



Delegation of members of Parliament of the Americas to observe the Bolivian election

La Paz, December 2, 2009 – Parliamentarians representing the **Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas** (COPA) arrived today in Bolivia to observe the early general election set for December 6. The Senator of the province of Buenos Aires and President of COPA, Ms. Edda Evangelina Acuña, will head up the electoral observation mission from December 2 to 7.

An estimated fifteen parliamentarians coming from the Honourable Chamber of Deputies of Argentina, the Chamber of Deputies of the province of La Pampa, the Chamber of Deputies of the province Santa Fe, the National Assembly of Québec (Canada); the Senate of Mexico, the Congress of the State of Mexico, the National Assembly of Venezuela, the Legislative Council of Antezogtegui and the Andean Parliament of Venezuela are also taking part in the mission.

Invited by Bolivia's National Electoral Court as international observers, the COPA parliamentarians will cover as many polling stations as possible on election day. The delegation will also meet with key actors in the electoral process in order to be better positioned to assess the state of election organization. Certain candidates and representatives of civil society organizations will be among those consulted by the COPA delegation. Following the mission, the parliamentarians will present a report of their observations to the Bolivian electoral authorities and to COPA authorities.

This is the 10th 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 previously observed the Bolivian presidential and legislative elections of December 2005.

Founded in Québec City in 1997, COPA 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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