidate for the Colorado Party, allegedly bought his candidacy by bribing party delegates during the primaries.

They also argued that a vote-buying culture is deeply-rooted in Paraguay. It should be mentioned that the representatives have criticized the criminal justice system, which they accused of contributing to the widespread impunity that exists among politicians.

Finally, they believe that the press is fully controlled by the employers. There is no such thing as independent press in Paraguay. Therefore, the whole sector would act based on political interests. Community radio remains the only true option for alternative ideologies wishing to express their views, even though its scope is very limited.

5.2.15. WORKING MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE OF THE LABOUR PARTY (LP), MR. EDUARDO ARCES

- **April 20, 2013, 4 p.m.**

Mr. Arces is of the opinion that, strictly from an organizational standpoint, the TSJE is doing a fine job in coordinating elections. However, according to Mr. Arces, the TSJE lacks the resources necessary to enforce the law.

He believes that the TSJE is controlled by the two main political parties, the Colorado Party and the PLRA.

Mr. Arces notably commented on the persisting inequity with respect to media access for political parties, and on the huge sums spent on election advertising. He first gave the example of the Election Act, which allows election advertising from November 2012. In spite of the Act, the Colorado Party held its primaries in August and started advertising its campaign as of then. The TSJE did not take appropriate action in response to this breach.

Also, election expenses are not controlled, which allows the main parties to take over the media space. All that the Act guarantees is a space in the print media and one free minute of television and radio airtime.²⁶

And finally, Mr. Arces denounced electoral fraud committed through vote-buying, which appears to be very widespread. It is alleged that voter registration cards are being sold at a cost of US \$ 25. According to Mr. Arces, members at the voting tables exercise little or no supervision over voter identity.

²⁶ [TRANSLATION] According to section 302 of the Paraguayan Election Act, “[...] mass communications media (radio and television) will grant, free of charge, 3% of the daily media space for the dissemination of the main elements included in the program of a political parties, movements or alliances that are running in the elections, during the ten days preceding the closing of the election campaign. To the same extent, and for the same period of time, the print media will devote a complete page per issue [...]”.

6. MISSION ACTIVITIES ON ELECTION DAY

6.1. DEPLOYMENT OF COPA OBSERVERS

On Election Day, the members of the mission were grouped into six teams of observers:

1. The first team, comprising parliamentarians from Argentina and the Province of Salta (Argentina), namely **Mr. Julio Rodolfo Solanas** and **Mr. Omar Alejandro Soches López**, as well as an Adviser from Brazil, observed operations at 51 voting tables in nine polling stations in the municipalities of Carapeguá, Paraguarí and Yaguarón, located in the *Paraguarí* department²⁷.
2. The second team, comprised of a parliamentarian from the Province of Salta (Argentina), namely **Mr. Jorge Ignacio Jarsun Lamónaca**, as well as advisors from Québec (Canada), observed operations for 23 voting tables in six polling stations in the municipalities of Caacupé, Eusebio Ayala, Isla Pucu and Ypacarai, located in the *Cordillera* and *Central* departments²⁸.
3. The third team, comprising representatives from Québec (Canada), Ecuador and the Province of Salta (Argentina), namely **Mr. Gilles Chapadeau**, head of mission, **Ms. Gioconda María Saltos Espinoza** and **Mr. Hector Miguel Calabro**, as well as an advisor from Québec (Canada), observed operations for 39 voting tables in six polling stations from the municipalities of Villa Hayes and Benjamin Aceval, located in the *Presidente Hayes* department²⁹.
4. The fourth team, comprising parliamentarians from Costa Rica, Argentina and the Province of Salta (Argentina), namely **Ms. Ileana Brenes Jiménez**, **Mr. Raúl Enrique Barrantaguy**, **Mr. Oscar Raúl Díaz** and **Mr. Jesus Ramón Villa**, as well as an advisor from the Province of Salta, observed operations for 45 voting tables in five polling stations from the municipality of Luque, located in the *Central* department³⁰.
5. The fifth team, comprising parliamentarians from Argentina and the Province of Salta (Argentina), namely **Mr. Juan Arturo Salim**, **Mr. José Antonio Vilariño** and **Mr. Antonio René Hucena**, observed operations for 32 voting tables in nine polling stations from the municipality of Lambaré, located in the *Central* department³¹.
6. The sixth team, comprising parliamentarians from Argentina, Brazil and the State of Santa Catarina (Brazil), namely **Ms. Gloria Bidegain**, **Mr. Paes Landim** and **Mr. Luis Eduardo Cherem**, as well as two advisors from Argentina and Brazil, observed operations for 36 voting tables in eleven polling stations from the municipalities of San Roque and La Recoleta, located in the *Capital* departement³².

²⁷ See Appendix 8 for the itinerary of Team 1

²⁸ See Appendix 9 for the itinerary of Team 2

²⁹ See Appendix 10 for the itinerary of Team 3

³⁰ See Appendix 11 for the itinerary of Team 4

³¹ See Appendix 12 for the itinerary of Team 5

³² See Appendix 13 for the itinerary of Team 6

6.2. ASPECTS OBSERVED

To help them perform their work as observers, the parliamentarians had received an electoral observation grid prepared by the secretariat of the COPA Committee on Democracy and Peace. This grid was divided into eight parts, based on the provisions of Paraguayan electoral laws. The grid, which can be found under Appendix 14 and of which a copy was completed for each voting table observed, covers the following areas of the electoral process:

1. General information on the observer, the polling station and the voting table;
2. The voting table;
3. Election materials;
4. Voters;
5. Complaints;
6. Other observations;
7. Vote counting;
8. Overall assessment.

The observers collected the information by primarily speaking to the representative posted at the various voting tables.

The six teams of observers also sought to obtain a fair sample of voting practices by visiting polling stations located in various types of neighbourhoods. Thus, in the *Central*, *Capital*, *Cordillera*, *Paraguarí* and *Presidente Hayes* departments, they visited polling stations located in working-class, middle-class and more prosperous neighbourhoods

7. COPA MISSION FINDINGS

The main findings concerned the following aspects:

- Voting tables;
- Election materials (2 tables);
- Complaints;
- General observations; and
- Vote count³³.

7.1. VOTING TABLES

No significant setbacks were noted with respect to the start of the voting process for the majority of voting tables. The few minor setbacks that were reported were due to the late arrival of the election materials and/or of the polling station officials. It was specifically the case for the following polling stations:

- *Colegio L. Sánchez de Paez-Pacheco*, located in the Carapeguá-05 district (*Paraguari* department);
- *Asociación del Ministerio de Hacienda*, located in the Lambaré-13 district (*Central* department);
- *Colegio Nacional Santa Lucia*, also located in the Lambaré-13 district (*Central* department) and;
- *Asunción Escalada*, located in the La Catedral-02 district (*Capital* department).

Data on the voting tables are presented in the following table:

	YES	NO	No answer
Suitable voting table facilities and set-up	154	28	6
Complete Polling station	177	4	7
Presence of security forces	161	15	13
Presence of candidate/party representatives	172	10	6
Presence of election advertising on site	24	151	10
Acts of voter-intimidation	7	169	12

The site and installations were appropriate for most voting tables observed. The main deficiencies noted involved the lack of space, easily accessible ballot boxes and narrow tables. Particularly noteworthy is the case of the *Escuela de Remansito* polling station from the Villa Hayes district (*Presidente Hayes*), where all the tables were round and too small. Moreover, the space was clearly limited, preventing voting from taking place in an orderly manner.

³³ These findings are based on the appraisals of the COPA delegation members.

