



PRESIDENTIAL AND LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS IN MEXICO

JULY 1ST 2012

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 28 COPA parliamentarians visited Mexico from June 27 to July 2, 2012 to observe the presidential and legislative elections held on July 1.

This was COPA's 13th electoral observation mission¹ and the fourth on Mexican soil. Over the years, these missions have enabled COPA to acquire valuable knowledge and expertise in the field.

This report is a summary of the delegation's activities during its visit to Mexico from June 27 to July 2, 2012, including the parliamentarians' main observations regarding election day, July 1. It is divided into eight parts:

- 1) Terms of reference of the mission**
- 2) Composition of the delegation**
- 3) Political and electoral context**
- 4) Legal and institutional framework of the July 1, 2012 elections**
- 5) Mission activities before election day**
- 6) Mission activities on election day**
- 7) COPA mission findings**
- 8) Mission conclusions and recommendations**

¹See Appendix 1 for a history of COPA's electoral observation missions since 2005.

1. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE MISSION

At the 11th COPA General Assembly held from September 6 to 9, 2011 in Québec City, Canada, the members of the organization adopted a recommendation² on the dispatch of an electoral observation mission to Mexico for the presidential and legislative elections of July 1, 2012. On February 27, 2012, COPA President Jacques Chagnon sent a letter to the Mexican electoral authorities informing them of COPA's willingness and availability to send a parliamentary mission to Mexico to observe the elections.

Subsequently, the COPA President received a letter³ dated May 2, 2012 from the Federal Electoral Institute of Mexico inviting him to form a delegation of international visitors who would be interested in learning about the mechanics and stages of the electoral process of July 1, 2012.

The President of COPA and President of the National Assembly of Québec, 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 mobilize 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 inviting them to designate parliamentarians who wished to take part.

In a letter dated June 20, 2012,⁴ the COPA President informed the electoral authorities of Mexico of the composition of the COPA delegation, which would be led by **Ileana Brenes Jiménez**, COPA Vice-President for the Central American region and Deputy of the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica.

On June 27, 28, 29 and 30, 2012, the delegation members attended important working meetings with representatives of the political parties, electoral authorities, Mexican politics specialists and representatives of civil society organizations to learn about the electoral process and the situation prevailing in the country on the eve of the ballot.

On election day, the observers were deployed in five Mexican states to observe election operations in some 60 polling stations. COPA mission deployment was planned with a view to taking the best representative sample of urban and rural regions.

Four people were running for the position of President of the Republic on July 1, 2012.

² The recommendation on the dispatch of an electoral observation mission is provided in Appendix 2.

³ The content of the letter of invitation is provided in Appendix 3.

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

TABLE 1.1: CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

Candidates	Political parties	Coalitions
Enrique Peña Nieto	Partido Revolucionario Institucional – PRI (Institutional Revolutionary Party)	Compromiso por México (Commitment to Mexico – comprising PRI and PVEM)
Josefina Vasquez Mota	Partido Acción Nacional – PAN (National Action Party)	None
Andrés Manuel López Obrador	Partido de la Revolución Democrática – PRD (Democratic Revolution Party)	Movimiento Progresista (Progressive Movement – comprising PRD, PT and MC)
Gabriel Quadri de la Torre	Partido Nueva Alianza – PANAL (New Alliance Party)	None

The 2012 election campaign officially began on Friday, March 30, 2012 and ended on June 27, 2012⁵ at 11:59 p.m. All aspects of the electoral operations were carried out under the supervision of the Federal Electoral Institute (IFE).

⁵ Under article 237.4 of the Electoral Code of Mexico (COFIPE), no actor involved in the electoral process is authorized to campaign.

2. COMPOSITION OF THE DELEGATION

The COPA delegation was led by **Ileana Brenes Jiménez**, COPA Vice-President for the Central American region and Deputy of the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica.

Below is a list of the parliamentarians who participated in the mission.

TABLE 2.1: LIST OF PARLIAMENTARIANS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE MISSION

Parliamentarian	Function/Country
Ada Rosa del Valle Iturrez	Senator of the National Congress Argentina Member of the COPA Executive Committee
Félix Carlos Baráibar Ponce de Leon	Senator of the Republic Uruguay Member of the COPA Executive Committee
Liliana Beatriz Fellner	Senator of the National Congress Argentina
Ana María Corradi de Beltran	Senator of the National Congress Argentina
María de los Ángeles Higonet	Senator of the National Congress Argentina
José Antonio Vilariño	Deputy of the National Congress Argentina
Juan Arturo Salim	Deputy of the National Congress Argentina
Carlos Carranza	Deputy of the National Congress Argentina
Julio Rodolfo Solanas	Deputy of the National Congress Argentina
Manuel Santiago Godoy	President of the Chamber of Deputies Province of Salta Argentina
Carlos Pessi	President of the Chamber of Deputies Province of La Pampa Argentina
Pascal Bérubé	Member of the National Assembly of Québec Canada
Romilio Guillermo Gutierrez Pino	Deputy of the National Congress Chile
Gabriel Hector Ascencio Mansilla	Deputy of the National Congress Chile

Mireya Zamora Alvarado	Deputy of the Legislative Assembly Costa Rica Member of the Executive Committee, COPA Network of Women Parliamentarians
Margarita Escobar	Deputy of the Legislative Assembly El Salvador
Sandra Marlene Salgado García	Deputy of the Legislative Assembly El Salvador
Gioconda María Saltos Espinoza	Deputy of the National Assembly Ecuador
Elena Mercedes Diminich Sousa	Deputy of the National Assembly Ecuador
Francisco Ramiro Ulloa Enríquez	Deputy of the National Assembly Ecuador
Fausto Rafael Liz Quinones	Deputy of the Parliament of Central America (PARLACEN)

Parliamentarians received technical and administrative support from **Patrick Giasson**, Adviser for the COPA Committee on Democracy and Peace, and **Denis Fontaine**, Executive Assistant to the Chair and Secretary of the Electoral Representation Commission and Secretary General to the Chief Electoral Officer of Québec.

Karla Gómez Paiola (Argentina), **Gabriel Anibal Monzón** (Argentina), **Gustavo Di Blassio** (Argentina), **Edita Claveria** (Argentina), **Axel Elijatib** (Argentina), **Luciano San Pelegrini** (Argentina), **André Brandão Henriques Maimoni** (Brazil), **Francisco Villalobos Brenes** (Costa Rica), **Antonio Peng** (Paraguay), **Domingo José Rojas Pereyra** (Dominican Republic) and **Mauricio Ernesto Campos** (El Salvador) also accompanied the delegation.

3. PRE-ELECTORAL POLITICAL CONTEXT

3.1. PORTRAIT

Mexico, officially the United Mexican States, is the country with the largest Spanish-speaking population in the world. It shares borders with the United States of America to the north and Guatemala and Belize to the south. According to the 2010 census, the population of Mexico is 113,423,000 inhabitants,⁶ which makes it the second most populated Latin American country, after Brazil. In terms of geographic size, it ranks third among the Latin American countries, after Brazil and Argentina.

In 2011, Mexico's GDP in current dollars calculated using purchasing power parity (PPP) was US\$1.66 trillion, ranking it 12th in the world.⁷ The GDP per capita (PPP) was US\$15,100 in 2011.⁸ Since Mexico is a US trading partner, the economic crisis had a considerable impact on it, with negative growth of 6.8% in 2009. The drop in American domestic demand had a direct impact, immediately after the crisis in 2008, on the production volume of goods that could be exported to the United States. However, a moderate upswing in growth followed in 2010 and 2011, with the GDP increasing by 5.4% and 3.8%, respectively.

Inequalities in the distribution of income continue to be significant in Mexico. The *Gini* coefficient (measure of the overall distribution of income) has remained relatively stable since 1998, compared with 2008, dropping from 53.1 to 51.7.⁹ Mexico ranks 19th in the world in this regard. The proportion of the population living beneath the poverty level was 51.3% in 2010.¹⁰

The cultural, ethnic and linguistic diversity of Mexico is impressive. Although the most commonly spoken language is Spanish, other indigenous languages are also thriving. In 2000, nearly 7 million people spoke an indigenous language. It is estimated that Mexico's indigenous population numbers 12.7 million people.¹¹ Nearly 70% of the Mexican population is of mixed race, 15% is white and 12% indigenous. The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)¹² was around 3 for 2011, which indicates a significant level of corruption. From 2001 to 2011, the CPI deteriorated, sinking from 3.7 to 3.

⁶ World Bank, 2010 census, "Data" Web page on Mexico. Online document URL: <http://data.worldbank.org/country/mexico>

⁷ CIA, 2011, *The World Factbook*. Online document URL: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/mx.html>.

⁸ CIA, 2011, *The World Factbook*. Online document URL: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/mx.html>

⁹ As the *Gini* coefficient tends to zero, distribution of income approaches full equality.

¹⁰ World Bank, 2010 census, *Data, Mexico*. Online document URL: <http://data.worldbank.org/country/mexico>.

¹¹ Guillen, G. "Viven en el país 12,7 millones de indígenas", *El Universal*, July 11, 2005. Online document URL: http://www2.eluniversal.com.mx/pls/impreso/noticia.html?id_nota=127113&tabla=nacion.

¹² The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) assesses the level of corruption in over 200 countries through polls and expert opinion. The scale ranges from 0 to 10, where 0 denotes the highest level of corruption and 10, little or no corruption.

3.2. A BRIEF HISTORY

After 300 years under a colonial regime, Mexico gained its independence on September 28, 1821. This allowed Creoles¹³ to gain access to government positions that had previously been reserved for the Spanish. In 1835, American colonists in Texas, who represented 85% of the population, began to rebel and declared the Republic of Texas an independent state. Similarly, in March of 1836, Guatemala and the ephemeral Republic of Yucatán seceded. This was followed by what is known as the Santa Anna era, named after the man who was President of Mexico from 1833 to 1855.

Following the annexation of Texas by the United States in 1845, Mexico and the United States could not agree on the border. This resulted in the Mexican-American war, which lasted until 1848 and led to the occupation of Mexico by American troops. The war ended with the signing in 1848 of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in which Mexico recognized the Rio Grande as its border with Texas. In addition, Mexico ceded more than 40% of its territory, nearly 2 million square kilometres, to the United States. The states of California, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada and Utah, along with most of Colorado and the southwestern portion of Wyoming comprise the territories annexed by the United States following the Mexican-American War. In 1857, Mexico's new constitution established political institutions that lasted until 1917.

In 1861, the Juárez government suspended payment of its foreign debt. As one of Mexico's creditors, France used this non-payment of debt as grounds for taking military action against Mexico, with the support of Spain and England. Taking advantage of the civil war that was dividing and consuming the resources of Mexico's neighbour to the north, Napoleon III, with the blessing of the pope, attempted to establish a Latin, Catholic empire in Mexico that would offset the rising power of the Americans. At the end of the Civil War in 1865, Juárez obtained American support in the form of arms, men and diplomacy (Monroe Doctrine) in exchange for promises of territorial concessions (Isthmus of Tehuantepec). This new support, the military success of the republicans and, above all, the menace of war in Europe forced the French to withdraw their forces.

A hero of the war against France, Porfirio Díaz became President of Mexico in 1876. Around 1910, having been in power for more than 30 years, Porfirio Díaz ran for the presidency again, this time against Francisco Madero. Díaz had Madero imprisoned, then released. Díaz won the election against Madero, who received only a few hundred votes across the entire country. Many people rebelled in reaction to what they deemed blatant electoral fraud. Thus began the Mexican Revolution. Under the growing threat of the revolutionary movement, Díaz fled to France in 1911. Although the Mexican Revolution officially lasted until 1917, the year in which the new constitution was proclaimed, fighting continued until 1930.

Beginning in 1917, the revolution merged into a power struggle among the revolutionaries that lasted until March 1929, when Calles founded the National Revolutionary Party (Partido Nacional Revolucionario, PNR). This was followed by the presidency of Cárdenas, who wished to transform Mexico into a socialist republic.

¹³ Creoles were Spaniards who were born in Mexico under the colonial regime, but who were allowed little political or economic power.

Under Cárdenas, the party's name changed from the National Revolutionary Party to the Party of the Mexican Revolution (Partido de la Revolución Mexicana, PRM) in 1938. It changed again in 1946 to become the Institutional Revolutionary Party (Partido Revolucionario Institucional, PRI). The PRI governed the country without interruption until 2000. A number of presidents served under its banner, with party ideology alternating somewhat between left and right over the years. Around 1982, after the first Mexican financial crisis, the country adopted a neo-liberal model.

3.3. THE 2000 PRESIDENTIAL AND LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS

The presidential election of July 2, 2000 brought about a historic change in Mexico. The victory of Vicente Fox, the candidate for the National Action Party (Partido Acción Nacional, PAN), ended the Institutional Revolutionary Party's (Partido Revolucionario Institucional, PRI) run of 71 consecutive years in power. The democratic transition went smoothly and reinforced parliamentary power.

During that election, the Alliance for Change (Alianza por el Cambio), a coalition formed by the Green Ecological Party of Mexico (Partido Verde Ecologista de México, PVEM) and the PAN that endorsed Vicente Fox's presidential candidacy, obtained nearly 43% of the votes cast. The PRI candidate, Francisco Labastida, received 36% of the votes. The Alliance for Mexico (Alianza por México), which was formed of five leftist parties¹⁴ and supported the candidacy of Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas Solórzano, received 16.64% of the votes.

In the legislative elections, the PRI won an extremely tight race with a majority of 208 seats in the Chamber of Deputies over the PAN, which obtained 207 seats, and the third-place Democratic Revolution Party (Partido de la Revolución Democrática, PRD), which obtained 53 seats.

The PRI also won a majority in the Senate with 59 seats, while the Alliance for Change obtained 52 seats and the Alliance for Mexico.

3.4. THE 2006 PRESIDENTIAL AND LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS

The previous presidential election, on July 2, 2006, ended with a political impasse that lasted a few months. The PAN candidate, Felipe Calderón, obtained 14,916,927 votes (35.89%) whereas his rival from the Democratic Revolution Party (PRD), Lopez Obrador, received 14,683,096 votes (35.33%),¹⁵ while PRI candidate Madrazo Pintado won 9,237,000 votes (22.23%).

