Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA) Executive Committee Meeting

Quito, Ecuador
August 18 and 19, 2005

RESOLUTION ON BOLIVIA

WHEREAS one objective of COPA is to "contribute to the strengthening of parliamentary democracy and to the building of a community of the Americas founded on the respect for dignity and human rights, peace, democracy, solidarity between peoples, social justice, and gender equality";

WHEREAS in recent months Bolivia has faced a severe political and social crisis that led to the resignation of President Carlos Mesa on June 6;

WHEREAS this is the second president in two years who has been forced to resign due to public unrest;

WHEREAS Supreme Court Chief Eduardo Rodriguez was named interim president by the Bolivian Congress in the early hours of June 10, 2005;

WHEREAS the interim president officially announced on July 6, with the approval of the Bolivian Congress, that legislative and presidential elections would be held on December 4;

We, the members of the Executive Committee of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas meeting in Quito, Ecuador, on August 18 and 19, 2005,

EXPRESS our grave concern regarding the prevailing political and social situation in Bolivia, despite the easing of tensions since the swearing in of interim president Eduardo Rodriguez;

APPLAUD the maturity of Bolivian political actors for respecting constitutional mechanisms during the social and political crisis that led to the resignation of president Mesa;

DEMONSTRATE our support for and solidarity with the Bolivian society and the democratic institutions of this country, particularly the electoral authorities, in the organization of the anticipated general elections of next December 4th;

OFFER to send a COPA electoral observation mission to the anticipated legislative and presidential elections in Bolivia if, in accordance with the By-Laws of COPA Electoral Observation Missions and in full respect of the national sovereignty of Bolivia, the appropriate authorities of this country officially request this.

Quito, Ecuador, August 18, 2005