More specifically, a number of deficiencies were observed with respect to how the site at the *Instituto de Formación Docente* polling station of the Eusebio Ayala-13 district (*Cordillera*) was set-up. For example, a set of voting booths inside of a classroom away from the voting tables, thus rendering it difficult for polling station officials to prevent irregularities. As such, it was impossible to know if an elector was using a cell phone, which is prohibited under the electoral laws.

In addition, some polling stations did not provide an access for disabled persons. That was the case for the *Colegio Nacional E.M.D. General Elizardo Aquino* polling station from the Luque-17 district (*Central*).

Also, the way the ballot boxes were set-up turned out to be a frequent problem. This problem was due to the size of the ballot box, essentially consisting of a plastic bag easily accessible by the polling station officials or any other person, as the bags were simply attached to the tables. We will get back to this issue in section 7.2, dealing with election materials.

Voting took place without intimidation in almost every polling station. However, a situation was reported in the *Colegio Virgen de Nazareth* polling station of the La Recoleta-04 district (*Capital*), where a political group came to disturb the electors, prompting the police to disperse the group in question.

Very few tables were incomplete. It was the case for only four tables, on a total of nearly 190 voting tables observed.

Finally, in most of the cases where members of voting tables failed to show up to fulfill the role assigned to them, substitutes were chosen among the electors in line. These situations caused delays in the beginning of the voting process. However, it should be noted that for almost all of the voting tables, the members primarily assigned were indeed present.

7.2. ELECTION MATERIALS

Election materials were provided in sufficient quantity and met the prescribed standards in the vast majority of the voting tables observed. Data on election materials are presented in the following table:

	YES	NO	No answer
Appropriately sealed urns	155	19	14
Voting booths ensuring voter secrecy	156	26	7
List of electors	163	8	17
Sufficient ballots	179	0	9

Every table had sufficient ballots.

As for voting booths, in cases where voter secrecy was not guaranteed, the problem was mainly due to the set-up of the booths. In that regard, nearly 16% of all voting tables observed did not ensure voter secrecy.

For example, at the *Instituto de Formación Docente* polling station of Eusebio Ayala-13 district (*Cordillera*), voter secrecy was not ensured. Numerous voting booths were placed in the middle of the courtyard, in full view of passers-by.

As for ballot boxes, many problems have been reported, mainly concerning their size, the fact that they were hung to the side of the table, and the opening provided to put the ballots. Indeed, many observers have reported deficiencies with regard to the easily accessible content of the ballot boxes for the members of the voting tables. In fact, the ballot boxes were effectively sealed in the vast majority of cases, in conformity with the section 198 a) of the Paraguayan electoral law. However, the opening of the ballot boxes was large enough to have access to its content. This particular situation has created some confusion among observers, as some of them based solely on the electoral law to state that they were properly sealed and others considered otherwise.

The case of *Colegio Nacional General Pablo Avila* polling station of the La Recoleta-04 district (*Capital*), is also worthy of mention, where an urn detached itself from voting table 10 and the ballots flew away toward the gymnasium. A sealed ballot box actually shaped like a box³⁴, or any other secure format, would have clearly prevented such a situation.

At table 44 at from the *Colegio Nacional Raúl Peña* polling station of the Caacupe-00 district (*Cordillera*), the plastic ballot boxes were placed in such a way that passers-by would bump into them. Also, these ballot boxes were wide-open, thus improperly sealed.

Such situations increase the risk of losing ballots and facilitate their manipulation by election officials.

Data on election materials and the work of polling station officials are presented in the following table:

	Very good	Good	Poor	Very poor	No answer
Election materials	81	90	4	2	11
Work of polling station officials	76	83	14	3	19

For more than 90% of the voting tables, the election material was appropriate. Moreover, the work of polling station officials was deemed very good or good for nearly 85% of the voting tables.

³⁴ As a reminder, the ballot boxes consisted essentially of a plastic bag.

Among the deficiencies noted, tables were not identified and voting booths were not installed properly, which undermined voter secrecy, especially for the six following voting tables:

- Table 14 of the *Colegio Nacional Mariscal J.F. Estigarribia* polling stations of the Carapegua-05 district(*Paraguarí*);
- Table 13 from the *Escuela Básica no. 77* polling station of the Pâraguarí-00 district (*Paraguarí*);
- Table 21 from the *Escuela no. 295 Panamericana Cia. Pecuaajo* polling station from the Yaguarón-27 district, located in the *Paraguarí* department;
- Table 7 from the *Escuela no. 1637 Defensores del Chaco* polling station from the Villa Hayes district (*Presidente Hayes*);
- Table 9 of the *Colegio Nacional Mariscal J.F. Estigarribia* polling station of the Carapegua-05 district(*Paraguarí*);
- Table 4 from the *Escuela no. 207 Blas Garay* polling station from the La Recoleta-04 district (*Capital*).

Regarding the work of election officials, observers noted deficiencies for 17 voting tables. Only the most problematic deficiencies will be addressed in this report. First, at table 14 of the *Colegio Nacional Mariscal J.F. Estigarribia* polling station from the Carapegua-05 district (*Paraguarí*), an election official opened a ballot box that had been previously sealed.

At table 5 of the *Colegio Nacional Julio Correa* polling station from the Luque-17 district (*Central*), observers noted a lack of training and knowledge from the officials concerning the voting process. For example, officials failed to explain the importance of folding the ballots after the choice had been made. Observers noted that ballots had been placed unfolded in the ballot box on a few occasions.

Finally, at table 1 of the *Escuela de Remansito* polling station from the Villa Hayes district (*Presidente Hayes*), election officials seemed to be very confused, and clearly lacked training, which dramatically slowed down the voting process. At the same table, an election official handled completed ballots.

7.3. COMPLAINTS;

On the whole, few complaints were filed by political party representatives, candidates and citizens. The following table presents the data relating to complaints:

	YES	NO	No answer
Complaints by party and candidate representatives	6	123	59
Complaints by voters	11	111	66

However, certain types of complaints were made to observers.

First of all, some electors complained about the waiting time at the following voting tables:

- Table 21 of the *Lic. Nacional República de Guatemala* polling station from the Yaguarón-27 district (*Paraguarí*);
- Table 11 of the *Colegio L. Sánchez de Paez-Pacheco*, polling station from the Carapeguá-05 district (*Paraguarí*);
- Table 3 of the *Escuela de Remansito* polling station from the Villa Hayes district (*Presidente Hayes*).

Also, one voter complained about the presence of an unauthorized person in the voting booth of the *Instituto de Formación Docente* polling station of the Eusebio-Ayala district (*Cordillera*).

Some witnesses (*veedores*) mandated by political parties also criticized the difficult access to voting tables due to the limited space, among other things. That was the case for voting table 3 of the *Defensores del Chaco* polling station from the Villa Hayes district (*Presidente Hayes*).

Finally, many voters were not satisfied with the work accomplished at the voting table 3 of the *Escuela de Remansito* polling station from the Villa Hayes district (*Presidente Hayes*). It should be noted that the waiting time of nearly four hours at this table was exceptionally long. Waiting time and long lineups were also an issue raised at the *Colegio Nacional Santa Lucia* polling station from the Lambaré-13 district (*Central*).

7.4. OTHER OBSERVATIONS

In general, the vast majority of the provisions of the electoral laws were observed. Data relating to other observations are presented in the following table:

	YES	NO	No answer
Ballot secrecy	157	15	16
Presence of more than one voter in the voting booth	27	142	20
Electoral staff compliance with procedures	163	7	18
Voter understanding of procedures	156	14	24
Presence of unauthorized persons in the polling station	20	139	29
Visit by other international observers	64	99	25
Orderly conduct of voting	161	8	19
Interruption in voting during the day	11	96	81

With regard to ballot secrecy, the tables where deficiencies were observed were those where the location of the voting booth was problematic. The data relating to the set-up of voting booths was addressed at section 7.2 on election materials.