¹⁴ The five parties that formed the Alliance for Mexico were the Democratic Revolution Party (Partido de la Revolución Democrática, PRD), the Labour Party (Partido del Trabajo, PT), the Democratic Convergence (Partido Convergencia por la Democracia, Convergencia), the Social Alliance Party (Partido Alianza Social, PAS) and the Nationalist Society Party (Partido de la Sociedad Nacionalista, PSN).

¹⁵ Federal Electoral Institute, Federal Election Statistics of Mexico 2006, http://www.ife.org.mx/portal/site/ifev2/2006_HRE/, Internet site consulted March 30, 2009.

The preliminary results given by the Federal Electoral Institute (IFE) showed Lopez Obrador to be the winner. However, in light of the close results, the IFE announced a recount for July 5, 2006. The recount revealed that Mr. Calderón had won the elections. Faced with these conflicting results, both candidates declared themselves winners. In the end, the IFE and the Federal Electoral Tribunal (TEPJF) confirmed Mr. Calderón as the winner.¹⁶ Protests from Lopez Obrador and supporters of the PRD went on for months.

Legislative elections for the 500 seats in the Chamber of Deputies and the 128 seats in the Senate were also held on July 2, 2006. In the Chamber of Deputies, the PAN came away with the most seats (206) but still without a majority. The PRD won 126 seats and the PRI, 106.¹⁷ In the Senate, the PAN obtained 52 of the 128 seats, while the PRI kept 33 seats and the PRD, 26.¹⁸

3.5. THE 2009 LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS

On July 6, 2009, legislative elections were held for the 500 seats in the Chamber of Deputies. A deputy's mandate is three years, while that of a senator is six years. Following the legislative elections, the PRI held an advantage in terms of a relative majority in the Chamber of Deputies, winning 241 seats, which represented a gain of 135 deputies, compared with the 2006 election results. One hundred and forty seven deputies were elected under the PAN banner, representing a loss of 59 seats. The PRD obtained 72 seats, having lost 54.

3.6. THE OUTGOING GOVERNMENT OF FELIPE CALDERÓN

The main themes of Mr. Calderón's presidency have been domestic security, employment, the economy, health and the armed forces. It should be noted that at no time in Mr. Calderón's mandate has his party, the PAN, held a majority of seats in Congress, whether relative or absolute. As a result, the PAN has had to go to great lengths to forge political alliances to enable Mr. Calderón to carry out his reforms. The following is a summary of the Calderón government's main actions during its six-year mandate. They reflect the themes promoted since the beginning of the electoral campaign.

¹⁶ The IFE verified the minutes of the 130,500 polling stations. As stipulated under Mexican law, a vote-by-vote recount must be carried out in all stations where anomalies are reported. In early July, following review procedures, the IFE declared Mr. Calderón the winner. The Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judiciary (TEPJF), the highest legal Mexican electoral authority responsible for receiving complaints and validating the ballot, confirmed Mr. Calderón's victory on September 6, 2006. Most of the observers accepted the 2006 election results as valid.

¹⁷ The other parties and independent candidates took 62 seats.

¹⁸ The other parties and independent candidates took 18 seats.

3.6.1. DOMESTIC SECURITY

From a mere place of transit, in just a few years, Mexico has become a country of drug production and consumption. Voter trust has been shaken by the increasingly violent war between drug traffickers and police and military units. The most significant aspect of Mr. Calderón's presidency has without a doubt been the war launched on drug traffickers in December 2006. To wage this open war, the President called on the Mexican armed forces, in addition to mobilizing both the federal and local police. Since this war began, more than 122,000 people have been detained for activities related to organized crime or, more specifically, drug trafficking. Many are still awaiting sentencing. Between December 2006 and January 2012, over 60,000 people were killed in the conflict.

3.6.2. THE ECONOMY

First, voters will have the opportunity to compare candidate proposals to address the disappointing performance of the Mexican economy. Voters have expressed great concern in the aftermath of the economic decline in 2009, and in the face of rising unemployment, a decrease in remittances from Mexican nationals abroad, lower oil production, and a significant drop in exports.

From the start of his mandate, Mr. Calderón implemented austerity measures, reducing ministers' salaries by 10% and carrying out certain reforms to the employment conditions of government employees.

Nonetheless, the most significant economic factor during this mandate was the 2008–2009 economic crisis, in addition to a food crisis with major consequences for a large part of the Mexican population. Mexico's GDP shrank by 6.8% in 2009, an aftershock of the world financial crisis that ravaged the domestic demand of its principal trading partner, the United States. The price of the basic food basket¹⁹ rose by a substantial 34.17% between 2006 and 2012, that is, 7.5 times the average wage increase for the same period. The President intervened by putting in place the Tortilla Price Stabilization Pact (Pacto Económico para la Estabilización de la Tortilla), which stabilized the prices of corn and wheat, albeit at prices that were markedly higher than before.

3.7. THE 2012 ELECTION CAMPAIGN

Under section 83 of the Constitution, the outgoing President cannot make a bid for a second mandate. Four candidates were thus competing for the presidency. Enrique Peña Nieto, PRI, was the former governor of the State of Mexico. The PAN candidate was Josefina Vázquez Mota, a former federal deputy. Andrés Manuel López Obrador was making a second bid for the presidency under the PRD banner, having run in the 2006 election. Lastly, Gabriel Quadri de la Torre was the candidate for the New Alliance Party (Nueva Alianza).

¹⁹ The price of the basic food basket is calculated based on the average prices of 43 staple foods for a Mexican household.

According to specialists, the presidential campaign looked to be a three-way race between Enrique Peña Nieto, Josefina Vázquez Mota and Andrés Manuel López Obrador. Campaign issues revolved around two poles: the pursuit of the neo-liberal model, on the one hand, and a leftist model, which combines the radicalism of a recent past with a form of “market socialism”, on the other hand.²⁰

3.7.1. THE MAIN PARTIES AND THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

The Federal Electoral Institute (IFE) has approved four presidential candidates. The seven national political parties could run candidates for the presidency or lend their support through coalitions or alliances:

- ✓ **Gabriel Quadri de la Torre**, candidate for the New Alliance Party.
- ✓ **Andrés Manuel López Obrador**, candidate for the Democratic Revolution Party (PRD). He is at the head of the Progressive Movement (Movimiento Progresista) coalition, which is supported by the following parties:
 - The Citizens’ Movement (Movimiento Ciudadano, MC); and
 - The Labour Party (Partido del Trabajo, PT).
- ✓ **Enrique Peña Nieto**, candidate for the Institutional Revolutionary Party (Partido Revolucionario Institucional, PRI). He is supported by the Commitment to Mexico (Compromiso por México) coalition, which is supported by the following party:
 - Green Ecological Party of Mexico (Partido Verde Ecologista de México, PVEM).
- ✓ **Josefina Vázquez Mota**, candidate for the National Action Party (Partido Acción Nacional, PAN).

²⁰ DEL RÍO. S. 2012. “Elecciones en México: cuatro aspirantes, dos proyectos”. *Periodistas en español*. April 5, 2012. Online document URL: <http://www.periodistas-es.org/correos-al-editor/elecciones-en-mexico-cuatro-aspirantes-dos-proyectos>.

4. LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK OF THE JULY 1, 2012 ELECTIONS

4.1. THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM

On July 1, 2012, the federal legislative elections (Chamber of Deputies and Senate) and the presidential election were held simultaneously.

The 500 deputies elected on July 1 will officially begin their terms on September 1, 2012 for a period of three years ending August 31, 2015. They will make up the 62nd Legislature of the Congress of the Union (Congreso de la Unión).

The 128 senators elected on July 1 will officially begin their terms on September 1, 2012 for a period of six years ending on August 31, 2018.

4.1.1. EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY

The President holds executive power. The candidate who obtains a **relative majority** by direct popular vote is elected for a six-year term. Fixed-date elections are held on the first Sunday in July. Outgoing presidents cannot seek re-election.²¹

4.1.2. LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Legislative power is vested in the **Congress of the Union** (Congreso de la Unión), which is divided into two houses: the **Chamber of Deputies** (Cámara de Diputados) and the **Senate** (Cámara de Senadores). Fixed-date elections are held on the first Sunday in July every three years for the Chamber of Deputies and every six years for the Senate. Outgoing deputies and senators cannot seek re-election for the same position in consecutive elections.

Mexico is divided into:

300 districts

32 federal entities

5 regional constituencies

The **Chamber of Deputies** is composed of 500 members:

- 300 members are elected by the single-member plurality method in each of the 300 Mexican electoral districts (distritos).

²¹ Section 83 of the Constitution.

- 200 deputies are elected through a proportional regional party list system with 40 seats allocated within each of the five regional constituencies.

Two constitutional measures should be mentioned:

1. No party or coalition can hold more than 300 seats, regardless of the percentage of votes obtained. If a party exceeds 300 deputies, proportional seats will be deducted to bring its total within the allowable limit, with the excess seats being proportionately distributed to the other parties.
2. No party or coalition can obtain a number of seats that exceeds its popular vote by over 8%. For example, if a party obtains 40% of the total vote, it cannot hold more than 48% of the seats, i.e. 240 seats out of 500.

The **Senate** is composed of 128 senators elected every six years:

- In each of the 32 federal entities (Mexico's 31 states and the Federal District), three senators are elected. The majority party obtains two seats, and the second-place party, one.
- The 32 remaining senators are elected under a proportional list system in a single national constituency.

TABLE 4.1.2: SEATS TO WIN FOR THE JULY 1, 2012 LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS

	Chamber of Deputies (Cámara de Diputados)	Senate
Members	500 (direct election)	128 (direct election)
Constituencies	a. 300 single-member districts	a. 32 multi-member constituencies (31 states and the Federal District)
	b. 5 multi-member regional constituencies	b. One multi-member national constituency
Voting method	a. Single-member plurality – 300 deputies	a. Proportional list – 96 senators Three senators elected per state or federal district: - Majority party: 2 seats - Second-place party: 1 seat
	b. Direct from party list with 40 seats allocated on a proportional basis in each regional constituency for a total of 200 deputies	b. Direct from party list with 32 seats allocated on a proportional basis in a single national constituency

4.2. THE ELECTORAL CODE (CÓDIGO FEDERAL DE INSTITUCIONES Y PROCEDIMIENTOS ELECTORALES COFIPE)

Under the Electoral Code (COFIPE) in force since 1990 and last amended in September 2007 (amendments came into force on January 14, 2008)²², voting is universal, direct, free, secret, personal and non-transferable (s. 4, par. 2).

The Electoral Code allows Mexican citizens who so desire, who adhere to the principles of natural justice, impartiality and objectivity and who are not campaigning for a political party, to act as electoral observers during the preparation and course of the electoral process (s. 5, par. 4).

Elections are held on the first Sunday in July every six years for presidential and senatorial elections and every three years for deputies. Election day is a statutory holiday throughout Mexico (s. 19).

4.2.1. THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

The standard electoral process is divided into four main stages:

1. The first stage consists of election preparation and begins with the first meeting of the General Council, which is held in the first week of October in the year prior to elections (s. 210, par. 3).
2. The second stage is the vote on election day, the first Sunday in July (s. 210, par. 4).
3. The third stage consists in tallying the results and certifying election validity (s. 210, par. 4). It is at this stage that complaints about election day may be formulated and submitted.
4. The final stage is the confirmation of the validity of the election and the President-elect.

Under the Electoral Code, the campaign for the legislative and presidential elections lasts 90 days. It begins the day after the candidates are registered and ends three days before election day (s. 237, par. 2 and 3). Public campaign events by political parties are prohibited on election day and for three days prior to the vote. It is also forbidden to publish or distribute voter opinion poll results during the three days leading up to the vote (s. 237, par. 6).

4.3. ELECTION OFFICIALS AND ORGANIZATIONS

The two main Mexican bodies involved in running elections are the **Federal Electoral Institute** (IFE) and the **Federal Electoral Tribunal of the Judicial Branch** (Tribunal Electoral del Poder Judicial de la Federación, TEPJF). The Federal Electoral Institute's power was broadened during the electoral reform of 2007–2008.

²² See Appendix 5 for more information on the 2007 electoral reform.

4.3.1. THE FEDERAL ELECTORAL INSTITUTE

The Federal Electoral Institute (IFE) is responsible for preparing, organizing, running and supervising Mexican federal elections. The IFE was created in 1990 subsequent to constitutional reforms and the adoption of a new electoral law, the Electoral Code (Código Federal de Instituciones y Procedimientos Electorales, COFIPE). It has a legal and patrimonial personality and must be public, autonomous and independent (s. 106, par. 1).

4.3.1.1. IFE MANDATE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The IFE's duties are to:

- contribute to the development of democracy;
- ensure the preservation of a multi-party system;
- draw up the Federal Registry of Voters, which combines information from the General Catalogue of Voters (Catálogo General de Electores), which lists all citizens aged 18 and over, and the Electoral Register (Padrón Electoral), which lists all citizens who have registered to vote. This information is used to prepare the voters list;
- ensure that citizens exercise their electoral rights and do so in accordance with the law;
- guarantee regular and peaceful presidential and legislative elections;
- ensure authenticity and efficiency in polling operations; and
- promote voting and contribute to civic education and democratic culture.

The IFE's main responsibilities concern:

- civic training and education;
- electoral geography;
- the rights and prerogatives of political parties and groups;
- the Electoral Register and the voters lists;
- the design, printing and distribution of electoral material;
- the planning of election days;
- the calculation of the results;
- the statement of validity and the documents of attestation for the election of deputies and senators; and
- the regulation of election observation, inquiries and surveys.

The IFE is responsible for registering political parties and ensuring that they abide by the law (s. 23, par. 2). In turn, new political parties must notify the IFE of their existence by January of the year following the presidential election (s. 28, par. 1).

In addition, the IFE is responsible, through the Executive Directorate of the Federal Registry of Voters, for updating the Voter Registry every year between October 1 and January 15 (s. 182, par. 1).

The Executive Directorate of the Federal Registry of Voters is also responsible for drawing up voter lists by dividing electoral districts into polling stations of between 50 and 1,500 voters (s. 191, par. 1, 2 and 3). These lists are updated annually. Political parties have access to them and can request changes.

