



**COPA electoral mission to observe the
July 1, 2012 federal elections held in Mexico**

**COPA PARLIAMENTARIANS CONGRATULATE THE ELECTORS OF THE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF MEXICO ON THE ORDERLINESS OF
THE RECENT PRESIDENTIAL AND LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS**

Mexico, D.F., July 2, 2012 – At the invitation of Mexico’s Federal Electoral Institute, a delegation of 30 parliamentarians from the **Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA)** observed the Mexican presidential and legislative elections held on July 1, 2012. The delegation was led by Ileana Brenes Jiménez, COPA Vice-President for Central America and deputy of the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica. The parliamentary observers were able to note firsthand, as foreign visitors, that voting proceeded in a calm and orderly manner, and that electoral rules were generally upheld.

The COPA delegation also included members of the following bodies: the Chamber of Deputies of the Argentine Nation; the Chamber of Deputies of the Province of Santiago del Estero (Argentina); the Chamber of Deputies of the Province of Salta (Argentina); the National Assembly of Québec (Canada); the Parliament of Uruguay; the Congress of the State of Anzoátegui (Venezuela); the National Congress of Chile; the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica; the Legislative Assembly of El Salvador; the National Assembly of Ecuador; and the Chamber of Deputies of the Dominican Republic.

On voting day, delegates posted in the Federal District and across different Mexican states, including Mexico, Hidalgo, Morelos and Tabasco, observed the vote in some sixty voting centres, both urban and rural. The towns and cities chosen were Mexico, Cuernavaca, Pachuca, Naucalpan, Tlanepantla, Nezahualcoyotl, Ecatepec and Villahermosa.

No major election irregularities were observed. The delegates were impressed by the sense of civic responsibility and the serious-minded attitude displayed by voters and election officials. Equally impressive were the high-minded conduct of the population of the states visited on Election Day and the peaceful atmosphere in which the electoral process unfolded. However, as in 2006, the delegation observed long waiting lines at the special polling stations visited and was informed that a number of voters who had waited several hours would be unable to vote due to the limited number of ballots available at these stations.

In addition to their observation role at polling stations, the COPA delegates met with key stakeholders right from the day of their arrival (June 26). Hence they were able to get a sense of election preparations and the situation prevailing in the country prior to the vote. Among others, the delegates met the three candidates running for the presidential election and the representatives

of the four main political parties running in the election, and consulted with the representatives of civil society organizations. The delegates also took part in the information program offered by the Federal Electoral Institute to foreign visitors, giving them the opportunity to meet representatives of Mexico's electoral authorities.

This was COPA's 13th election observation mission. COPA's increasingly active participation in such missions in the Americas confirms its strategic role in the consolidation of democracy. Founded in Québec City in 1997, COPA brings together more than 300 parliamentary assemblies of the unitary, federal, federated and associated States, the regional parliaments and the interparliamentary organizations of the Americas.

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Source and further information:

Patrick Giasson

Advisor for the COPA Committee on Democracy and Peace

Québec COPA Secretariat

Tel.: + 1-418-644-2888

Email: copa@assnat.qc.ca