In most cases where more than one person was in the voting booth at the same time, it was to provide assistance to the elector. However, there were some cases in which the reasons why more than one person were in the voting booth remained unknown.

Delegation members noticed many international observers from different organizations or institutions in Paraguay. In fact, the TSJE authorities indicated that the 2013 electoral process was the most observed in the history of Paraguay. Thus, at nearly 40% of the voting tables observed, parliamentarians noted the presence of other international observers.

7.5.VOTE COUNT

COPA observers bore witness to the vote count in the following polling stations:

- *Colegio Nacional Dr. Francia* from the Yaguarón-27 district (*Paraguari*);
- *Escuela no.82 República de Honduras* from the Ypacarai-33 district (*Central*);
- *Escuela de Remansito* from the Villa Hayes district (*Presidente Hayes*);
- *Escuela no.26 Elizardo Aquino* from the Luque-17 district (*Central*);
- *Escuela Parroquial no.1046 Sto. Domingo de Guzman* from the Lambaré-13 district (*Central*);
- *Colegio San José* from the San Roque-03 district (*Capital*).

The vote counting was rigorous, calm, transparent, and performed in accordance with the provisions of electoral laws; COPA observers did not note any abnormalities. The witnesses (*veedores*) and party representatives contributed in ensuring a certain control over the transparency of the vote count. COPA observers wish to congratulate election organizers for their efficiency in compiling results. No formal complaints have been received in relation to the counting process.

Unfortunately, COPA observers did not witness the transfer of the results from the transmission centers (CTX) to the authority on electoral justice. It should be noted that an electronic system (TREP) was created with the OAS in order to secure the transfer of preliminary results. To that end, numerous guarantees related to the result transmission process ensure adequate levels of security and efficiency. This system and the way it operates are addressed in section 5.2.8.

8. MISSION CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Upon completion of the observation mission, COPA delegation members noted that the voting process took place in a calm environment, that the electoral rules have been generally observed and that most international standards for democratic elections have been upheld.

They were impressed by the sense of civic responsibility and earnestness displayed by citizens and the quality of the supervision provided by the TSJE. As a matter of fact, delegation members issued a press release, insisting on "[...] transparency, availability and excellent work of the Superior Tribunal of Electoral Justice of the Republic of Paraguay"³⁵. Public participation in the voting process is also worthy of mention. The turnout rate was up 4.6 percentage points to reach 68.6%, in comparison to the 2008 election.

This was the second COPA observation mission sent to Paraguay to observe a general election. The previous mission was sent in 2008, following which recommendations were made to the Paraguayan election authorities to improve operations on Election Day, including the following:

- 1. ensure that the list of electors is more accurate and reliable, in order to allay doubts, increase the confidence of both the political parties and the public, limit the risk of election irregularities, and foster a smooth election process on Election Day;**
- 2. in the event that paper ballots are still used in the next elections, improve the quality of election materials, in particular with respect to the size of ballot boxes, so as to preclude potential irregularities;**
- 3. specify the role, obligations and rights of the security forces present at voting centres³⁶.**

Based on the observations made during the April 21, 2013 election, we noted that the general comments for institution and organization representatives involved in the electoral process lead us to believe that the list of electors did not reveal any actual issue with accuracy.

However, the quality of election materials is still a concern for delegation members, specifically with respect to the size of the urns. COPA observers noted that the urns filled up quickly, and ballots sticking out of the urn's slot could easily fall or be substituted. On a few occasions, delegation members witnessed minor irregularities associated with the urns. One example that comes to mind is the case of the *Colegio Nacional General Pablo Avila* of the La Recoleta-04 district (*Capital*), where an urn fell from voting table 10 and the ballots were blown away toward the gymnasium. At table 1 of the *Escuela de Remansito* polling stations from the Villa Hayes district (*Presidente Hayes*), one of the election officials manipulated completed ballots from an urn, after proceeding to opening it.

³⁵The content of the mission's final press release is provided in Appendix 2.

³⁶ COPA.2008. Report of the Electoral Observation Mission in the general election in Paraguay, p. 32-33.

Finally, the observers did not note any issues with respect to the role, obligations and rights of the security forces.

The COPA delegation did not witness any of the risks of fraud or irregularities apprehended by the representatives of institutions or organizations involved in the electoral process during working sessions held the day before the election such as: 1) A vote being bought out or 2) Financial compensation being offered to representatives appointed as member of voting tables in order for them not to show up on Election Day so that a supporter from a rival party could carry out the duty in their place. As for the second apprehension, it should be recalled that it is difficult to know whether or not, in cases where “substitute electors” were in fact chosen, this was a scheme from one of the main political parties.

Finally, the observers noted the presence of “*boca de urnas*” or “*exit polls*” at polling station exits. This practice goes against electoral laws and aims to provide preliminary results to certain media, mainly radio stations. The observers from Team 3 witnessed in particular such a practice at the *Esc. #1149 Eugenio de Mazenot* polling station from the district Benjamin Aceval (*Presidente Hayes*).

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Based on the testimonies of representatives involved in the electoral process, vote-buying is usually carried out by selling identification cards, as the perpetrators fully know that identity is not checked, in accordance with observations made by members of the mission. The delegation welcomes favorably the measures taken by the electoral authorities to prevent electoral fraud and vote-buying, particularly those included in resolution 34/2013. However, although legal provisions are adequate, it is clear that control of the identity of the voter must be strengthened through better training of electoral staff. To remedy this problem, the COPA delegation recommends to:

RECOMMENDATION 1

Ensure, when training election officials, that voter identity control be increased by insisting on the importance of checking that the picture on the identification matches the elector's identity.

The ballot boxes should always be properly sealed, inaccessible for anyone who wishes to manipulate the ballots. Also, the ballot boxes should be fixed so they may not be stolen or blown away. Moreover, the voting booths should always be at the sight of the members of the voting table and arranged to ensure the secrecy of the vote.

Due to numerous issues raised by the size of the ballot boxes and the arrangement of voting booths, the COPA delegation recommends to:

RECOMMENDATION 2

Provide a type of ballot box, other than plastic bags, that may be properly sealed, as well as suitable voting facilities and set-up securing the material and ensuring the secrecy of the vote

Some problems occurred regarding political party representation at voting tables. As a reminder, those problems were:

1. Said members being offered financial compensation so they would not show up on Election Day and allow a supporter from a rival party to carry out their duty;
2. Limited access for witnesses mandated by other parties at the voting tables.

The electoral law stipulates that in the absence of a member of the voting table, his substitute must replace him. But in fact, many observers have noted that the absent member was replaced by a voter at random from the crowd. This can lead to other problems arising from the fact that the voter is not trained to perform these functions.

Based on these observations, the COPA delegation recommends to:

RECOMMENDATION 3

Ensure that the substitute is well trained and comes from the same party as the member who didn't show up, in particular by providing a pool of available substitutes, if necessary.

Finally, the lack of regulations regarding campaign spending has been highlighted by several stakeholders interviewed. In particular, the imbalance between the resources available to the different political movements has often been identified as a factor impairing equality of opportunity in the electoral process. Therefore, the COPA delegation wishes to make the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION 4:

Be sure to put in place a legal framework to ensure the fairness of political financing, with particular attention to campaign spending increasingly high.

In conclusion, delegation members wish to thank the Superior Tribunal of Electoral Justice of Paraguay for their availability, transparency and for the organization of the welcome and information program offered to international observers.