Since the electoral reform of 2007, the IFE, through the district executive boards, has made it possible for voters to verify electronically their status on the Electoral Register and on the voters lists (s. 192).

4.3.1.2. ORGANIZATIONS OF THE IFE

The main components of the IFE are as follows:

- The **General Council** (Consejo General) is the IFE central management body and is responsible for ensuring that all election-related matters meet constitutional and legal standards.
 - The General Council is made up of the president councillor (consejo Presidente), eight electoral councillors (consejos electorales), legislative branch councillors (consejos del Poder Legislativo), political party representatives and an executive secretary.
 - The president councillor is elected for a six-year term by two thirds of the members present in the Chamber of Deputies from nominees proposed by parliamentary groups. The term of office is renewable only once.
 - Electoral councillors are elected for a nine-year term by two thirds of the members present in the Chamber of Deputies from nominees proposed by parliamentary groups. Their term is not renewable.
 - Legislative branch councillors are appointed by the Chamber of Deputies but cannot vote at the General Council. Each parliamentary group is entitled to one councillor.
 - Each political party also appoints one representative to the General Council.
 - The executive secretary is nominated by the president and appointed by a two-thirds majority of General Council members but is not entitled to vote.
- The **Office of the President Councillor** (la Presidencia del Consejo General) coordinates all IFE operations and guarantees the unity and coherence of the activities of the IFE's bodies.
 - It is comprised of the president councillor and the executive secretary.
- The **General Executive Board** (Junta General Ejecutiva) drafts IFE policy and programs and oversees technical and administrative operations.
 - The Board is chaired by the General Council president with the assistance of the executive secretary.
 - It is divided into a number of executive directorates (Direcciones Ejecutivas) with various administrative and technical responsibilities.
- The **Executive Secretariat** (Secretario Ejecutivo) coordinates the General Executive Board, runs operations and ensures appropriate development of IFE executive and technical branch activities.
 - It is headed by the executive secretary.

- Since the electoral reform of 2007–2008, the Political Party Resources Auditing Unit (Unidad de fiscalización de los recursos de los partidos políticos) receives and analyzes electoral spending reports (campaign and pre-campaign).
- The office of the **Comptroller General** (Contraloría General), which gained greater independence in the 2007–2008 electoral reform, ensures the IFE’s transparency.
 - The holder of this office is elected for a period of six years by two thirds of the members present in the Chamber of Deputies, based on recommendations made by public institutions of higher education. The term is renewable once. The candidate must fit certain selection criteria.
 - The holder is administratively connected to the General Council, but acts independently when auditing the IFE’s budget operations and establishing the criteria for the fiscal review of the resources available to the bodies of the IFE.

Seven **technical units** (Unidades Técnicas), in addition to the Political Party Resources Auditing Unit, which benefits from a separate status, support and complement the work of the IFE’s central bodies.

IFE offices are also present in each of the 32 federal entities (including the Federal District) and are made up of the following (COFIPE, s. 134):

- The **Local Executive Board** (Junta Local Ejecutiva) oversees technical and administrative tasks in preparing, organizing and running elections.
- The **Executive Member** (El Vocal Ejecutivo) chairs the Local Executive Board and Local Council and coordinates the work of the office.
- The **Local Council** (El Consejo Local) is active during the election period and is responsible for enforcing the Electoral Code.

The IFE also has 300 sub-offices, one for each single-member electoral district. These sub-offices are made up of a District Executive Board (Junta Distrital Ejecutiva), an Executive Member (Vocal Ejecutivo) and a District Council (Consejo Distrital), and operate according to the same principles as the offices.

Surveillance Commissions (Comisiones de Vigilancia) are located throughout the territory to ensure that citizens are registered in the Voter Registry and on the voters list in conformity with the Electoral Code (s. 202, par. 1).

It is also important to mention the role of the **electoral committees** (mesas directivas de casillas), which are composed of citizens responsible for running individual polling stations and tallying votes in each electoral district.

4.3.2. THE FEDERAL ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL OF THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

The Federal Electoral Tribunal of the Judicial Branch (TEPJF) is an independent judicial body created in 1990 as a result of constitutional reform. It has jurisdiction over electoral matters and is entrusted with ensuring the constitutionality and legality of all election-related acts and resolutions.

Its main duty is to provide definitive rulings, according to the laws and Constitution of Mexico, with regard to the following:

- irregularities and complaints during legislative elections;
- disputes and irregularities respecting presidential elections;
- disputes and irregularities with respect to acts and decisions by election officials and other competent authorities;
- acts and decisions that violate citizens' political and electoral rights;
- legal disputes concerning the IFE; and
- determination and imposition of penalties.

Since the electoral reform of 2007–2008, pre-established procedures and sanctions to be used by the Electoral Tribunal have been included in the Constitution and the Electoral Code.

4.4. POLLING DAY

The day begins at 8 a.m. on the first Sunday in July. The president, clerk and scrutineers of each electoral committee (*mesas directivas de casillas*) set up the polling station under the supervision of political party representatives (s. 259, par. 2). Once the set-up is complete and the minutes (*acta de la jornada electoral*) have been signed by the polling station officers, the president opens the polling station for voting (s. 263, par. 1). Under amendments made in 2007–2008, election day minutes must contain the full names and signatures of the polling station officers as well as a record of the number of ballots received for each election (s. 259, par. 5).

Voters cast their ballots on a first-come, first-served basis after presenting their voter photo registration card (*Credencial para Votar*) and having their names checked on the voters list by the clerk of the electoral committee (s. 264, par. 1 and s. 265, par. 1). Under the 2007 reform, electors who have a document from the Federal Electoral Tribunal (TEPJF) authorizing them to vote may do so even if they are not on the voters list or do not have their voter photo registration card.

Once they have voted, the clerk writes “vote” beside their name on the list, marks their voter registration cards, and stamps their thumbs with indelible ink (s. 265, par. 4).

FIGURE 4.4: BALLOT SAMPLE

Polls close at 6 p.m. (s. 271, par. 1). The polling station president declares the polls closed (s. 272, par. 1).

After the polls close, the polling station officers count the ballots (s. 273, par. 1):

- The clerk counts any remaining unused ballots and marks them so that they cannot be used (s. 276, par. 1a);
- Using the voters list, the first scrutineer tallies twice the number of citizens who voted (s. 276, par. 2b);

- The president opens the ballot boxes, removes the ballots, and shows those present that the boxes are completely empty (s. 276, par. 2c);
- The second scrutineer counts the number of ballots removed from the box (s. 276, par. 2d);
- The two scrutineers, under the president's supervision, then count the number of votes cast for the various political parties and candidates, as well as the number of spoiled ballots (s. 276, par. 2); and
- The clerk records the results on the final tally report (*acta final de escrutino*) (s. 276, par. 2f).

All the polling station officers present must then verify and sign the final entry in the minutes (s. 280, par. 1), which must contain at least (s. 279, par. 1):

- the number of votes for each political party or candidate;
- the number of unused ballots;
- the number of spoiled ballots;
- the number of political party representatives who voted at the polling booth without being on the voters list;
- a list of any incidents noted; and
- a list of any written complaints submitted by the representatives of the political parties at the end of the polling.

The 2007 reform stipulates that the first copy of the minutes must be sent to the Preliminary Electoral Results Program (*Programa de resultados electorales preliminares*), so that early election results are made available to the General Council, the political parties and the citizens.

A package must then be prepared containing a copy of the minutes, including the final entry and any complaints that were formulated (s. 281, par. 1).

A separate envelope must contain the valid, spoiled and unused ballots for each of the elections (s. 281, par. 2). Another envelope must contain the list of the electors by name (s. 281, par. 3).

The package must be sent to the corresponding District Council within a set time after the closing of the polling stations (s. 284, par. 1):

- immediately after the station closes, for stations located in the capital (*cabecera del distrito*);
- within 12 hours, for stations located in urban zones outside the capital; and
- within 24 hours, for stations located in rural zones.

The submission form must be signed by all the polling station officers (*mesas directivas de casillas*) as well as any political party representative who so wishes (s. 281, par. 4).

A copy of the minutes will be given to the political party representatives, with confirmations of receipt (s. 282, par. 1).

The president of the polling station posts the results of each election in full view outside the polling station. The results are signed by the president and any political party representatives who so wish (s. 283).

There are no advance polls. However, since the 2005 electoral reform, Mexicans abroad have had the right to vote in the presidential election (s. 273, par. 1).

4.5. SECURITY

Security issues have been a priority during this campaign. For a number of years, Mexico has witnessed increasing violence related to drug trafficking. This situation mainly affects the area along the US-Mexico border, where numerous homicides have been recorded. According to the Canadian and American governments, there is no indication that foreign observers would be specifically targeted by the perpetrators of such violence.

5. MISSION ACTIVITIES BEFORE ELECTION DAY

5.1. ARRIVAL OF THE DELEGATION AND ACCREDITATION OF MEMBERS

Upon arriving in Mexico on June 27, 2012, the COPA delegation issued a press release²³ announcing the composition of the delegation and the purpose of the mission and briefly introducing COPA.

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

On June 27, 2012, the members of the delegation attended two meetings with representatives of institutions and organizations involved in the 2012 electoral process. They held discussions with representatives of *Grandeza Mexicana*, a Mexican civil organization dedicated to the observation of national elections and the promotion of democracy. In addition, delegates met with the mission leader for the Organization of American States (OAS) and former President of Colombia, Dr. César Augusto Gaviria Trujillo, to discuss issues concerning international electoral observation in the context of the 2012 presidential and legislative elections.

On June 28, 2012, delegates met with a former adviser to the Federal Electoral Institute, Dr. Virgilio Andrade. He drew a general portrait of the Mexican Electoral Code, voting operations and institutions involved in the electoral process, mainly the Federal Electoral Institute and the Federal Electoral Tribunal (TEPJF). Also on June 28, delegates held discussions with a campaign adviser to the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), Alejandro Nieto Enriquez.

A number of other meetings were scheduled for June 29, 2012. First, the Director of International Relations of the National Executive Committee of the National Action Party (PAN), Carlos J. Guizar Rivas, discussed PAN's view of the 2012 election campaign. That day also included meetings with the main presidential candidates, Enrique Peña Nieto of PRI and Josefina Vasquez Mota of PAN. Members of the mission also met with the PRD campaign team.

On June 30, 2012, the COPA delegation participated in the Federal Electoral Institute's program for international visitors. Finally, the candidate for the New Alliance Party (PANAL), Gabriel Quadri de la Torre, presented the main planks of his platform and his vision of the election campaign.

Summaries of the comments made and the information gathered during the meetings are provided below.²⁴

²³ The June 27, 2012 press release is provided in Appendix 6.

²⁴ The comments reported in these summaries are those of the institutional representatives: in no manner do they constitute the opinions of the mission delegates.

5.2.1. MEETING WITH THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE *GRANDEZA MEXICANA NUEVA GENERACIÓN* ORGANIZATION

- **Representative of the organization: Jorge Alberto Embriz Toledo – Coordinator of the *Grandeza Mexicana* national program “Transparencia 2012” – June 27, 2012, 1 p.m.**

The COPA delegation met with the representative of the organization *Grandeza Mexicana* to gather information on the overall election climate. The discussions also provided delegates with the organization’s opinions on the Mexican election campaign.

Grandeza Mexicana Nueva Generación is a non-governmental organization that was founded six years ago and that groups some 35 civil society organizations from various horizons. It trains national electoral observers and has already observed a number of elections in Mexico, the July 1 election being its seventh. The purpose of the “Transparencia 2012” program is to promote a civic and democratic culture and to deploy 15 000 national observers accredited by the IFE.

Security and the fight against drug traffickers was the central issue of the campaign. According to Mr. Embriz, during the term of outgoing President Felipe Calderón (PAN), more than 70,000 violent deaths were reported.

The *Grandeza Mexicana* representative is of the opinion that the Yo Soy 132²⁵ movement came out plainly against the candidate who was leading in the polls. He also believes that the Yo Soy 132 movement has political leanings and is funded by groups that are not clearly identified. It would appear that the movement has significant financial means that are far superior to those of *Grandeza Mexicana*.

Grandeza Mexicana was happy to note that, contrary to the 2006 election, the political parties would all have representatives at the polling stations.

The group also noted some people’s claims of fraudulent practices, which it said were untrue. According to the group, PRD candidate Andrés Manuel López Obrador was denouncing fraudulent practices without concrete proof.

The group did not anticipate election fraud on voting day, but admitted that some citizens feared that their vote would not be counted.

Grandeza Mexicana believed that there would be high participation rates among women and youth on voting day and expressed confidence in the IFE, which is a citizen-based and credible organization, despite the fact that some candidates had raised questions of election fraud.

²⁵ The Yo Soy 132 movement originated from a denunciation of biased coverage of the campaign by the main Mexican media. The movement was an important player during most of the election campaign.

5.2.2. MEETING WITH THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS) TO MEXICO

- **Representative of the organization: Dr. César Augusto Gaviria Trujillo, Leader of the OAS mission to Mexico and former President of Colombia – June 27, 2012 – 3 p.m.**

The meeting with Mr. Gaviria provided delegation members an opportunity to learn more about electoral observation in Mexico. The discussions shed some light on certain aspects of the Electoral Code.

First, Mr. Gaviria put into context the exceptional circumstances in Mexico, where the formal status of international electoral observers is not recognized. Since Mexican authorities apparently view such observers as interfering in the country's internal affairs, the regulatory framework refers to "international visitors" instead.

The OAS mission was above all a technical one to learn how the system works with a view to eventually making recommendations.

The OAS noted that there was a good deal of mistrust on the part of the electorate toward the electoral system, a factor which seemed to be becoming a trend, in light of the experiences of past elections. The results of the 2006 election were very close and have been considered somewhat traumatic for Mexico and election officials. The problem encountered in 2006 could be partly explained by the fact that representatives of the political parties had not been present in all the polling stations. This time, however, the story would be different. It appears that public mistrust in the Mexican electoral system is part of the reason election results have been contested on several occasions in Mexico, the OAS mission leader added.

The Mexican electoral system is nevertheless very sophisticated, Mr. Gaviria said. Mexico has invested heavily in its electoral system in the last two decades. For example, for the 2012 election, a rapid ballot counting system was put in place in 7,500 polling stations. This 5% sampling of all polling stations would provide a preview of the voting trend, with complete preliminary results to be known the day after the vote.

