



**PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS  
10th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
MAR DEL PLATA, ARGENTINA  
NOVEMBER 15–20, 2010**

**Committee on Democracy and Peace  
November 18, 2010, 2:30 to 5:30 p.m.**

**Work Plan 2009–2010**  
(2010-11-09)

**1. Further examination of the working theme on the benchmarks of democracy**

On March 3 and 4, 2010, COPA President Edda Acuña and the President of the Committee on Democracy and Peace, Jean-Martin Aussant, representing the organization, attended an international conference on benchmarking and self-assessment for democratic parliaments, held in Paris. Following the meeting, a draft document on benchmarks for democracy in the Americas was prepared for use as the starting point for a discussion by the members of the committee. During the Extraordinary General Assembly, held in Mexico in July 2010, the document, “The Contribution of Parliaments to Democracy: Draft Benchmarks for the Parliaments of the Americas” was presented to the working committee’s members.

In order to pursue the work on this topic, the Committee has established the following timeline:

- 10th General Assembly : presentation of a guest speaker and discussion of the parliamentarians on the document “The Contribution of Parliaments to Democracy: Draft Benchmarks for the Parliaments of the Americas” ;
- Between the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 11<sup>th</sup> General Assembly : assess the possibility of organising a meeting/workshop solely on this issue;
- 11th General Assembly (September 2011) : presentation and adoption of the final report and policy statement.

**2. Follow-up on of the theme of political party financing in the Americas**

At the 9th General Assembly, held in Salta, Argentina, in 2010, the comparative data grid on the financing of political parties was presented. This presentation emerged from a recommendation made by parliamentarian during the 8th General Assembly of COPA, held in Mexico, in 2008, from September 10 to 13, to further examine this important issue. During this Assembly, parliamentarians gave the mandate to the Committee on Democracy and Peace to draft a

report on the main political party financing systems in the Americas.<sup>1</sup> In July 2010, during the Extraordinary General Assembly held in Mexico, a reminder was issued concerning the importance for parliamentarians of participating in the preparation of the report.

The Committee has established the following timeline:

- 10th General Assembly : collection of completed comparative data grids and last reminder for parliamentarians to complete their grids;
- December 2010 : reminder notice sent to committee members to complete the comparative data grid;
- 11th General Assembly: presentation and adoption of the final report on political party financing, and policy statement.

### **3. Implementation of the COPA Electoral Observation Missions Program**

COPA's electoral observation missions program was set up in 2005. Since its inception, eleven missions have been carried out under the supervision of the Committee on Democracy and Peace. The following measures are proposed to continue the implementation of the program for the year 2010-2011 :

- Adoption and distribution of the report on the mission carried out in 2010: Colombia (May 2010);
- Drafting of a missions report and presentation of the report at the 11th General Assembly;
- Recommendation to send an EOM in Nicaragua in November 2011.

#### **Drafting of a missions report**

COPA has completed eleven missions since the adoption of the *By-laws of COPA Electoral Observation Missions* in May 2005. To ensure that the credibility of our organization is maintained, while remaining mindful of its resources, we consider that the time has come to assess the program. For this reason, the Secretariat of the Committee has undertaken to work over the next year on preparing a report on the first five years of implementation of the electoral observation missions program, in order to submit recommendations on possible improvements to the Executive Committee.

### **4. Political crises in the Americas**

The mandate of the Committee on Democracy and Peace also involves monitoring political crises in the Americas.

Over the coming year, the Committee intends to continue its monitoring and to examine all matters relating to democracy and the rule of law. COPA parliamentarians are invited to submit topics for examination.

---

<sup>1</sup>. Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas, *Recommendation on the standards governing political party financing and electoral spending controls in force in the Americas* (8th General Assembly of COPA, Mexico City, September 10-13, 2008).

## **Committee on Democracy and Peace**

### **Schedule of Committee Proceedings**

#### **1. 10th General Assembly**

**Place:** Mar del Plata, Argentina

**Date:** Thursday, November 18 2010

**Program:** i) Further examination on the benchmarks of parliamentary democracy  
ii) Follow-up on of the theme of political party financing in the Americas  
iii) Implementation of the COPA Electoral Observation Missions Program

#### **2. Committee Meeting/Workshop**

**Place:** to be determined

**Date :** 2011

**Program :** The benchmarks of parliamentary democracy

#### **3. 11th General Assembly**

**Place :** Québec, Québec

**Date :** September 2011

**Program :** i) Benchmarks of parliamentary democracy : final document and policy statement;  
ii) Presentation and adoption of the final report on political party financing, and policy statement  
iii) Implementation of the COPA Electoral Observation Missions Program : follow-up and assessment

#### **4. Electoral observation missions 2010-2011**

To be determined