Delegation members would like to express their appreciation for the warm reception they received from the representatives of institutions and organizations during the working meetings preceding polling day, as well as from citizens and election workers during visits to polling stations.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX 1: HISTORY OF COPA'S ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSIONS

Country	Election day	Election type
Mexico	July 1 st , 2012	Presidential
State of Mexico	July 3, 2011	State governor
Colombia	May 30, 2010	Presidential (1 ^{er} tour)
Bolivia	December 6, 2009	Early general
Mexico	July 5, 2009	Legislative
Salvador	March 16, 2009	Presidential (2 ^e tour)
Paraguay	April 20, 2008	General
Argentina	October 28, 2007	Presidential et legislative
Guatemala	September 9, 2007	Presidential et legislative (1 st round)
Nicaragua	November 5, 2006	Presidential et legislative
Brazil	October 1 st , 2006	Presidential et legislative (1 st round)
Mexico	July 2, 2006	Presidential et legislative
Bolivia	December 18, 2005	Presidential et legislative

**APPENDIX 2: OFFICIAL LETTER OF INVITATION FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE
HIGHER COURT OF ELECTORAL JUSTICE, MR. ALBERTO RAMÍREZ ZAMBONINI**

Tribunal Superior de Justicia Electoral

Nota Presidencia N° 418/2012

Asunción, 23 de noviembre de 2012

EXCELENCIA

Tengo el honor de dirigirme a usted, en razón de saludarlo muy cordialmente, al momento de referirle las Elecciones de Presidente y Vicepresidente de la República, Senadores, Diputados, Parlamentarios del Mercosur, Gobernadores y Miembros de las Juntas Departamentales, convocadas para el 21 de abril de 2013, en todo el territorio de la República del Paraguay.

Al respecto, a criterio de este Tribunal Superior, dar a conocer en detalle los aspectos que hacen al proceso de las próximas elecciones, tener un análisis del mismo y monitoreo de la efectiva aplicación de las más elementales normas internacionales en materia de derechos civiles y políticos por parte de observadores internacionales conocedores de la administración electoral, dará mayor confiabilidad al proceso electoral de nuestro país.

En ese sentido, y a la luz de las actividades que la Justicia Electoral se encuentra realizando en vistas a la organización de las referidas elecciones, le extiendo la cordial invitación para que la Confederación Parlamentaria de las Américas participe con una Misión de Observación Electoral que nos acompañe en nuestro proceso electoral, dada la importancia que reviste la presencia internacional de ese prestigioso organismo como fiscalizadores de nuestros comicios.

Lamentablemente por razones presupuestarias, nuestros recursos no permiten financiar su participación, sin embargo, en caso de existir disponibilidad o interés por parte de su organización, agradeceré efectuar la correspondiente comunicación con la Abg. Gabriela Sanabria, Directora de Relaciones Internacionales y Protocolo, a la siguiente dirección electrónica gsanabria@tsje.gov.py o al teléfono (+595 21) 618 0217.

Sin otro particular, aprovecho la ocasión para hacerle llegar mis expresiones de estima y consideración personal.



Alberto Ramírez Zambonini
Alberto Ramírez Zambonini
Presidente

A Su Excelencia
JACQUES CHAGNON, Presidente
Confederación Parlamentaria de las Américas, COPA
E. S. D.

TSJE/DRIP/ma

TRIBUNAL SUPERIOR DE JUSTICIA ELECTORAL
Avda. Eusebio Ayala N° 2759 esq. Santa Cruz de la Sierra
Telefax 595 21 618 0217 Email: protocolo@tsje.gov.py
Asunción - Paraguay

APPENDIX 3: RECOMMENDATION ON THE DISPATCH OF AN ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION TO PARAGUAY



PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS
25TH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEXICO CITY, MEXICO
DECEMBER 1, 2012

**Draft recommendation on the dispatch of an electoral
observation mission to Paraguay**

WHEREAS general elections are to be held in Paraguay on April 21, 2013;

WHEREAS the participation of parliamentarians from COPA in multilateral electoral observation missions is a matter of priority in order to attain the COPA objective of contributing to the strengthening of parliamentary democracy and to the edification of a community of the Americas founded upon respect for human rights and dignity, peace, democracy, solidarity among peoples, social justice, and equity between women and men;

WHEREAS these general elections in Paraguay are particularly significant for the community of the Americas; and

WHEREAS the Superior Tribunal of Electoral Justice of the Republic of Paraguay has sent a letter on November 23, 2012 addressed to the President of COPA, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, to invite him to form a delegation of parliamentarian observers in order to witness the 2013 electoral process.

WE, members of the Executive Committee of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas, gathered in Mexico City, Mexico, on December 1, 2012:

DECLARE our support and our solidarity with Paraguayan society and the democratic institutions of that country in organizing general election next April 21, 2013;

PROPOSE the dispatch of a COPA electoral observation mission to these elections in Paraguay, with due respect for the national sovereignty of that country;

PLEDGE OURSELVES to uphold the principles of regional balance and political pluralism in forming a delegation of parliamentarians from the Americas, and to make sure that the observation mission will carry out its task in an independent and impartial manner as stipulated in the *By-Laws of COPA Electoral Observation Missions*.

2012-12-01

APPENDIX 4: DESIGNATION LETTER OF COPA'S PRESIDENCY (FRENCH ONLY)



Le Président

Le 11 avril 2013

Monsieur Alberto Ramírez Zambonini
Président du Tribunal Supérieur de Justice Électorale
Av. Eusebio Ayala N° 2759
c/Sta. Cruz de la Sierra
C.P. 1888
Asunción
RÉPUBLIQUE DU PARAGUAY

Objet : Élections générales du 21 avril 2013, au Paraguay

Monsieur le Président,

J'ai le plaisir de vous informer que la mission d'observation électorale de la COPA, qui se déroulera du 17 au 22 avril 2013, sera composée des personnes suivantes :

Chef de la mission :

- **M. Gilles Chapadeau**, président de la Commission de la démocratie et de la paix de la COPA et député de l'Assemblée nationale du Québec.

Membres :

- **M. Miguel Ángel Chico Herrera**, vice-président de la COPA pour l'Amérique du Nord et sénateur du Sénat de la République, Mexique;
- **M^{me} Ileana Brenes Jiménez**, vice-présidente de la COPA pour la région Amérique centrale et députée de l'Assemblée législative du Costa Rica;
- **M. Manuel Santiago Godoy**, président de la Chambre des députés de la province de Salta, Argentine;
- **M. Mashur Lapad**, vice-président de la Chambre des sénateurs de la province de Salta, Argentine;
- **M. Alfredo Jorge**, sénateur de la Chambre des sénateurs de la province de Salta, Argentine;

...2

Secrétariat du Québec – Secretaría de Quebec – Québec Secretariat – Secretaria de Quebec
Assemblée nationale du Québec - 1020, rue des Parlementaires, 6^e étage - Québec (Québec) G1A 1A3 - CANADA
Téléphone : 1 418 644-2888 - Télécopieur : 1 418 643-1865 - copa@assnat.qc.ca - Site Internet : www.copa.qc.ca