According to the OAS, there was little risk that polling station officials would be ill-prepared. However, violence in local elections was feared. There was almost no chance of fraud on polling day.

Excessive electoral spending would merit special attention. The amount of advertising purchased by political parties and candidates is monitored by the IFE, but not the advertising content.

There is a 40% candidate gender quota for political parties. Another point of note is that, for the 2012 presidential and legislative elections, young voters account for 38% of the electorate.

5.2.3. MEETING WITH FORMER IFE ADVISER DR. VIRGILIO ANDRADE

- **June 28, 2012 – 2 p.m.**

At this meeting with the members of the COPA delegation, Dr. Andrade outlined the Mexican electoral system.

According to Dr. Andrade, the philosophy that underpins Mexico's institutional organization is rooted in international cooperation. Mexico had looked to the institutions of other countries and opened itself to foreigners in the last two decades.

- **Oversight of election spending in Mexico**

Dr. Andrade said that the total cost of the 2006 election was 14,588 million pesos, which translates to 204 pesos per voter (approximately US\$17).

In 2012, the cost rose to 15,296 million pesos or 192 pesos per voter (approximately US\$15).

According to the information provided by Dr. Andrade, an envelope of 5,208 million pesos was earmarked to finance the political parties during the campaign. Funds are allocated according to a formula governing public support set out in the Constitution and based on a 70/30 split: 70% of the total amount is allocated according to the party's performance in the previous election and 30% is fixed and equal for all parties.

- **Brief history of electoral legislation in Mexico**

In conclusion, Dr. Andrade provided a brief history of electoral legislation. Political pluralism began to emerge around 1977 with the birth of the proportional vote and the recognition of various political parties. In 1990, the creation of the IFE coincided with the implementation of a new Electoral Roll. At that time, the IFE was part of the Government.

Around 1993, a number of significant improvements were made, including the creation of a political party funding program and a ceiling on election spending; supervision of the amount of airtime approved for the promotion of the political parties in the media; voter photo ID cards; an opening up to international electoral observation and, lastly, the beginning of a real plurality in political party representation in Congress. The status of international observer was quickly changed, however, to that of international visitor in 1994.

Finally, in 1996, the IFE became independent of the Government, Dr. Andrade said. That same year, public financing of political parties was increased.²⁶

²⁶ The last major change in Mexican electoral legislation dates back to 2007. The main tenets of the reform are provided in Appendix 5.

5.2.4. MEETING WITH PRI CAMPAIGN ADVISER ALEJANDRO NIETO ENRIQUEZ

- **June 28, 2012 – 3:30 p.m.**

Mission delegates were invited to discuss and learn about the PRI vision of the 2012 electoral process.

From the beginning, Mr. Enriquez pointed out that the PRI had confidence in the IFE.

In November 2011, Enrique Peña Nieto was chosen as PRI's official candidate for the Mexican presidential election, as Andrés Manuel López Obrador was for the PRD. PAN selected Josefina Vasquez Mota as its party candidate on February 5, 2012.

Initially, a coalition existed between PANAL and the PRI. It broke down in the winter of 2012. The PANAL candidate, Gabriel Quadri de la Torre, was the Director General of the National Institute of Ecology under President Ernesto Zedillo (PRI).²⁷

The electoral process officially began on October 7, 2011.

Traditionally, there is a hiatus in electoral activity between the end of the pre-campaigns (primaries) and the launch of the broader election campaign. This hiatus lasted 37 days, from February 16 to March 29, 2012.

- **Election campaigns of the main national political parties**

According to the PRI representative, the PAN and PRD campaigns were based on vicious attacks against Enrique Peña Nieto.

However, according to Mr. Enriquez, PANAL freely addressed themes on the political election agenda, such as same-sex marriage, adoption by homosexuals, the restructuring of PEMEX (state-owned petroleum company) and the end of fuel consumption subsidies.

The PRI representative considered that his party's campaign had been constructive and engaging. Contact with citizens had been a central factor. The PRI claimed that a new period of political harmony was necessary for a national dialogue in future.

The two debates organized by the IFE were viewed by millions of Mexicans. The ratings for the second debate were particularly high. It was viewed by 32 million people on the two major national television networks, *TV Azteca* and *Televisa*, making it the most highly watched debate in the country's history.

Lastly, Mr. Enriquez stated that the PRI was the only party that had a real national presence.

²⁷ Ernesto Zedillo was President of Mexico from 1994 to 2000 under the PRI banner.

5.2.5. MEETING WITH THE DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PARTY (PAN), CARLOS J. GUIZAR RIVAS

- **June 29, 2012 – 9:50 a.m.**

The meeting with Mr. Guizar provided the COPA delegation the opportunity to acquaint itself with PAN's vision two days before polling day.

According to Mr. Guizar, PAN is the only party that selects its candidate in a democratic manner. There were a number of candidates vying for the nomination.

The PAN presidential candidate, Josefina Vasquez Mota, was officially nominated on February 5, 2012. She has been a PAN member for 12 years and has played an active role in civil society. She hoped that as a woman her candidacy would set itself apart. Mr. Guizar believes that Mexico was ready for democracy in 2000 and is now ready for a woman president.

Below is a list of the proposals put forth by PAN during the campaign, as presented by Mr. Guizar.

- Provide better protection to citizens, in particular to the disadvantaged.
- Increase the power of the states and develop a real federalism by increasing the budget granted to them in order to curb excessive debt.
- Begin an overhaul of the education system and ensure that teaching positions are awarded based on competence.
- On the security front, defeat drug traffickers. PAN wants break the ties between the political realm and organized crime by reinforcing sanctions and social programs, notably to promote employment.
- On the economic front, implement a labour reform, with an emphasis on integrating youth.
- Establish a stability policy in the country so that the administrative structure no longer changes every six years.

According to Mr. Guizar's comments, the presidential candidate's voter base is composed mainly of women.

Mr. Guizar then presented the Opportunities Program ("Oportunidades"), which was created during the last PAN presidency. Under this program, which is now universal and implemented in three sectors (health, education and food), an allowance is paid to women. The amount must be used for specific purposes and, in some cases, carries with it an obligation to produce results.

Lastly, Mr. Guizar commented on the Yo Soy 132 movement, stating in particular that Ms. Vasquez Mota insisted on meeting students, who are firmly opposed to a return to power of the PRI. He also noted that PAN appreciates the work of the IFE, especially in regard to electoral administration, and that it does not anticipate any significant organizational problems on voting day.

5.2.6. MEETING WITH PRI PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE ENRIQUE PEÑA NIETO

- June 29, 2012 – 1 p.m.

A number of international visitors were invited to attend the meeting. Each organization or institution present was allowed to ask Mr. Peña Nieto two questions.

Several things are worth mentioning about the discussions with the presidential candidate. First, given the large number of representatives of foreign electoral organizations, a number of questions were asked concerning the 2007 reform of the Electoral Code. Mr. Peña Nieto reiterated his confidence in the election officials and asked that the electoral law be strictly applied. He lauded the 2007 electoral reform, which he said was intended to avoid the traumatic events that followed the 2006 election.

Several questions were asked relating to the regional interests of a number of international visitors at the meeting, including questions about Mexico's relations with Latin America. On that topic, the PRI candidate emphasized the importance of Mexico's relations with other Latin American countries. He reminded those present of the historical, cultural and political bonds that Mexico shares with those nations.

Mexico's relations with North America were also brought up. Mr. Peña Nieto confirmed that he intended to maintain excellent trade relations with his northern neighbours. He said that, if elected, he would support efforts to attract foreign investment and maintain a free trade policy.

He also said that his party would fight drug traffickers effectively, while avoiding the loss of human life. He proposed to use more intelligent methods of intervention, including putting police expertise to better use and infiltrating drug trafficking groups.

Lastly, the PRI presidential candidate confirmed the importance of the role of women in Mexican society and his commitment to improving their situation and respecting their rights.

5.2.7. MEETING WITH PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE JOSEFINA VASQUEZ MOTA

- **June 29, 2012 – 5 p.m.**

This meeting was organized by the administrative personnel of the IFE and was therefore organized within the framework of the program for international visitors.

Ms. Vasquez Mota first provided an overview of the PAN's accomplishments since taking power in 2006, insisting on the following points:

- The country could now count on economic stability.
- She was the Minister of Social Development in the PAN Government. According to her, nine million Mexicans rose out of poverty during her mandate. Her objective is equitable growth, and she is committed to carrying out the reforms needed to achieve that objective.

The PAN presidential candidate put the 2012 campaign into context by highlighting the following elements:

- The IFE is a fair and effective body in which she has confidence. Unfortunately, she believes votes were still being bought and undemocratic methods were still being practised.
- It should be noted that Ms. Vasquez Mota has promised to play by the rules.
- The new players in the 2012 campaign are the youth. The average age of the Mexican population is 28. This is the most significant demographic transition in Mexico's history. According to Ms. Vasquez Mota, the youth have awoken and are rebelling in the face of authoritarianism.
- Social networks played a fundamental role in the election campaign.

Ms. Vasquez Mota also commented on the suspicions of vote-buying. She said PAN had filed several complaints. The candidate invited the competent institutions to intervene and to penalize and prevent these undemocratic practices.

As a woman candidate, Ms. Vasquez Mota said she was asked questions that would never have been asked of other candidates. This represented a challenge for her.

Below are some of the proposals the candidate put forth during the campaign:

- She proposed to examine all the country's policies, across all sectors, from the viewpoint of human rights.
- She proposed to create a national police force trained by the military, but run by civilians. It would comprise well-trained military and police personnel.
- She proposed a policy on arms trafficking, affirming that most weapons in circulation in Mexico come from the United States.
- She proposed to form a coalition government comprising the best elements of the country.
- She proposed to give priority to education, to double the number of student bursaries, to open new universities and to provide state coverage of 50% of the cost of higher education and 100% of the cost of college education.
- She hopes to build a new peace and restore confidence among the Mexican people.

- She proposed tighter electoral supervision in light of the strong pressure exerted by Mexicans. She also wishes to consolidate the culture of democracy.
- In terms of foreign trade, she proposed to give priority to Latin American countries.

5.2.8. MEETING WITH THE PRD CAMPAIGN TEAM

- **June 29, 2012 – 6:15 p.m.**

The IFE team in charge of organizing the program for international visitors attempted to organize a meeting with Andrés Manuel López Obrador, but its efforts were in vain. Members of his campaign team were designated to attend in his place.

- **Director of the PRD campaign – Hector Vasconcelos – 6:15 p.m.**

Mr. Vasconcelos said that Andrés Manuel López Obrador recently published a book entitled “Nuevo proyecto alternativo de Nación” (New alternative project for the nation), which presents the leftist presidential candidate’s overall political platform.

Mr. Vasconcelos informed participants that López Obrador’s objective was to fight inequalities, considering that Mexico’s population was among the most disadvantaged in the world in this regard.

Mr. Vasconcelos discussed the three elements that underpin the candidate’s economic policy:

- Work toward stronger economic growth. Mexico’s average real growth over the last 30 years has been weak, around 2%. Job opportunities for youth must be created.
- Bring large corporations to pay a greater share, because they pay virtually no taxes.
- Undertake a real fight against corruption, which is endemic in Mexico.

According to the director of the PRD campaign, implementing that political program would result in a marked reduction of violence. That is why the PRD presidential candidate proposes to attack the root of the problem.

- **PRD representatives: Irma Erendira Sandoval and Alejandro Alvarez – 6:40 p.m.**

The PRD representatives confirmed that serious irregularities had occurred in the hours leading up to the meeting. Thousands of complaints had been lodged with the PRD by citizens.

The PRD representatives exposed methods used by rival parties to take advantage of the democratic and electoral process:

- Purchase of ID cards.
- Use of public resources for election purposes (clientelism, most notably in the state of Mexico). Clientelism affects several state bodies: the police, the Government and public employees. It has also been witnessed at the federal level, at PEMEX, CFE (Federal Electricity Commission) and throughout the Techo Digno (“Worthy Roof”) program, which provides financial support to disadvantaged populations to improve housing.

- Religious sector interference in the electoral process (San Luis Potosi), in particular the Catholic Church – Meetings with partisan activists and public employees. The electoral law prohibits religious organizations and private companies from providing financial support to political parties.
- Election advertising disguised as “information bulletins”. Blatantly partial coverage by the main national media.
- Airing of advertising spots by the biggest Spanish television chain, *Televisa*, after all election advertising was officially suspended (an embargo on all election advertising begins three days before election day).
- Systematic violation of voter secrecy – cellphone photographs providing proof of the voter’s choice, often to obtain the second and final payment for a purchased vote.
- 300 prepaid cards (Soriana – supermarket chain) to purchase votes and corrupt IFE representatives in polling stations.
- Invitations to luncheons to promote the idea of vote purchasing.
- 8 to 10 million votes that could potentially be purchased.

Finally, a discussion period allowed the public to take up a number of points raised by the PRD concerning suspicions of vote purchasing. The representatives insisted that, in terms of legislation, the work had been accomplished. In their view, the law must now be enforced to fight impunity and harsher penalties must be applied.

According to the PRD team, the Yo Soy 132 movement does not officially support any political party.

5.2.9. PARTICIPATION IN THE IFE PROGRAM FOR INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

- **June 30, 2012 – 9:30 a.m.**

The COPA delegation participated in the IFE program for international visitors on the morning of June 30. Experts from various fields provided analysis on a range of aspects of the 2012 election process.

- **Dispute resolution process – 9:30 a.m.**

The resolution of legal disputes is too slow, according to the political parties. Not taking the appropriate action in a timely manner can cause significant damage. In 2006, this aspect was improved. A new procedure reduced the complaint processing time to one week. However, some complaints remain unresolved, having been made shortly before election day.

Factors relating to the cost of complaint processing:

1. Human resources have increased;
2. The number of complaints has risen;
3. In addition to organizing the elections, the IFE is also responsible for processing complaints;
4. The legal bases are more diverse and legal interpretation is more complex.

- **Round table on the elections in Mexico – 11 a.m.**

As part of the round table, three experts from the academic field and polling firms provided their views on the 2012 presidential and legislative elections.

- **José Woldenberg, researcher with the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) – 11 a.m.**

Mr. Woldenberg paid special attention to how the socio-electoral context has changed since 1977 in Mexico.

The researcher said that in 1977, 100% of senators and 82% of deputies were with the PRI. Then, the first electoral reform was implemented. Today, none of the parties have an absolute majority in Congress and municipal presidents represent seven different parties. The reform solved a major political and social conflict. At that time, only one presidential candidate ran for office and PAN could not obtain the number of votes needed to form a political party and hold primaries. With the 1977 reform, the barriers to forming new political parties were removed. In addition, a proportional representation scheme was introduced. This created greater plurality and allowed the emergence of new political parties.

In 1988, a democratic front was created. This was welcome news in that voters would benefit from a broader diversity of electoral choice. Unfortunately, the process was neither clean, nor transparent. A crisis followed, and the electoral authorities were unable to hold impartial elections. Consequently, the Federal Electoral Institute (IFE) was created in 1990. Representatives of the various political parties have a presence within the IFE.

In 1997, election conditions were unfair, in large part due to the influence of money and access to mass media. Public funding of political parties was then introduced, along with a ceiling on election spending and a law prohibiting financial support by religious organizations and private corporations. With the public funds, the parties could purchase advertising time and gain greater access to the media. The legislation ensured that the electoral institutions managed the airtime in the media.

- **Roy Campos, Director of Consulta Mitofsky**

Mr. Campos works for the polling firm Consulta Mitofsky. He focused on polling firms' predictions during the 2012 election process.

From the outset, Mr. Campos felt it important to note that the polling industry in Mexico had developed considerably in recent years.

He said that polling firms placed voter intentions for the PRI during the last 12 weeks at an average 44.1%, that is, 10 points ahead of the party in second place.

According to the consultant, the election campaign could be broken down into three periods characterized by the following:

1. Calm
2. The Yo Soy 132 movement
3. The ghost of 2006

In Mexico, to obtain an absolute majority, a party must receive at least 42% of the votes cast. This is explained by the 8% differential between the votes cast and the percentage of seats obtained. No additional seat can be granted outside that limit. According to Mr. Campos's predictions, the Green/PRI coalition could probably obtain 42% of the votes and therefore an absolute majority in the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies.

Mr. Campos predicted a participation rate of 61% for the 2012 election. It would be the first election in which the social media would play an important role. Youth participation would be substantial, with 10 million first-time voters.

According to Mr. Campos's analysis, voting based on ideology would decrease and voting according to political themes would increasingly be the norm.

- **José Fernandez Santillan, researcher**

Also in the context of the round table on the Mexican elections, Mr. Santillan drew a portrait of the emergence of political pluralism since 1929. The following are the highlights of his presentation.

The PRI was born on March 4, 1929. The Mexican revolution did not begin in the capital, contrary to other revolutions in the world. The PRI was founded on the union of various social movements. Over the course of the 20th century, the PRI was transformed into a party backed by large corporations.

In the 1940s, the military exited the PRI and the civil sector entered. There was a schism between labourers and farmers. That is when Mexico moved from elite politics to mass politics. The PRI was reborn in 1946 as a civil party. The first civil President was Miguel Alemán in 1946.

In 1939, PAN was born as a coalition of family oligarchies. Various Catholic groups also joined. In 1977, marginalized leftist parties gained strength.

Lastly, civil society became a force in reaction to the Government's inability to provide assistance to the victims of an earthquake in 1985.

Mr. Santillan said that in 2012 the social forces related to each party are distributed as follows:

- PRI: corporations;
- PAN: religious organizations, Catholic Church hierarchy;
- PRD: territorial bases.

5.2.10. MEETING WITH THE PANAL PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE GABRIEL QUADRI DE LA TORRE

- **June 30, 2012 – 1 p.m.**

The members of the mission met with presidential candidate Gabriel Quadri de la Torre. This meeting was also arranged by the IFE team and was therefore held as part of the program for international visitors.

After a brief overview of Mexican history since the 1910 revolution, Mr. Quadri presented the main elements of the PANAL program.

On the economic front, the candidate proposes to reform certain state-owned enterprises, including PEMEX and the Federal Electricity Commission (CFE), and to take advantage of NAFTA. He also proposes that Mexico negotiate an economic, technological and investment agreement with China. Lastly, Mr. Quadri proposes that an autonomous, independent and impartial institution be created to monitor and audit the Government's financial accounts.

In terms of foreign policy, Mr. Quadri would like to see Mexico reclaim its place as a leader in Latin America and take advantage of the Pacific Alliance. He also proposes less pragmatism in foreign policy, with more emphasis on the following principles:

- Respect for human rights;
- Sustainable development;
- Market economy; and
- Freedom.

He also wishes to rebuild relations with Central America to promote sustainable development projects and make use of its advantageous geopolitical position (sharing borders with North America and Latin America). Also on the subject of foreign policy, he said that Mexico had ignored the African continent. Mr. Quadri considers that an error and proposes to open new embassies there. He said that Mexico should assume its role as an emerging power.

On gender issues, the candidate proposes implementing reforms to make the labour market more flexible for women. It is the State's obligation, he said, to respect and support the decisions made by women.

In terms of education, he proposes that schools operate on a full-time schedule so that women can work and study. He believes that when children leave school at 12 noon, they are left to themselves in the streets and are recruited by criminal gangs.

Finally, PANAL is pro-abortion. Mr. de la Torre said that it is better to prevent abortion through sex education. He said that it was absurd to put women in prison for having an abortion.

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 representatives from Costa Rica, Argentina and Ecuador, that is, **Ileana Brenes Jiménez**, mission leader, **Manuel Santiago Godoy**, **Carlos Pessi**, **José Antonio Vilariño** and **Elena Mercedes Diminich Sousa**, observed operations in 23 polling stations in the municipalities of Mexico F.D., Tlalpan F.D., Naucalpan and Tlanepantla.^{28 29}
2. The second team, comprising representatives from Costa Rica, Argentina and El Salvador, that is, **Mireya Zamora Alvarado**, **Liliana Beatriz Fellner**, **Ada Rosa del Valle Iturrez** and **Sandra Marlene Salgado García**, observed operations in 24 polling stations in various municipalities of the Federal District.³⁰
3. The third team, comprising representatives from Ecuador, Argentina and Chile, that is, **Gioconda María Santos Espinoza**, **María de los Ángeles Higonet**, **Juan Arturo Salim** and **Gabriel Ascencio**, observed operations in 29 polling stations in municipalities of the Federal District and Ecatepec de Morelos in the state of Mexico.³¹
4. The fourth team, comprising representatives from Uruguay, Argentina, Ecuador and Chile, that is, **Carlos Baraibar Ponce de León**, **Julio Rodolfo Solanas**, **Francisco Ramiro Ulloa Henríquez** and **Romilio Gutiérrez**, observed operations in 22 polling stations in municipalities of the Federal District and the state of Hidalgo.³²
5. The fifth team, comprising representatives from the Dominican Republic, Québec (Canada) and Argentina, that is, **Fausto Liz**, **Pascal Bérubé** and **Ana María Corradi de Beltrán**, observed operations in 29 polling stations in municipalities of Tlalpan (F.D.), Cuernavaca (Morelos) and La Magdalena Contreras (F.D.).³³
6. The sixth team, solely comprising advisers representing Argentina, Paraguay and the Dominican Republic, was invited by the Electoral Institute of the state of Tabasco to observe operations in 8 polling stations in the municipality of Villahermosa, the state capital.³⁴

²⁸ The municipalities of Naucalpan and Tlanepantla are both located in the state of Mexico.

²⁹ See Appendix 7 for the itinerary of Team 1.

³⁰ See Appendix 8 for the itinerary of Team 2.

³¹ See Appendix 9 for the itinerary of Team 3.

³² See Appendix 10 for the itinerary of Team 4.

³³ See Appendix 11 for the itinerary of Team 5.

³⁴ See Appendix 12 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, which is in Appendix 14 and of which a copy was completed for each polling station visited, is divided into eight parts and is based on the provisions of the Mexican Electoral Code. The grid covers the following areas of the electoral process:

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

To collect this information, the observers talked mainly to the sworn officials who acted as the returning officer at each polling station.

The six teams of observers also sought to obtain a representative sample of voting practices by visiting polling stations in a cross-section of neighbourhoods. In the federal district, and in the states of Mexico, Hidalgo, Morelos and Tabasco, they visited polling stations located in working-class, middle-class and more well-to-do neighbourhoods.

7. COPA MISSION FINDINGS

The main observation findings concern the following aspects:

- Polling stations
- Election materials (2 tables)
- Complaints
- General observations
- Vote counting³⁵

7.1. POLLING STATIONS

In most of the polling stations observed, the voters who had arrived early could not vote at the scheduled opening time of 8 a.m. stipulated in article 210.4 of the Electoral Code. Only 19 of the 134 polling stations observed opened between 8 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. According to the findings of the six observation teams, the opening of polling stations was systematically delayed, because installations began at 8 a.m. In effect, article 259.2 of the Mexican Electoral Code does not allow the installation of polling stations to begin before 8 a.m. The information below was gathered from polling station officials.

	YES	NO	No answer
Suitable polling station site and set-up	96	32	8
Polling station complete	119	9	6
Presence of security forces	22	104	8
Presence of candidate/party representatives	126	5	3
Presence of election advertising on site	16	113	5
Acts of voter intimidation	7	119	8

In most of the polling stations observed, the site and installations were appropriate.

A number of observers nevertheless noted some problems with the installations at certain polling stations. For example, at the polling station in section 4893, in the *Cuauhtémoc F.D.* district, Team 3 noted that there was clearly not enough space. The same comment was made for the polling station in section 3839, in the *Tlalpan F.D.* district. Some polling stations did not have sufficient materials to install voting tables. This was the case for the polling station in section 257, in *Cuernavaca, Morelos*,

³⁵ These findings are based on the appraisals of the COPA delegation members.

where some tables were made of cardboard. Other problems observed at this polling station included a lack of space, a lack of order and crowds of voters gathered around polling station officials. The above list of polling stations with inadequate installations is not exhaustive, but it illustrates the most recurring deficiencies.

In the vast majority of cases, polling stations had all the materials required. Nonetheless, deficiencies in terms of materials were observed at the polling stations in sections 2050 (*Iztapalapa F.D.*), 4748 (*Cuauhtemoc F.D.*), 3202 (*Álvaro Obregón F.D.*), 1923 (*Ecatepec de Morelos, state of Mexico*) and 1901 (*Ecatepec de Morelos, state of Mexico*), as well as a lack of voter information and polling station personnel.

COPA observers also noted that the political parties had representatives at most polling stations. Political representation and the number of representatives varied considerably from one polling station to another.

On several occasions, observers noted the presence of political advertising in the polling stations. However, this fact cannot really be taken into account, because the expression “publicidad electoral” in Spanish can also refer to informative advertising intended for citizens. This linguistic distortion is the result of a poor translation of the French “publicité électorale” (electoral advertising in English). Since the COPA delegation is composed mainly of Spanish-speaking members, it would seem that this created some confusion among observers. As a result, in future electoral observation missions, that term must be replaced by “promoción electoral” (electoral propaganda) in observer materials.

Lastly, some delegation members said that they had observed some acts of intimidation, in particular toward polling station officials. It should be noted that such acts were observed most notably in the polling stations in sections 5287 (*Venustiano Carranza F.D.*) and 951 (*Pachuca, Hidalgo*).

7.2. ELECTION MATERIALS

Election materials were provided in sufficient quantity and met prescribed standards in the vast majority of the polling stations observed.

	YES	NO	No answer
Appropriately sealed urns	121	8	4
Voting booths ensuring voter secrecy	110	19	4
Voter list	126	3	4
Ballots in sufficient quantity	115	7	11

In nearly 15% of the polling stations observed, that is, in 19 stations, observers noted that voting booths did not guarantee voter secrecy. This was most often due to the layout of the polling stations, which sometimes required officials to place voting booths too close to the voting tables or in full view of waiting voters. The most frequent comments were that it was possible to see who voters were voting for.

Some polling stations did not receive sufficient ballots, although these constituted a minority of polling stations.

	Very good	Good	Poor	Very poor	No answer
Election materials	71	45	8	4	5
Work of polling station officials	68	37	10	5	13

For the most part, election materials were appropriate and election officials' work was good or very good. However, election materials were never provided to one of the polling stations observed, that is, the station in section 311 (*Cuernavaca, Morelos*).

Some observers made specific comments. First, in the polling stations in sections 3202 (*Alvaro Obregón F.D.*), 1923 (*Ecatepec de Morelos, state of Mexico*) and 1901 (*Ecatepec de Morelos, state of Mexico*), there were not enough election workers. Observers also noted that election officials sometimes lacked training and at other times were unable to provide clear and concise information to citizens.

In general, however, election officials performed their duties well. They were thorough and respectful. The observers also said that officials had provided good cooperation during visits.

7.3. COMPLAINTS

On the whole, few formal complaints were filed by political party representatives, candidates and citizens.

	YES	NO	No answer
Complaints by party and candidate representatives	17	97	16
Complaints by voters	30	78	24

Observers received a number of complaints from citizens, mainly about delays in the opening and installation of polling stations. Complaints relating to the installation delays were the most frequent for the following polling stations:

- Section 1959 (*Iztacalco F.D.*)
- Section 3234 (*La Magdalena Contreras F.D.*)
- Section 1959 (*Iztacalco F.D.*)
- Section 4893 (*Cuauhtemoc F.D.*)
- Section 843 (*Pachuca, Hidalgo*)
- Section 311 (*Cuernavaca, Morelos*) and
- Section 3839 (*Tlalpan F.D.*)

Observers also received other types of complaints. For some voters, the site was not appropriate and often too small. This was the case for the polling stations in sections 2050 (*Iztapalapa F.D.*) and 1724 (*Ecatepec de Morelos, state of Mexico*). Other complaints were made regarding late or absent election officials, as was the case in sections 846 (*Pachuca, Hidalgo*), 843 (*Pachuca, Hidalgo*) and 250 (*Cuernavaca, Morelos*).

In addition, Team 5 received a complaint regarding the presumed existence of a vote-purchasing system. The person lodging the complaint said that he had witnessed votes being purchased by certain political parties. However, these purchases were said to have occurred outside the polling stations, the day before the election. The person informed observers during their visit of polling station 311 (*Cuernavaca, Morelos*).