- **M. Hector Miguel Calabro**, député de la Chambre des députés de la province de Salta, Argentine;
- **M. Oscar Raúl Díaz**, député de la Chambre des députés de la province de Salta, Argentine;
- **M. Jesús Ramón Villa**, député de la Chambre des députés de la province de Salta, Argentine;
- **M. Jorge Ignacio Jarsun Lamónaca**, député de la Chambre des députés de la province de Salta, Argentine;
- **M. Antonio René Hucena**, député de la Chambre des députés de la province de Salta, Argentine;
- **M. Lucas Javier Godoy**, député de la Chambre des députés de la province de Salta, Argentine;
- **M. Omar Alejandro Soches López**, député de la Chambre des députés de la province de Salta, Argentine;
- **M. Paes Landim**, député de la Chambre des députés fédérale du Brésil;
- **M. Luis Eduardo Cherem**, député de l'Assemblée législative de l'État de Santa Catarina, Brésil;
- **M^{me} Gioconda María Saltos Espinoza**, députée de l'Assemblée nationale de l'Équateur;
- **M. Luis Fernando Salazar**, sénateur du Sénat de la République, Mexique;
- **M. Raúl Morón Orozco**, sénateur du Sénat de la République, Mexique;
- **M. Fernando Yunes Márquez**, sénateur Sénat de la République, Mexique;
- **M. Fausto Liz Quinones**, député du Parlement Centroaméricain pour la République dominicaine;
- **M^{me} Josée Charette**, directrice des opérations électorales et adjointe au Directeur général des Élections du Québec, Canada;
- **M. Patrick Giasson**, coordonnateur de la mission d'observation électorale au Paraguay et conseiller de la Commission de la démocratie et de la paix de la COPA, Assemblée nationale du Québec, Canada;
- **M. André Brandão Henriques Maimoni**, conseiller du Secrétariat du Brésil de la COPA, Union nationale des législatures des États fédérés (UNALE), Brésil;
- **M. Pierre-Luc Turgeon**, conseiller en coopération internationale, Directeur général des Élections du Québec, Canada.

En vous souhaitant le meilleur des succès dans l'organisation de ces élections, je vous prie d'agréer, Monsieur le Président, l'expression de mes sentiments distingués.

Le président,



JACQUES CHAGNON
Président de l'Assemblée nationale du Québec

**APPENDIX 5: LIST OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS PRESENT IN PARAGUAY FOR
THE APRIL 21, 2013 VOTE**

1. Inter-american Union of Electoral Bodies (UNIORE)

Website: <http://www.uniore.org/>

2. Organization of American States (OAS)

Website: <http://www.oas.org/fr/>

3. Latinamerican and Carribbean Network for Democracy (REDLAD)

Website: <http://www.redlad.org/>

4. Foundation “Semillas para la democracia”

Website: <http://www.semillas.org.py/>

5. Center for Electoral Promotion and Assistance (CAPEL)

Website: <http://www.iidh.ed.cr/capel/>

6. Carter Center

Website: <http://www.cartercenter.org/index.html>

7. European Union

Website: http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/paraguay/index_es.htm

8. UNASUR

Website: <http://www.unasur.org/>

9. International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA)

Website: <http://www.idea.int/>

10. National Democratic Institute (NDI)

Website: <http://www.ndi.org/>

11. International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)

Website: <http://www.ifes.org/>

12. Union of Latin American Parties (UPLA)



Website: <http://upla.net/modules/boletin09/>

13. Christian-Democrat Organization of America

Website: <http://www.odca.org.mx/index.php>

APPENDIX 6: BALLOT SAMPLES

1. OFFICIAL BALLOT

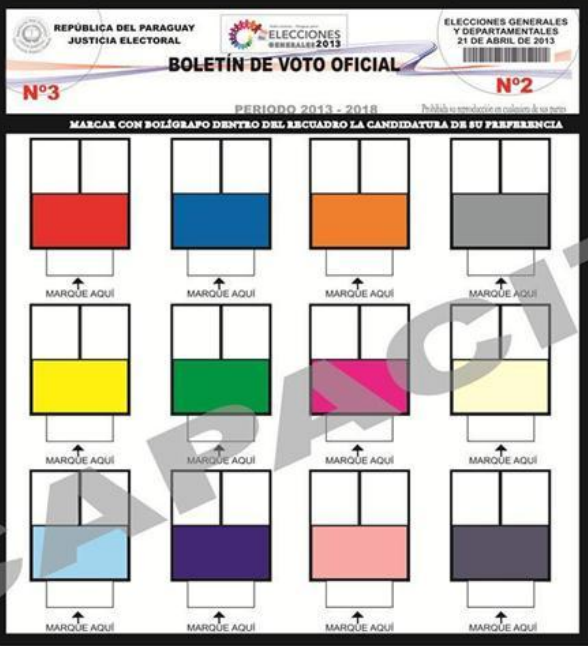
Tribunal Superior de Justicia Electoral

Elecciones Generales y Departamentales 21 de Abril de 2013

MODELO DE BOLETIN DE VOTO

A fin de dar cumplimiento a lo dispuesto por el Art.173 de la Ley 834/96, el cual reza: "Una vez asignados los números y colores en los boletines, la Justicia Electoral ordenará la publicación por una sola vez, en dos diarios de gran circulación, del modelo, número y color del boletín correspondiente a las candidaturas que concurren a elección.", se procede a hacer efectivo lo previsto en el Numeral 1, Punto 24 de la Resolución TSJE N° 3/2012 "Que establece el Cronograma Electoral para las Elecciones Generales y Departamentales del año 2013", en lo referente a la Publicación del Modelo de Boletín de Voto, garantizando de esta manera la observancia plena de las características y medidas de seguridad a ser implementadas en las boletas de sufragio, detalladas en Numeral 4 de la Resolución TSJE N° 34/2013, el cual transcrito en su parte pertinente dice: "Características: 1) Los boletines serán únicos, divididos en espacios cuadriláteros de 4 centímetros. 2) Cada espacio tendrá un color y número diferenciado. 3) Habrá un solo boletín para el cargo de Presidente y Vicepresidente de la República, uno para la Cámara de Senadores, uno para la Cámara de Diputados, uno para Parlamentarios del MERCOSUR, uno para Gobernador y uno para Junta Departamental. 4) El contenido y los colores del modelo oficial serán fijados por la Justicia Electoral. 5) En los boletines para los cargos uninominales figurará el nombre, la fotografía impresa del rostro de los candidatos. 6) En los boletines para los cargos pluripersonales figurarán el nombre, la fotografía impresa del rostro del primer candidato de la lista que encabeza y el número de cada Partido, Movimiento Político, Alianza Electoral o Concertaciones - Medidas de Seguridad. 1) Serán impresos en papel de 90 gramos. 2) En el anverso contará con códigos de barras indicadores de la dirección electoral en el ángulo superior derecho, con especificaciones técnicas (País, Departamento, Cargo o Candidatura y fecha de las elecciones). 3) Se imprimirá al costado lateral izquierdo en sello de agua con el escudo oficial de la Justicia Electoral. 4) Al reverso se identificará los cargos o candidaturas mediante hologramas, sellos de agua, figuras geométricas y colores en las ¼ partes de los boletines, excluyendo el espacio sombreado en la parte superior izquierda en la cual se plasmará el número de mesa y las firmas de los miembros de mesa. 5) Los boletines de votos se agruparán en cantidad de 200 por mesa, en forma de cuadernillos troquelados, sistema de chequea, a fin de ser retirados con facilidad por los miembros de mesa, se implementarán códigos identificatorios de correlatividad de cada uno de los mismos.

Asimismo, se cumple en recordar a los Partidos y Movimientos Políticos, Alianzas Electorales y Concertaciones, que al amparo del Numeral 1, Punto 27 de la Resolución TSJE N° 3/2012, "EL TIEMPO LIMITE PARA PRESENTAR RENUNCIA DE CANDIDATURA A LOS EFECTOS DE LA EXCLUSION PARA LA IMPRESION DE LOS BOLETINES DE VOTO es hasta el viernes 15 de marzo de 2013, v se efectuarán ante el Tribunal Electoral de la Capital, Primera Sala".