Observers received some complaints about the indelibility of the ink used. Several people had tested it and realized that it could be erased. These complaints were received by delegation members during their visits of the polling stations in sections 3203 (*Alvaro Obregón F.D.*) and 253 (*Cuernavaca, Morelos*).

Other complaints were made regarding excessive wait times and the lack of ballots at some polling stations, such as those in sections 909 (*Pachuca, Hidalgo*), 5287 (*Venustiano Carranza F.D.*) and 948 (*Pachuca, Hidalgo*).

7.4. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

In general, most provisions of the electoral law were respected with regard to the following matters:

	YES	NO	No answer
Ballot secrecy	89	2	15
Presence of more than one voter in the voting booth	21	97	16
Electoral staff compliance with procedures	85	3	18
Voter understanding of procedures	76	9	22
Presence of unauthorized persons in the polling station	14	100	20
Visit by national observers	1	112	21
Visit by other international observers	22	88	22
Orderly conduct of voting	77	23	34
Interruption in voting during the day	8	82	44

However, some information highlights certain deficiencies. In 23 of the 134 polling stations observed, voting was not orderly. At polling station 2050 (*Iztapalapa F.D.*), the waiting line was very disorderly. At polling stations 3203 (*Alvaro Obregón F.D.*), 1724 (*Ecatepec de Morelos*), 3202 (*Alvaro Obregón F.D.*), 948 (*Pachuca, Hidalgo*), 257 (*Cuernavaca, Morelos*) and 253 (*Cuernavaca, Morelos*), voting was particularly chaotic.³⁶

At polling station 228 (*Cuernavaca, Morelos*), COPA observers noted that some voters were taking photographs while voting.

³⁶ The polling stations in this list were specifically mentioned in comments by COPA observers. However, this is not an exhaustive list of polling stations where a certain degree of disorder might have been observed.

At almost all the special polling stations, voting was not orderly. Excessive waiting lines and a lack of ballots were most frequently cited as the cause. In general, observers witnessed much frustration on the part of voters at special polling stations.³⁷

At 21 polling stations, observers witnessed the presence of more than one voter in the voting booth. Such was the case at polling stations 2050 (*Iztapalapa F.D.*), 2049 (*Iztapalapa F.D.*), 1948 (*Iztacalco F.D.*), 3234 (*La Magdalena Contreras F.D.*), 3181 (*Alvaro Obregón F.D.*), 3183 (*Alvaro Obregón F.D.*), 413 (*Coyoacan F.D.*) and 1853 (*Ecatepec de Morelos*).

7.5. VOTE COUNTING

COPA observers witnessed the counting of votes at the polling stations in sections 4420 (*Benito Juárez F.D.*), 3776 (*Tlalpan F.D.*), 413 (*Coyoacan F.D.*), 4011 (*Tlalpan F.D.*), 3229 (*La Magdalena Contreras F.D.*) and 417 (*Villahermosa Centro, Tabasco*). Vote counting was rigorous, calm, transparent and performed in accordance with the provisions of the electoral law; COPA observers did not note any abnormalities. COPA observers wish to congratulate the election organization for its efficiency in compiling results.

Observers also noted the presence of political party representatives in most of the polling stations observed during vote counting. No formal complaints were received relating to the counting process.

Unfortunately, COPA observers did not witness the transfer of the results from the polling stations to the IFE. They did however witness the announcement of the preliminary results on television.

³⁷ Special polling stations were set up by the IFE to help voters exercise their democratic voting rights. Any Mexican voter could arrive at a special polling station and register on the appropriate list. Up to 750 ballots were available at each special polling station.

8. MISSION CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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

They were impressed by the sense of civic responsibility and earnestness displayed by citizens and the quality of the work performed by election officials during the election. As a matter of fact, delegation members issued a press release (Appendix 6) to underline Mexicans' respect for their institutions and the peaceful environment in which the election had been held.

This was the third COPA observation mission sent to Mexico to observe a federal election. Previous missions were sent in 2006 for the presidential and legislative elections and in 2009 for the legislative election. Following both those missions, recommendations were made to the Mexican election authorities to improve operations on election day, including the following:

1. Allow polling stations to be set up before 8 a.m. so that voters can actually start voting as soon as stations open, giving them more time to exercise their right to vote.
2. Require ballot boxes to be sealed and increase ballot box surveillance by election workers and political party representatives.
3. Allow voters to cast their ballot at an advance poll if they anticipate being absent from their district on voting day in order to avoid long lines and jostling at special polling stations.

Based on the observations made during the July 1, 2012 election, we note that recommendation 2 on the whole was implemented. In the polling stations observed, ballot boxes were generally appropriately sealed and observers noted the presence of political party representatives at most polling stations.

However, recommendations 1 and 3 are still relevant today. First, the opening of polling stations continues to be a problem. Of the 134 polling stations visited, 19 opened between 8 and 8:30 a.m.; 68 opened between 8:30 and 9 a.m.; 57 opened between 9 and 9:30 a.m.; 7 opened between 9:30 and 10 a.m. and 2 opened between 10 and 10:30 a.m. In short, major delays resulted from late openings, creating frustration and long line-ups at some polling stations. Regarding the installation of polling stations, the electoral law still stipulates that polling station personnel must install the voting equipment required as of 8 a.m., at which time voters have already begun lining up to exercise their right to vote.

Unfortunately, COPA delegation members again noted that this way of doing things can result in major delays, because the time required to install the equipment varies from one polling station to the next.

Consequently, the first recommendation by the COPA delegation is the following:

RECOMMENDATION 1

Allow polling stations to be set up before 8 a.m. so that voters can actually start voting as soon as stations open, giving them more time to exercise their right to vote.

The third recommendation in the 2009 mission report suggested allowing voters to cast their ballot at an advance poll to avoid long lines at special polling stations. This recommendation is still relevant, considering the fact that observers witnessed long lines at the special polling stations, as well as insufficient ballots. Consequently, the second recommendation of the COPA delegation is as follows:

RECOMMENDATION 2

Allow voters to cast their ballot at an advance poll if they anticipate being absent from their district on voting day in order to avoid long lines and jostling at special polling stations.

It would also be relevant to make more information available regarding the conditions on which special polling stations may be used by voters who are not in their district on voting day. The members of the COPA delegation noted that at special polling station 1482 (*Gustavo A. Madero F.D.*), many citizens arrived with the intention of exercising their right to vote. The same phenomenon was observed to a lesser extent at other special polling stations.

The COPA delegation noted that some Mexican citizens had little or no confidence in the voting results, in the wake of the accusations of vote purchasing. Some COPA observers also witnessed voters taking photos while exercising their right to vote. To ensure that voters cannot prove for which party they voted by taking a photo of their ballot, we recommend that controls be put in place to avoid the use of cellphones and cameras in voting booths. To avoid making recommendations that are too rigid, we suggest that the electoral authorities choose the type of controls to be put in place. Nonetheless, some suggestions are provided below:

- Ensure that election officials inform each voter that cellphones must be turned off and that it is forbidden to take photos in the polling station, including in the voting booth;
- Place signs prohibiting picture-taking in clear view;
- Prescribe penalties in order to deter potential offenders.

<p style="text-align: center;">RECOMMENDATION 3 <i>Ban the taking of photos in the polling station.</i></p>

In conclusion, the members of the delegation would like to thank the COPA Executive Secretariat and Treasury for their help in gaining accreditation from the IFE and in planning the logistics of the mission. They would also like to thank the IFE for the information sessions it organized for international visitors and for the readiness with which its staff answered any questions by COPA delegates.

Finally, the 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.

APPENDIXES

APPENDIX 1: History of COPA's electoral observation missions

Country	Polling day	Election type
Mexico	July 1, 2012	Presidential and legislative
State of Mexico	July 3, 2011	State governor
Colombia	May 30, 2010	Presidential (1 st round)
Bolivia	December 6, 2009	General anticipated
Mexico	July 5, 2009	Legislative
El Salvador	March 16, 2009	Presidential (2 nd round)
Paraguay	April 20, 2008	General
Argentina	October 28, 2007	Presidential and legislative
Guatemala	September 9, 2007	Presidential and legislative (1 st round)
Nicaragua	November 5, 2006	Presidential and legislative
Brazil	October 1, 2006	Presidential and legislative (1 st round)
Mexico	July 2, 2006	Presidential and legislative
Bolivia	December 18, 2005	Presidential and legislative

APPENDIX 2: Recommendation



**PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS
11th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
QUÉBEC CITY (QUEBEC), CANADA
SEPTEMBER 6-9, 2011**

**Recommendation on the dispatch of an electoral
observation mission to Mexico**

WHEREAS general elections are to be held in Mexico on July 1, 2012;

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; and

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

WE, the representatives of the congresses and parliamentary assemblies of the unitary, federal and federated states, regional parliaments, and interparliamentary organizations gathered in Quebec city, Quebec, Canada for the 11th General Assembly of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas,

And acting upon the recommendation of the Committee on Democracy and Peace:

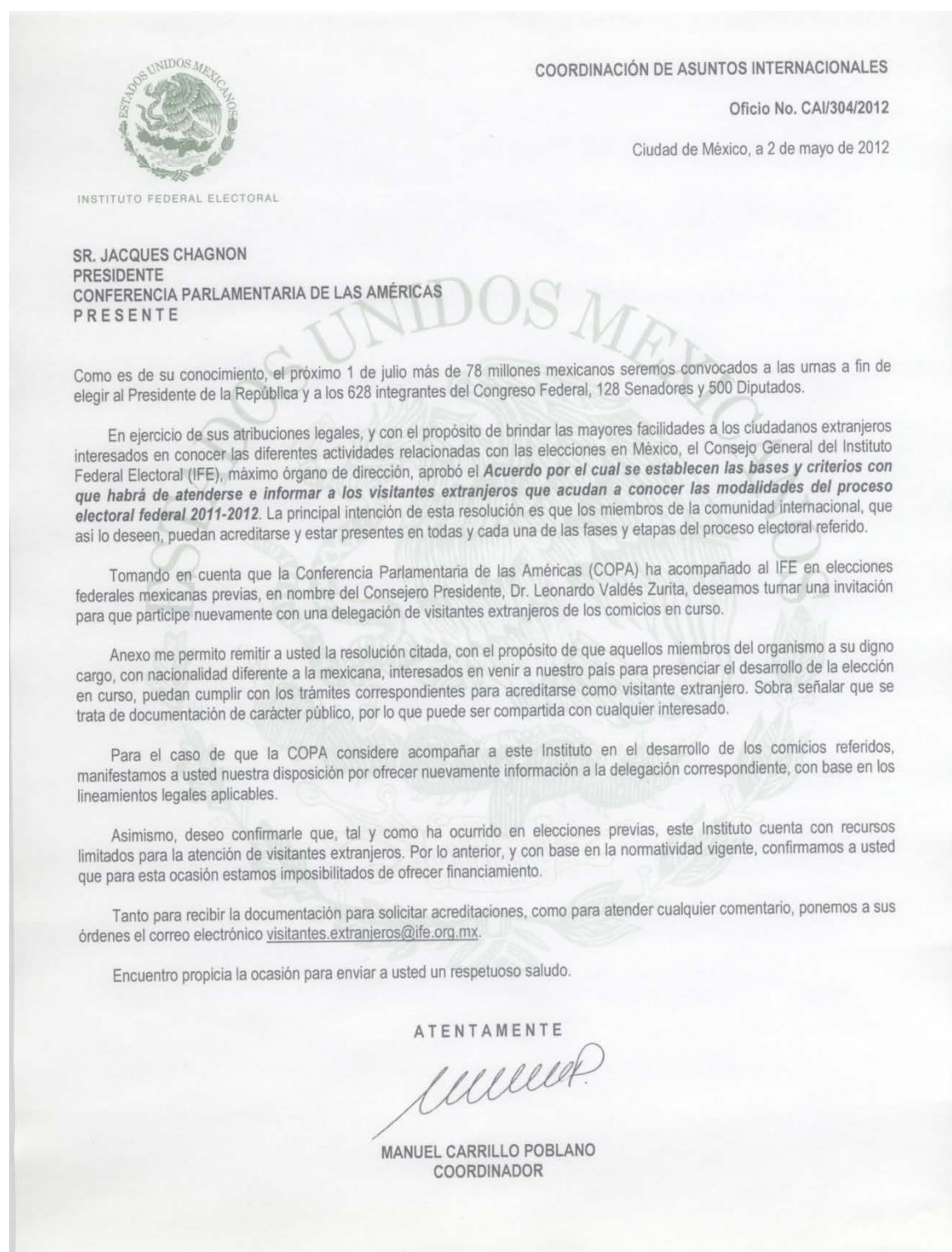
DECLARE our support for and our solidarity with Mexican society and the democratic institutions of that country in organizing general elections next July 1;

PROPOSE the dispatch of a COPA electoral observation mission to these elections in Mexico, 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.

2011-08-04

APPENDIX 3: Invitation of the Federal Electoral Institute (IFE) (in Spanish)



APPENDIX 4: Designation letter (in spanish)



El Presidente

20 de junio de 2012

*Dr. Leonardo Valdés Zurita
Presidente del Instituto Federal Electoral
Viaducto Tlalpan N° 100
Col. Arenal Tepepan, Del. Tlalpan
Ciudad de México, C.P. 14610
Distrito Federal
ESTADOS UNIDOS MEXICANOS*

Objeto: Elecciones presidenciales y legislativo del 1 de julio de 2012

Estimado señor presidente,

Quisiera agradecerle su cordial invitación para organizar un equipo de visitantes extranjeros de la Confederación Parlamentaria de las Américas (COPA), con el objetivo de observar las elecciones presidenciales y legislativas del 1.º de julio de 2012, en México.