Firma de los Miembros de Mesa

VOLUNTAS POPULI CUSTOS ELECCIONES GENERALES - ABRIL 2013 REPUBLICA DEL PA RAGUAY TRIBUNAL SUPERIOR DE JUSTICIA ELECTORAL CANDIDATOS A PRESIDENTE Y VICE PRESIDENTE	VOLUNTAS POPULI CUSTOS ELECCIONES GENERALES - ABRIL 2013 REPUBLICA DEL PA RAGUAY TRIBUNAL SUPERIOR DE JUSTICIA ELECTORAL CANDIDATOS A PRESIDENTE Y VICE PRESIDENTE	VOLUNTAS POPULI CUSTOS ELECCIONES GENERALES - ABRIL 2013 REPUBLICA DEL PA RAGUAY TRIBUNAL SUPERIOR DE JUSTICIA ELECTORAL CANDIDATOS A PRESIDENTE Y VICE PRESIDENTE
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2. BALLOT FOR CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR PRESIDENCY AND VICE-PRESIDENCY

REPÚBLICA DEL PARAGUAY
JUSTICIA ELECTORAL

Todos votamos... Paraguay gana!
ELECCIONES GENERALES 2013

ELECCIONES GENERALES Y DEPARTAMENTALES
21 DE ABRIL DE 2013

BOLETÍN DE VOTO OFICIAL

CANDIDATOS A PRESIDENTE Y VICEPRESIDENTE DE LA REPUBLICA

PERIODO 2013 - 2018

Prohibida su reproducción en cualquiera de sus partes

MARCAR CON BOLÍGRAFO DENTRO DEL RECUADRO LA CANDIDATURA DE SU PREFERENCIA

 LISTA 1 PARTIDO COLORADO A.N.R. HORACIO CARTES (Presidente) JUAN AFARA (Vicepresidente)	 LISTA 3 CONCORDANCIA AMARILLA PARAGUAY C.A.P. ALDO FERRER (Presidente) CRISTINA VENTURA (Vicepresidente)	 LISTA 4 ALIANZA PARAGUAY ALEGRE A.P.A. EL ROMÁN GRIFF (Presidente) JERARQUE (Vicepresidente)	 LISTA 5 PARTIDO HUMANISTA PARAGUAYO P.H.P. JUAN CARLOS (Presidente) ANTONIO (Vicepresidente)	 LISTA 7 UNIÓN NACIONAL DE CIUDADANOS ÉTICOS U.N.A.C.E. LINO CESAR (Presidente) LUIS (Vicepresidente)	 LISTA 8 PARTIDO PATRIA QUERIDA P.P.Q. RAFAEL (Presidente) JUAN (Vicepresidente)
 LISTA 10 PARTIDO BLANCO P.B. RICARDO (Presidente) CHIRAY (Vicepresidente)	 LISTA 14 PARTIDO DE LOS TRABAJADORES P.T. ROSA (Presidente) HILDA (Vicepresidente)	 LISTA 40 CONCERTACION NACIONAL FRENTE GUASU F.G. ANIBAL (Presidente) LUIS (Vicepresidente)	 LISTA 55 PARTIDO PATRIA LIBRE P.P.L. ANASTASIO (Presidente) DIGNO (Vicepresidente)	 LISTA 69 MOVIMIENTO KUNA PYRENDÁ M.K.P. LILIAN (Presidente) MAJÚ (Vicepresidente)	

MARQUE AQUÍ

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MARQUE AQUÍ

Los candidatos... Paraguay gana!
ELECCIONES GENERALES 2013

Nº: 001

3. BALLOT FOR SENATOR

REPÚBLICA DEL PARAGUAY JUSTICIA ELECTORAL



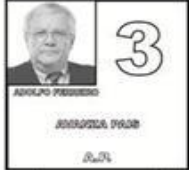



















ELECCIONES GENERALES 2013

ELECCIONES GENERALES Y DEPARTAMENTALES 21 DE ABRIL DE 2013

BOLETÍN DE VOTO OFICIAL
CANDIDATOS A SENADORES DE LA NACION
 PERIODO 2013 - 2018

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MARCAR CON BOLÍGRAFO DENTRO DEL RECUADRO LA CANDIDATURA DE SU PREFERENCIA


 <p>1 LILIAN SAMANIEGO PARTIDO COLORADO A.N.R.</p>	 <p>2 BLAS LLAND PARTIDO LIBERAL RADICAL AUTÉNTICO P.L.R.A.</p>	 <p>3 ADOLFO PEDERNEIRA PARTIDO ACCIÓN A.A.</p>	 <p>5 CORAZÓN MEDINA PARTIDO HUMANISTA PARAGUAYO P.H.P.</p>	 <p>7 JORGE ANTONIO BONIFATI UNIÓN PARAGUAYA DE ORGANIZACIONES VECINALES U.P.O.V.</p>	 <p>8 SERGIO SILES PARTIDO NUEVA GENERACIÓN P.N.G.</p>
MARQUE AQUI	MARQUE AQUI	MARQUE AQUI	MARQUE AQUI	MARQUE AQUI	MARQUE AQUI
 <p>9 FERNANDO LUGO PARTIDO ENCUENTRO NACIONAL P.E.N.</p>	 <p>10 SIXTO ENRIQUE VILLALBA PARTIDO BLANCO P.B.</p>	 <p>13 CARLOS ALBERTO FERREIRA MORA MOVIMIENTO PUEBLO EN ACCIÓN M.P.E.A.</p>	 <p>14 JUAN LUGO PARTIDO DE LOS TRABAJADORES P.T.</p>	 <p>16 JUAN ORTIZ MOVIMIENTO INDEPENDIENTE PARAGUAYO M.I.P.</p>	 <p>18 SUSELA WILSON DE LUGO MOVIMIENTO INDEPENDIENTE PARA LA VICTORIA M.I.V.</p>
MARQUE AQUI	MARQUE AQUI	MARQUE AQUI	MARQUE AQUI	MARQUE AQUI	MARQUE AQUI
 <p>21 ENRIQUE GONZÁLEZ QUINTANA PARTIDO DE LA JUSTICIA P.J.</p>	 <p>22 JUAN MANUEL DEL PUERTO PARTIDO SOCIAL DEMOCRATA P.S.D.</p>	 <p>23 ROBERTO VIRELLA DESAMPARADO PARTIDO P.A.</p>	 <p>30 FERNANDO LUGO MOVIMIENTO POLÍTICO PARAGUAYO Y DEMOCRÁTICO "40 DE AGOSTO" M.P.P.D.</p>	 <p>40 FERNANDO LUGO ORGANIZACIÓN NACIONAL FRENTE GUASÚ O.N.F.G.</p>	 <p>50 FERNANDO LUGO MOVIMIENTO INDEPENDIENTE PARAGUAYO M.I.P.</p>
MARQUE AQUI	MARQUE AQUI	MARQUE AQUI	MARQUE AQUI	MARQUE AQUI	MARQUE AQUI
 <p>55 JUAN RODRÍGUEZ PARTIDO NUEVA GENERACIÓN P.N.G.</p>	 <p>69 JULIA FRANCO MOVIMIENTO KUNA PYRENDÁ M.K.P.</p>	 <p>100 JUAN RODRÍGUEZ MOVIMIENTO INDEPENDIENTE PARAGUAYO M.I.P.</p>	 <p>900 JUAN VERA MOVIMIENTO INDEPENDIENTE CONSTITUYENTE PARAGUAYO M.I.C.P.</p>		
MARQUE AQUI	MARQUE AQUI	MARQUE AQUI	MARQUE AQUI		

4. BALLOT FOR MERCOSUR REPRESENTATIVES


**PARLAMENTARIOS
DEL
MERCOSUR**

Todos votamos... Paraguay gana!


**ELECCIONES
GENERALES 2013**



Nº: 001




REPÚBLICA DEL PARAGUAY
JUSTICIA ELECTORAL



ELECCIONES
GENERALES 2013

ELECCIONES GENERALES
Y DEPARTAMENTALES
21 DE ABRIL DE 2013









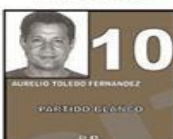






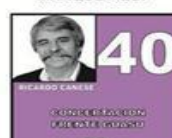
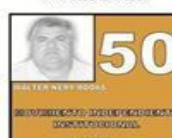




BOLETÍN DE VOTO OFICIAL

CANDIDATOS A PARLAMENTARIOS DEL MERCOSUR

PERIODO 2013 - 2018

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MARCAR CON BOLÍGRAFO DENTRO DEL RECUADRO LA CANDIDATURA DE SU PREFERENCIA


 1 ANTONIO ATIS JEREZ PARTIDO COLORADO A.N.R. MARQUE AQUI	 2 EMANUEL FRIEDMAN PARTIDO LIBERAL RADICAL AUTENTICO P.L.R.A. MARQUE AQUI	 3 JUAN CARLOS RODRIGUEZ MOVIMIENTO JUSTICIA PARA TODOS MARQUE AQUI	 7 CARLOS RODRIGUEZ MOVIMIENTO JUSTICIA PARA TODOS MARQUE AQUI	 8 SEBASTIAN BERNAL MOVIMIENTO JUSTICIA PARA TODOS MARQUE AQUI
 9 DANIEL RODRIGUEZ MOVIMIENTO JUSTICIA PARA TODOS MARQUE AQUI	 10 AURELIO TOLEDO FERNANDEZ PARTIDO LIBERAL MARQUE AQUI	 13 JUAN CARLOS RODRIGUEZ MOVIMIENTO JUSTICIA PARA TODOS MARQUE AQUI	 18 JORGE ROBERTO RODRIGUEZ MOVIMIENTO JUSTICIA PARA TODOS MARQUE AQUI	 21 DAVID PERILLO URQUHART MOVIMIENTO JUSTICIA PARA TODOS MARQUE AQUI
 22 JOSE CASANAS LEVI PARTIDO SOCIAL DEMOCRATA P.S.D. MARQUE AQUI	 28 FERNANDO RODRIGUEZ MOVIMIENTO JUSTICIA PARA TODOS MARQUE AQUI	 30 JORGE ROBERTO RODRIGUEZ MOVIMIENTO JUSTICIA PARA TODOS MARQUE AQUI	 40 RICARDO CANALE MOVIMIENTO JUSTICIA PARA TODOS MARQUE AQUI	 50 WALTER NERY BERRA MOVIMIENTO JUSTICIA PARA TODOS MARQUE AQUI
 55 GERARDO RODRIGUEZ MOVIMIENTO JUSTICIA PARA TODOS MARQUE AQUI	 69 NATALIA RUIZ DIAZ MEDINA MOVIMIENTO KUNA PYRENDA M.K.P. MARQUE AQUI	 100 JUAN CARLOS RODRIGUEZ MOVIMIENTO JUSTICIA PARA TODOS MARQUE AQUI	 900 MARIA GARCIA DE GUZMAN MOVIMIENTO JUSTICIA PARA TODOS MARQUE AQUI	

5. BALLOT FOR REPRESENTATIVES


DIPUTADOS DE CENTRAL

Todos votamos... Paraguay gana!


ELECCIONES GENERALES 2013



Nº: 001




REPÚBLICA DEL PARAGUAY
JUSTICIA ELECTORAL



ELECCIONES GENERALES 2013

ELECCIONES GENERALES Y DEPARTAMENTALES
21 DE ABRIL DE 2013























BOLETÍN DE VOTO OFICIAL

CANDIDATOS A DIPUTADOS DE CENTRAL

PERIODO 2013 - 2018

Prohibida su reproducción en cualquiera de sus partes

MARCAR CON BOLÍGRAFO DENTRO DEL RECUADRO LA CANDIDATURA DE SU PREFERENCIA

 1 HUGO VELAZQUEZ PARTIDO COLOREADO A.N.R.	 2 SALUSTIANO SALINAS TIO SALU PARTIDO LIBERAL RADICAL AUTENTICO P.L.R.A.	 3 JOVANNA DIAZ COORDINACION JOVANNA DIAZ C.J.D.	 5 SERGIO MARTINEZ COLEGIO HUMANIZADO PARAGUAY C.H.P.	 7 JUAN CARLOS DE LA CRUZ COORDINACION DE CANDIDATOS DE LA CRUZ C.C.C.
 8 RICARDO PALMA PARTIDO PROGRESO P.P.	 9 RICARDO BENÍTEZ PARTIDO REVOLUCIONARIO P.R.	 10 SILVERIO SEGOVIA PARTIDO BLANCO P.B.	 13 JUAN CARLOS DE LA CRUZ COORDINACION DE CANDIDATOS DE LA CRUZ C.C.C.	 14 RICARDO PALMA PARTIDO DE LOS TRABAJADORES P.T.
 18 RICARDO PALMA PARTIDO REVOLUCIONARIO P.R.	 21 JOSE LOPEZ PARTIDO OLEO-DIEZ NEGRO P.O.	 22 BILA EATON PARTIDO SOCIAL DEMOCRATA P.S.D.	 30 RICARDO PALMA PARTIDO REVOLUCIONARIO P.R.	 40 RUBEN ANDRES COORDINACION NACIONAL DE TRABAJADORES C.N.T.
 50 RICARDO PALMA PARTIDO REVOLUCIONARIO P.R.	 55 ANTONIO PARTIDO REVOLUCIONARIO P.R.	 69 MARTA BEATRIZ MOVIMIENTO KUNA PYRINDA M.K.P.	 100 RICARDO PALMA PARTIDO REVOLUCIONARIO P.R.	 900 RICARDO PALMA PARTIDO REVOLUCIONARIO P.R.

APPENDIX 7: PRESS RELEASE HIGHLIGHTING THE ARRIVAL OF COPA'S DELEGATION



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.

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Source and information :

Patrick Giasson
COPA Democracy and Peace Committee advisor
COPA Secretariat of Québec
Phone number : + 1-418-473-4914
Email : copa@assnat.qc.ca

APPENDIX 8: ITINERARY OF TEAM #1, DEPARTMENT OF “PARAGUARÍ”

Municipality/ neighborhood	District	Polling station	Number of tables observed	Arrival time	Departure time
Carapeguá	Carapeguá-05	Col. Nac. Mcal. J.F. Estigarribia	15	6 h 30	7 h 30
Carapeguá	Carapeguá-05	Esc. nº 78 Rca. De Nicaragua	4	7 h 40	8 h 30
Carapeguá	Carapeguá-05	Esc. Col. L. Sánchez de Paez- Pacheco	4	9 h 10	9 h 45
Paraguarí	Paraguarí-00	Col. Nac. Emd. Paraguari	10	10 h 20	11 h 05
Paraguarí	Paraguarí-00	Esc. Básica nº 77	4	11 h 15	11 h 40
Paraguarí	Paraguarí-00	Facultad de Ciencias Economicas U.N.A.	3	13 h 05	13 h 45
Yaguarón	Yaguarón-27	Esc. nº 295 Panamericana – Cia. Pecuaajo	4	14 h 05	14 h 35
Yaguarón	Yaguarón-27	Lic. Nac. República de Guatemala	3	14 h 45	15 h 15
Yaguarón	Yaguarón-27	Col. Nac. Dr. Francia*	4	15 h 30	17 h 45