Me complace informarle que la misión de observación electoral de la COPA, que se llevará a cabo del 27 de junio al 2 de julio de 2012, en México, estará integrada por las siguientes personas:

Jefe de la misión:

- ***Sra. Ileana Brenes Jiménez***, vicepresidenta de la COPA para la región América Central, diputada de la Asamblea legislativa de Costa Rica;

Miembros :

- ***Sra. Gloria Mercedes Bidegain***, miembro del Comité Ejecutivo de la COPA y diputada de la Cámara Federal de Diputados de Argentina;
- ***Sra. Ada Rosa del Valle Iturrez***, miembro del Comité Ejecutivo de la COPA y senadora de la Cámara Federal de Senadores de Argentina;

- **Sr. Felix Carlos Baraibar Ponce de León**, miembro del Comité Ejecutivo de la COPA y senador del Parlamento de Paraguay;
- **Sr. Edgar Rafael Carrasco Rodríguez**, miembro del Comité Ejecutivo de la COPA y diputado del Congreso Legislativo del Estado de Anzoátegui, Venezuela;
- **Sra. Liliana Beatriz Fellner**, senadora de la Cámara Federal de Senadores de Argentina;
- **Sra. Ana María Corradi de Beltran**, senadora de la Cámara Federal de Senadores de Argentina;
- **Sra. María de los Ángeles Higonet**, senadora de la Cámara Federal de Senadores de Argentina;
- **Sr. José Antonio Vilariño**, diputado de la Cámara Federal de Diputados de Argentina;
- **Sr. Juan Arturo Salim**, diputado de la Cámara Federal de Diputados de Argentina;
- **Sr. Manuel Santiago Godoy**, presidente de la Cámara de Diputados de la provincia de Salta, Argentina;
- **Sra. Sandra del Valle Generoso**, diputada de la Cámara de Diputados de la provincia de Santiago del Estero, Argentina;
- **Sr. Pascal Bérubé**, diputado de la Asamblea Nacional de Québec, Canadá;
- **Sr. Romilio Guillermo Gutierrez Pino**, diputado de Congreso Nacional de Chile;
- **Sr. Gabriel Hector Ascencio Mansilla**, diputado de Congreso Nacional de Chile;
- **Sra. Mireya Zamora Alvarado**, diputada de la Asamblea Legislativa de Costa Rica;
- **Sra. Margarita Escobar**, diputada de la Asamblea Legislativa de El Salvador;
- **Sra. Sandra Marlene Salgado García**, diputada de la Asamblea Legislativa de El Salvador;
- **Sra. Gioconda María Saltos Espinoza**, diputada de la Asamblea Nacional de Ecuador;
- **Sra. Elena Mercedes Diminich Sousa**, diputada de la Asamblea Nacional de Ecuador;
- **Sr. Francisco Ramiro Ulloa Enríquez**, diputada de la Asamblea Nacional de Ecuador;
- **Sr. Fausto Rafael Liz Quinones**, diputado del Parlacen, República Dominicana;
- **Sr. Denis Fontaine**, Secretario General, Director General de Elecciones de Québec, Canadá;
- **Sr. André Brandão Henriques Maimoni**, asesor de la Secretaría de Brasil de la COPA, Unión Nacional de los legisladores y Legislativos de Brasil (UNALE), Brasil;
- **Sr. Patrick Giasson**, asesor de la Comisión de Democracia y Paz de la COPA, Canadá;
- **Sra. María Cristina Bidegain**, asesora de la Cámara Federal de Diputados de Argentina;
- **Sra. Karla Gómez Paiola**, asesora de la Cámara Federal de Senadores de Argentina;
- **Sr. Gabriel Anibal Monzón**, asesor de la Cámara de Senadores de Argentina;
- **Sr. Domingo José Rojas Pereyra**, subsecretario de la cooperación internacional, Partido de la Revolución Dominicana, República Dominicana;
- **Sr. Jesus Sosa**, asesor de la cooperación internacional, Partido de la Revolución Dominicana, República Dominicana;
- **Sr. Nelson Carela**, asesor, Partido de la Revolución Dominicana, República Dominicana.

Le deseo el mejor de los éxitos en la organización de estas elecciones y aprovecho la ocasión para acercarle mis más cordiales saludos.

El Presidente,

JACQUES CHAGNON

Presidente de la Asamblea Nacional de Québec

APPENDIX 5: The 2007-2008 electoral reform

The very close results of the 2006 presidential election put Mexico's electoral system to the test. After voters and political parties voiced numerous complaints, the Mexican Congress launched a parliamentary debate which led to the approval of major reforms of both the Constitution of the United Mexican States and the Electoral Code (COFIPE). The reforms were approved by a wide consensus in both Houses of the federal Parliament and by 30 of the 31 state legislatures in December 2007.

In addition to the changes discussed earlier, the Code now serves as the framework for the activities of national political groups (*agrupaciones políticas nacionales*), which are broad grassroots associations whose aim is to contribute to the development of democratic life and political awareness by better informing public opinion (COFIPE, s. 33, par. 2). These groups will no longer receive public funding and are now required to disclose their funding sources and spending to the Federal Electoral Institute (Instituto Federal Electoral, IFE).

For the first time, the Code incorporates clear rules on transparency and access to information for political parties (COFIPE, chapter 4, *De las obligaciones de los partidos políticos*). It includes an exhaustive list of information that is to be considered public information. It limits postage-free mailings and sets guidelines for coalition forming.

Renewal of the membership of the General Council (*Consejo General*), which is the IFE's central body, will be staggered over time. The amended Code provides that the president councillor may be re-elected for a second term. It also describes new requirements for electoral councillors, who must now hold a graduate degree and have five years of experience and a certain background of knowledge (or experience) in the electoral field.

Political parties' access to television and radio is also affected by the constitutional and legislative reforms. The IFE has created a new radio and television committee and thus become the authority responsible for apportioning the air time reserved for electoral purposes. Political parties may no longer buy air time, whether directly or indirectly (through third parties).

The Code clearly prohibits political parties, candidate hopefuls, pre-election candidates and candidates in an election from accepting gifts or donations (*aportaciones o donativos*) from federal, federated or municipal authorities, public bodies, political parties, foreigners, international organizations, religious associations, individuals living or working abroad or Mexican for-profit businesses. Before the electoral reform, this rule applied only to political parties.

The formula for allocating annual public funding to political parties was also revisited in the Code: 70% of the total funding will be allocated in proportion to the percentage of the vote won by the candidates elected in the single-member plurality system and 30% will be divided equally among the political parties represented in Congress. The new formula eliminates certain factors such as minimum campaign spending thresholds, the number of senators or deputies to be elected and the number of parties represented in Congress. Also, all political parties are now required to earmark at least 2% of their public funding for specific activities such as political education or socio-economic research, and another 2% for the promotion and development of political leadership among women. Each party will receive the equivalent of 50% of its annual public funding to spend

on a campaign for a general (i.e. presidential, senatorial and deputorial) election and the equivalent of 30% for a mid-term deputorial election.

The 2007–2008 electoral reform broadened the powers of the Political Party Resources Auditing Unit (*Unidad de fiscalización de los recursos de los partidos políticos*) by giving it greater autonomy and bringing it up to the executive level. The auditing unit is to receive and review the quarterly, yearly, pre-campaign and campaign reports of all the political parties and groups. These reports are to provide details on the sources, amount and use of party resources, regardless of the type of funding. Both the Constitution and the Code specify that the auditing unit is not to be hindered in the performance of its duties by bank, fiscal or trust secrecy, which means it may request information directly from the institutions concerned.

As for the Voter Registry, the reform has changed the deadlines for applications for and the issue of voter registration cards and for the publication of voters lists. Voter registration cards will be valid for 10 years. And, as explained earlier, voters who can show a document issued by the Federal Electoral Tribunal (TEPJF) authorizing them to vote will be allowed to vote even if their names are not on the voters list or they do not have a voter registration card.

As mentioned earlier, since the reform, the Department of the Comptroller General (*Contraloría general*), which ensures the IFE's transparency, enjoys much greater independence and now ranks among the central bodies of the IFE. The comptroller general will be elected by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast in the Chamber of Deputies, as had been proposed by the public higher education institutions. The department will be attached to the General Council, but will independently audit the IFE's budget operations and set criteria for tax reviews of the resources available to the bodies of the IFE.

One of the major changes to come out of the reform has to do with the regulation of pre-election and election campaigns. The political parties are required to report to the IFE on their candidate nomination processes. The COFIPE sets rules for pre-election campaigns, which are to last no more than the equivalent of two thirds of the election campaign proper, i.e. up to 60 days in the case of a presidential election and 40 days in the case of an election to renew the Chamber of Deputies. The duration of presidential election campaigns has been reduced to 90 days and that of deputorial elections, to 60 days. There is now a spending limit for pre-election campaigns while the spending limit for election campaigns has been modified. The cap on pre-election campaign spending is the equivalent of 20% of the total public funding for the campaigns of all the parties in a presidential election year. Also, the political parties are now prohibited from denigrating institutions, parties or individuals in campaign advertising. Print campaign materials must be environment-friendly. And a number of changes have been made to the format for presidential debates.

Mexican organizations that send electoral observers now have more time (30 days after election day instead of 20) to disclose funding-related information on their electoral observation activities (sources, amounts and expenditures). They must also file a report with the IFE's General Council (s. 5).

Candidate registration is also regulated: candidates running in a presidential election year must register between March 15 and 22 of the election year and candidates running in mid-term deputorial elections, between April 22 and 29 of the election year.

On election day, the political parties in the race must be clearly identified on the ballot papers using a colour logo. If one of the candidates is running for a coalition, the logos of the parties in the coalition must be of the same size as for a single party and must be aligned. In other words, the logos of the coalition parties may not be joined within a single box or frame nor may a new logo be used to represent the coalition.

There are also new rules defining spoiled ballots, such as ballots where a voter has circled or marked the logos of two or more parties that are not running together in a coalition. If the parties are part of a coalition, the vote will go to the coalition candidate.

Polling station minutes, which must be signed by all the polling officers and the representatives of the political parties, must now provide more detailed information that must be checked a number of times (see section 5, “Polling day”).

On the matter of ballot recounts, the Electoral Code provides that when there is a margin of 1% or less between the winning candidate and the runner-up, and the representative of the political party of the runner-up explicitly asks for a recount, the District Council must recount the ballots in all the polling stations, according to pre-established rules of supervision. Errors in the original polling station reports are to be corrected by the District Council and may no longer be raised before the Electoral Tribunal as grounds to invalidate the ballots. Moreover, it will no longer be possible to apply to the Tribunal for a recount after a recount by the District Council.

Another substantial amendment to the Electoral Code is the addition of a seventh chapter on electoral sanctions and internal discipline (*De los regímenes sancionador electoral y disciplinario interno*). This new chapter prescribes ordinary and special procedures for electoral sanctions, establishes mechanisms to resolve disputes regarding violations of the Constitution or the Electoral Code, imposes sanctions relating to political party and national group funding, and stipulates the administrative duties of the IFE’s public bodies. It also includes an exhaustive list of duties and offences, and of sanctions or penalties, based on the seriousness of the offence and whether or not the offence is a first offence. It further identifies a broad range of stakeholders such as voters, political party leaders or associates, natural and legal persons, radio and television broadcasters, labour and employer organizations and social groups, etc. Lastly, it sets out, among other things, how complaints are to be filed, wrongdoings disclosed, notices given and evidence filed and admitted, and on what grounds a complaint may be rejected.



COPA delegation to observe the Mexican presidential and legislative elections

Mexico, June 27, 2012 – A **Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA)** delegation arrived today in Mexico to observe the July 1st presidential and legislative elections. The member of the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica and COPA's vice-president for Central America, Ileana Brenes Jiménez, will lead the electoral observation mission from June 27th to July 2nd.

About 30 parliamentarians from different congresses of 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 Salvador, the National Assembly of Ecuador and the Central American Parliament (Parlacen) will take part in the mission.

Invited by Mexico's Federal Electoral Institute as foreign visitors, the COPA delegation will cover polling station operations on Election Day in the Federal District of Mexico.

The delegation will also meet with key actors in the electoral process. The representatives of political parties and the heads of a number of public bodies and civil society organizations will be among those consulted by the COPA delegation. Following the mission, a report of their observations will be presented to the Mexican electoral authorities and to COPA authorities.

This is the 13th 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 has particularly observed the Mexican legislative elections of July 2009 and the Mexican presidential and legislative elections of July 2006.

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 :	
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APPENDIX 7: Itinerary of team #1

TEAM #1 : FEDERAL DISTRICT AND STATE OF MEXICO					
Municipality/ neighborhood	District	Section	Polling station type	Arrival time	Departure time
Benito Juárez F.D.	15	4470	Basica	7:50 am	9:17 am
Benito Juárez F.D.	15	4471	Contigua	7:50 am	9:17 am
Benito Juárez F.D.	15	4473	Basica	8:55 am	9:10 am
Benito Juárez F.D.	15	4473	Contigua	8:55 am	9:10 am
Tlalnepantla de Baz	15	5101	Basica	10:20 am	10:35 am
Tlalnepantla de Baz	15	5101	Contigua	10:20 am	10:35 am
Tlalnepantla de Baz	15	0367	Basica	10:55 am	11:10 am
Tlalnepantla de Baz	15	0367	Contigua	10:55 am	11:20 am
Tlalnepantla de Baz	15	0367	Contigua	10:55 am	11:20 am
Tlalnepantla de Baz	15	0365	Basica	11:25 am	11:35 am
Tlalnepantla de Baz	15	0365	Contigua	11:25 am	11:35 am
Naucalpan	22	2621	Basica	12:01 pm	12:22 pm
Naucalpan	22	2621	Contigua	12:05 pm	12:20 pm
Gustavo A. Madero F.D.	2	1096	Basica	4:10 pm	4:20 pm
Gustavo A. Madero F.D.	2	1096	Contigua	4:15 pm	4:30 pm
Gustavo A. Madero F.D.	2	1482	Especial	4:50 pm	5:00 pm
Gustavo A. Madero F.D.	2	1478	Basica	5:15 pm	5:30 pm
Gustavo A. Madero F.D.	2	1478	Contigua	5:15 pm	5:35 pm
Tlalpan F.D.	5	3776	Basica	5:50 pm	8:00 pm
Tlalpan F.D.	5	3776	Contigua	5:50 pm	8:00 pm
Benito Juárez F.D.	15	4420	Basica	5:50 pm	8:15 pm
Benito Juárez F.D.	15	4420	Contigua	5:50 pm	8:15 pm
Benito Juárez F.D.	15	4420	Contigua	5:55 pm	8:15 pm

APPENDIX 8: Itinerary of team #2

TEAM #2 : FEDERAL DISTRICT AND ECATEPEC DE MORELOS					
Municipality/ neighborhood	District	Section	Polling station type	Arrival time	Departure time
Coyoacan	23	0412	Basica	7:45 am	9:10 am
Coyoacan	23	0412	Contigua	7:45 am	9:10 am
La Magdalena Contreras	26	3234	Basica	8:20 am	9:10 am
Benito Juárez	15	4509	Basica	10:15 am	10:35 am
Benito Juárez	15	4509	Contigua	10:15 am	10:35 am
Iztapalapa	20	2049	Basica	10:48 am	11:00 am
Iztapalapa	20	2049	Contigua	10:48 am	11:00 am
Iztapalapa	20	2050	Basica	11:05 am	11:20 am
Iztapalapa	20	2050	Contigua	11:05 am	11:20 am
Iztapalapa	20	2050	Contigua	11:05 am	11:20 am
Iztacalco	13	1948	Basica	11:45 am	12:20 pm
Iztacalco	13	1948	Contigua	11:45 am	12:20 pm
Iztacalco	13	1959	Basica	12:00 pm	12:30 pm
Iztacalco	13	1959	Contigua	12:00 pm	12:30 pm
Iztacalco	13	1964	Basica	12:25 pm	12:40 pm
Iztacalco	13	1964	Contigua	12:25 pm	12:40 pm
Cuauhtemoc.	12	4748	Basica	2:15 pm	2:35 pm
Cuauhtemoc	12	4748	Contigua	2:15 pm	2:35 pm
Cuauhtemoc	12	4451	Basica	3:20 pm	3:45 pm
Cuauhtemoc	12	4451	Contigua	3:20 pm	3:45 pm
Alvaro Obregón	16	N/D	Especial	4:20 pm	4:50 pm
Tlalpan	5	3776	Basica	5:40 pm	8:00 pm
Tlalpan	5	3776	Contigua	5:40 pm	8:00 pm

APPENDIX 9: Itinerary of team #3

TEAM# 3 : FEDERAL DISTRICT AND ECATEPEC DE MORELOS (STATE OF MEXICO)					
Municipality/ neighborhood	District	Section	Polling station type	Arrival time	Departure time
Cuauhtemoc F.D.	12	4893	Basica	7:45 am	8:45 am
Cuauhtemoc F.D.	12	4893	Contigua	7:55 am	9:10 am
Cuauhtemoc F.D.	12	4893	Contigua	7:55 am	9:30 am
Alvaro Obregón F.D.	16	3203	Basica	9:48 am	10:08 am
Alvaro Obregón F.D.	16	3203	Contigua	9:50 am	10:10 am
Alvaro Obregón F.D.	16	3194	Basica	9:55 am	10:20 am
Alvaro Obregón F.D.	16	3194	Contigua	9:55 am	10:20 am
Alvaro Obregón F.D.	16	3202	Basica	10:30 am	10:50 am
Alvaro Obregón F.D.	16	3202	Contigua	10:30 am	10:50 am
Alvaro Obregón F.D.	16	3181	Basica	10:55 am	11:20 am
Alvaro Obregón F.D.	16	3181	Contigua	11:00 am	11:30 am
Alvaro Obregón F.D.	16	3183	Basica	11:00 am	11:10 am
Alvaro Obregón F.D.	16	3183	Contigua	11:00 am	11:45 am
Ecatepec de Morelos	17	1724	Basica	12:02 pm	12:10 pm
Ecatepec de Morelos	17	1724	Contigua	12:10 pm	12:17 pm
Ecatepec de Morelos	17	1724	Contigua	12:10 pm	12:30 pm
Ecatepec de Morelos	17	1713	Basica	12:10 pm	12:45 pm
Ecatepec de Morelos	17	1713	Contigua	12:15 pm	12:45 pm
Ecatepec de Morelos	11	1901	Basica	2:45 pm	2:55 pm
Ecatepec de Morelos	11	1901	Contigua	2:50 pm	2:59 pm
Ecatepec de Morelos	11	1923	Basica	3:00 pm	3:20 pm

TEAM# 3 : FEDERAL DISTRICT AND ECATEPEC DE MORELOS (STATE OF MEXICO)					
Municipality/ neighborhood	District	Section	Polling station type	Arrival time	Departure time
Ecatepec de Morelos	11	1923	Contigua	3:00 pm	3:20 pm
Huixquilucan	18	1993	Basica	3:05 pm	3:30 pm
Huixquilucan	18	1993	Contigua	3:05 pm	3:30 pm
Ecatepec de Morelos	17	1853	Basica	4:00 pm	4:16 pm
Cuauhtemoc F.D.	8	4853	Basica	4:20 pm	4:50 pm
Cuauhtemoc F.D.	8	4853	Contigua	4:20 pm	4:50 pm
Coyoacan F.D.	23	413	Basica	5:40 pm	7:50 pm
Coyoacan F.D.	23	413	Contigua	5:40 pm	7:50 pm

APPENDIX 10: Itinerary of team #4

TEAM #4 : STATE OF HIDALGO					
Municipality/ neighborhood	District	Section	Polling station type	Arrival time	Departure time
Venustiano Carranza F.D.	9	5287	Basica	8:15 am	9:15 am
Venustiano Carranza F.D.	9	5287	Contigua	8:15 am	9:15 am
Pachuca	6	950	Especial	10:35 am	10:55 am
Pachuca	6	955	Basica	11:00 am	11:12 am
Pachuca	6	951	Basica	11:05 am	11:15 am
Pachuca	6	951	Contigua	11:05 am	11:15 am
Pachuca	6	951	Contigua	11:05 am	11:15 am
Pachuca	6	948	Basica	11:25 am	11:40 am
Pachuca	6	948	Contigua	11:25 am	11:40 am
Pachuca	6	948	Contigua	11:25 am	11:40 am
Pachuca	6	948	Contigua	11:25 am	11:40 am
Pachuca	6	862	Basica	12:13 pm	12:25 pm
Pachuca	6	845	Basica	12:15 pm	12:25 pm
Pachuca	6	843	Basica	12:30 pm	12:50 pm
Pachuca	6	843	Contigua	12:30 pm	12:50 pm
Pachuca	6	842	Basica	12:45 pm	12:50 pm
Pachuca	6	846	Basica	1:00 pm	1:20 pm
Pachuca	6	909	Basica	2:45 pm	3:15 pm
Pachuca	6	909	Contigua	2:45 pm	3:15 pm
Tlalpan	5	4011	Basica	5:20 pm	7:45 pm
Tlalpan	5	4011	Contigua	5:20 pm	7:45 pm

APPENDIX 11: Itinerary of team #5

TEAM #5 : STATE OF MORELOS					
Municipality/ neighborhood	District	Section	Polling station type	Arrival time	Departure time
Tlalpan F.D.	5	3839	Basica	7:53 am	9:10 am
Tlalpan F.D.	5	3839	Contigua	7:53 am	9:10 am
Cuernavaca	1	257	Basica	10:29 am	11:11 am
Cuernavaca	1	257	Contigua	10:29 am	11:11 am
Cuernavaca	1	257	Contigua	10:29 am	11:11 am
Cuernavaca	1	257	Contigua	10:29 am	11:11 am
Cuernavaca	1	257	Contigua	10:29 am	11:11 am
Cuernavaca	1	257	Contigua	10:29 am	11:11 am
Cuernavaca	1	257	Contigua	10:29 am	11:11 am
Cuernavaca	1	257	Contigua	10:29 am	11:11 am
Cuernavaca	1	N/D	Especial	12:10 pm	12:20 pm
Cuernavaca	1	262	Basica	12:35 pm	12:50 pm
Cuernavaca	1	262	Contigua	12:35 pm	12:50 pm
Cuernavaca	1	255	Basica	12:53 pm	1:03 pm
Cuernavaca	1	255	Contigua	12:53 pm	1:03 pm
Cuernavaca	1	255	Contigua	12:53 pm	1:03 pm
Cuernavaca	1	253	Basica	1:11 pm	1:18 pm
Cuernavaca	1	253	Contigua	1:11 pm	1:18 pm
Cuernavaca	1	220	Basica	1:30 pm	1:35 pm
Cuernavaca	1	220	Contigua	1:30 pm	1:35 pm
Cuernavaca	1	228	Basica	1:35 pm	1:40 pm
Cuernavaca	1	228	Contigua	1:35 pm	1:40 pm
Cuernavaca	1	250	Basica	1:48 pm	1:56 pm
Cuernavaca	1	250	Contigua	1:48 pm	1:56 pm
Cuernavaca	1	249	Basica	2:15 pm	2:20 pm
Cuernavaca	1	311	Basica	2:34 pm	2:40 pm
Cuernavaca	1	311	Contigua	2:34 pm	2:40 pm
La Magdalena Contreras F.D.	26	3229	Basica	5:32 pm	8:15 pm
La Magdalena Contreras F.D.	26	3229	Contigua	5:32 pm	8:15 pm

APPENDIX 12: Itinerary of team #6

TEAM #6 : STATE OF TABASCO					
Municipality/ neighborhood	District	Section	Polling station type	Arrival time	Departure time
Villahermosa Centro	6	415	Basica	9:00 am	9:30 am
Villahermosa Centro	6	415	Contigua	9:00 am	9:30 am
Villahermosa Centro	6	415	Contigua	9:00 am	9:30 am
Villahermosa Centro	6	415	Contigua	9:00 am	9:30 am
Villahermosa Centro	6	415	Contigua	9:00 am	9:30 am
Villahermosa Centro	6	415	Contigua	9:00 am	9:30 am
Villahermosa Centro	6	417	Basica	10:20 am	10:31 am
Villahermosa Centro	6	417	Basica	10:20 am	10:31 am



**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:

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Advisor for the COPA Committee on Democracy and Peace

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APPENDIX 14: 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: Agenda (in spanish)



MISIÓN DE OBSERVACIÓN ELECTORAL DE LA COPA DEL 26 DE JUNIO AL 3 DE JULIO DE 2012 MÉXICO D.F., MÉXICO

PROGRAMA PRELIMINAR

Datos sobre el hotel recomendado:

**Hotel Radisson Paraíso México
Cúspide 53, Col. Parque del Pedregal
14020 México D.F.
Teléfono: +52 55-59275959
Fax: +52 55-56064006**

*** Todas las actividades serán en español. Cada miembro de la delegación es responsable de la interpretación, caso sea necesario.

MARTES, EL 26 DE JUNIO DE 2012

Todo el día

Llegada e instalación de los miembros de la delegación en el Hotel Radisson Paraíso México

Envío del comunicado de prensa informando de la llegada y composición de la delegación

MIÉRCOLES, EL 27 DE JUNIO DE 2012

Todo el día

Llegada e instalación de los miembros de la delegación en el Hotel Radisson Paraíso México

13:00 hrs.

Reunión de trabajo con la organización "Grandeza Mexicana"

Sede: Hotel Radisson Paraíso (sala por confirmar)

15:30 hrs.

Reunión de trabajo con la Organización de Estados Americanos (OEA)

Sede: Hotel Radisson Paraíso (sala por confirmar)

Noche (19 hrs.)

Reunión de trabajo para los miembros de la misión

- ✓ Preparación de los miembros de la misión de observación

Sede: Hotel Radisson Paraíso México (salón por determinar)

JUEVES, EL 28 DE JUNIO DE 2012

10 hrs. a 11:30 hrs

Conferencia de prensa de la delegación de la COPA en la Cámara Federal de Senadores de México

12 hrs.

Almuerzo ofrecido por el Senado de México

14 hrs.

Reunión de trabajo con el Dr. Virgilio Andrade, exconsejero del Instituto Federal Electoral de México (IFE)

15:30 hrs.

Reunión de trabajo con el Sr. Alejandro Nieto Enríques, consejero de campaña del Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI)

Lugar por determinar

Noche (19 hrs.)

Reunión de trabajo para los miembros de la misión

- ✓ Compartir las observaciones para la redacción del informe de la misión

Sede: Hotel Radisson Paraíso

VIERNES, EL 29 DE JUNIO DE 2012

9:30 hrs.

Reunión de trabajo con el Sr. Carlos J. Guízar Rivas, Director de Relaciones Internacionales del Comité Ejecutivo Nacional del Partido Acción Nacional (PAN)

Lugar: Hotel Radisson Paraíso

13 hrs.

Reunión de trabajo con el Sr. Enrique Peña Nieto, candidato del PRI para la presidencia

Lugar por determinar

17 hrs.

Reunión de trabajo con la Sra. Josefina Vásquez Mota, candidata presidencial del PAN

18:30 hrs.

Reunión de trabajo con el equipo de campaña del Partido de la Revolución Democrática (PRD)

Lugar: Hotel Royal Pedregal

SÁBADO, EL 30 DE JUNIO DE 2012

- 9 hrs.** Traslado hacia el Hotel Royal Pedregal***
- 13 hrs.** Reunión de trabajo con el Sr. Gabriel Quadri de la Torre, candidato presidencial para el Partido Nueva Alianza (PANAL)
- Noche (18:30 hrs.)** Reunión de trabajo para los miembros de la misión
- ✓ Compartir las observaciones para la redacción del informe de la misión
 - ✓ Preparación para el despliegue de la misión
 - Elaboración del plan de despliegue
 - Conformación de grupos de observadores
- Sede: Hotel Radisson Paraíso México (salón por determinar)

DOMINGO, 1 DE JULIO DE 2012: DÍA DEL ESCRUTINIO

- Todo el día** Despliegue de los observadores e observación en las mesas de votación
- Asistir al cómputo de votos

LUNES, 2 DE JULIO DE 2012

- Mañana** Reunión de trabajo para los miembros de la misión
- ✓ Compartir las observaciones para la redacción del informe de la misión
 - ✓ Definición de una posición común
 - ✓ Preparación del comunicado de prensa
 - ✓ Adopción de un plan de trabajo para la redacción del informe de la misión
- Sede: Hotel Radisson Paraíso México (salón por determinar)
- Tarde y noche** Salida de los participantes
- Envío del comunicado de prensa informando de las conclusiones de la misión de observación electoral

MARTES, 3 DE JULIO DE 2012

- Todo el día** Salida de los participantes

Actualización: 2012-06-27



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