**The team also observed the counting of votes at this polling station.*

**APPENDIX 9: ITINERARY OF TEAM #2, DEPARTMENTS OF “CORDILLERA” AND
“CENTRAL”**

Municipality/ neighborhood	District	Polling station	Number of tables observed	Arrival time	Departure time
Caacupe	Caacupe- 00	Col. Nac. Dr. Raúl Peña	5	6 h 00	8 h 30
Caacupe	Caacupe-00	Col. Nac. E.M.D. Dr. Raúl Peña	3	8 h 40	9 h 50
Eusebio Ayala	Eusebio Ayala- 13	Instituto de Formación Docente	6	10 h 35	11 h 35
Isla Pucu	Isla Pucu-15	Esc. nº 38 Bernardino Caballero	3	12 h 00	12 h 30
Caraguatay	Caraguatay-09	Esc. nº 37 Cmte. Lara	3	13 h 00	14 h 10
Ypacarai*	Ypacarai-33	Esc. nº 82 República de Honduras	3	15 h 15	17 h 10

**The team also observed the counting of votes at this polling station. Note also that the municipality Ypacarai is located in the "Central" department.*

APPENDIX 10: ITINERARY OF TEAM #3, DEPARTMENT OF “PRESIDENTE HAYES”

Municipality/ neighborhood	District	Polling station	Number of tables observed	Arrival time	Departure time
Villa Hayes	Villa Hayes	Esc. n° 1637 Defensores del Chaco	7	6 h 20	7 h 45
Benjamin Aceval	Benjamin Aceval	Esc. n° 95 Dr. Manuel Peña	12	10 h 30	11 h 20
Benjamin Aceval	Benjamin Aceval	Esc. n° 1149 Eugenio de Mazenot	4	11 h 38	11 h 52
Villa Hayes	Villa Hayes	Esc. De Remansito	5	13 h 30	14 h 00
Villa Hayes	Villa Hayes	Esc. n° 125 Presidente Hayes	7	14 h 20	15 h 35
Villa Hayes	Villa Hayes	Esc. De Remansito*	4	16 h 00	17 h 40

**The team also observed the counting of votes at this polling station.*

APPENDIX 11: ITINERARY OF TEAM #4: “CENTRAL” DEPARTMENT - “LUQUE” SECTOR

Municipality/ neighborhood	District	Polling station	Number of tables observed	Arrival time	Departure time
Luque	Luque-17	Col. Nac. E.M.D. Gral. Elizardo Aquino	11	6 h 30	8 h 45
Luque	Luque-17	Esc. n° 26 Elizardo Aquino	24	9 h 00	10 h 50
Luque	Luque-17	Esc. n° 859 Heroes de la Patria	10	11 h 10	14 h 50
Luque	Luque-17	Col. Nac. Julio Correa Esc. n° 269	9	15 h 20	15 h 45
Luque	Luque-17	Esc. n° 26 Elizardo Aquino*	4	15 h 55	17 h 30

**The team also observed the counting of votes at this polling station.*

APPENDIX 12: ITINERARY OF TEAM #5, "CENTRAL" DEPARTMENT" - LAMBARÉ SECTOR

Municipality/ neighborhood	District	Polling station	Number of tables observed	Arrival time	Departure time
Lambaré	Lambaré-13	Esc. nº 612 Carro Cora	4	6 h 20	7 h 45
Lambaré	Lambaré-13	Col. Nac. De Lambaré	4	8 h 20	9 h 00
Lambaré	Lambaré-13	Asociación del Ministerio de Hacienda	4	9 h 20	10 h 00
Lambaré	Lambaré-13	Col. Nac. Sta. Lucia	3	10 h 10	10 h 40
Lambaré	Lambaré-13	Col. Gutemberg	3	10 h 20	11 h 15
Lambaré	Lambaré-13	Col. Nac. María del Carmen Achucarro	3	11 h 20	11 h 45
Lambaré	Lambaré-13	Esc. nº 679 Andrés Delmas	3	13 h 10	13 h 30
Lambaré	Lambaré-13	Esc. nº 808 Bernardo Ocampos	3	14 h 00	15 h 00
Lambaré	Lambaré-13	Esc. Parroquial nº 1046 Sto. Domingo de Guzman*	5	16 h 50	19 h 00

**The team also observed the counting of votes at this polling station.*

APPENDIX 13: ITINERARY OF TEAM #6, "CAPITAL" DEPARTMENT

Municipality/ neighborhood	District	Polling station	Number of tables observed	Arrival time	Departure time
San Roque	San Roque-03	Esc. Nac. De Comercio nº 2	4	6 h 35	7 h 15
San Roque	San Roque-03	Col. Nac. Bernardino Caballero - C.N.C.	4	7 h 27	7 h 45
La Recoleta	La Recoleta-04	Col. Ysaty	2	8 h 05	8 h 17
La Recoleta	La Recoleta-04	Col. Priv. Virgen de Nazareth	3	9 h 40	9 h 55
La Recoleta	La Recoleta-04	Esc. nº 207 Blas Garay	3	10 h 05	10 h 20
La Recoleta	La Recoleta-04	Col. Nac. Gral. Pablo Avila	3	10h 25	10 h 40
La Recoleta	La Recoleta-04	Esc. nº 300 Herminio Giménez	3	10 h 42	10 h 55
La Catedral	La Catedral-02	Asunción Escalada	4	14 h 30	14 h 55
San Roque	San Roque-03	Col. José Felix Bogado	4	15 h 05	15 h 25
San Roque	San Roque-03	Col. República de Colombia	4	15 h 30	15 h 55
San Roque	San Roque-03	Col. San José*	2	15 h 55	17 h 10

**The team also observed the counting of votes at this polling station.*

APPENDIX 14: ELECTORAL OBSERVATION GRID



PRESIDENTIAL AND LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS IN MEXICO
July 1, 2012

COPA ELECTORAL OBSERVATION GRID

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of observer:

City/District/Department:

Voting centre:

Polling station:

Arrival time:

Departure time: _____

2. POLLING STATION

Opening time:

Reasons for any delay:

Polling station composition:

	YES	NO
Suitable polling station site and set-up		
Fully equipped polling station		
Presence of security forces		
Presence of candidate/party representatives		
Presence of election advertising on site		
Acts of voter intimidation		

Details:

3. ELECTION MATERIAL

	YES	NO
Properly sealed ballot boxes		
Voting booths ensuring ballot secrecy		
Voters list		
Ballots in sufficient quantity		
Proper ballot design (enabling voters to clearly identify their choice)		

	Very good	Good	Poor	Very poor
Election material				
Work of polling station officials				

Details: _____

4. VOTERS

Number of voters registered:

Waiting time: _____

Average time required to vote: _____

Voters without voter ID: _____

Voters admitted although not on voters list:

Details:

5. COMPLAINTS

	YES	NO
Complaints by party or candidate representatives		
Complaints by voters		

Details:

6. OTHER OBSERVATIONS

	YES	NO
Respect for ballot secrecy		
Presence of more than one voter in the voting booth		
Electoral staff compliance with procedures		
Voter understanding of procedures		
Presence of unauthorized persons in the polling station		
Visit by national observers		
Visit by other international observers		
Orderly conduct of voting		
Interruption in voting during the day		
Incidents (disturbances, intimidation, fraud, violence, tampering with results, etc.)		

Details:

7. VOTE COUNT

Polling station closing time: _____

Vote count starting time: _____

Number of voters registered: _____

Number of people who voted: _____

Invalid ballots: _____

Blank ballots: _____

Administrative or organizational problems: _____

Challenges by representatives: _____

Details: _____

Level of security for the transportation of election material and the transmission of results (if observed):

Excellent () Average () Low ()

Details: _____

8. OVERALL EVALUATION

Irregularities to report: ()

Minor irregularities: () **Specify:**

Serious irregularities that could affect the integrity of the electoral process: () **Specify:**

Comments: _____

APPENDIX 15: FINAL PRESS RELEASE



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.

- 30 -

Source and information :

Patrick Giasson

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COPA Secretariat of Québec

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