



## **COPA ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION IN GUATEMALA**

### **LEGISLATORS CONGRATULATE THE GUATEMALAN PEOPLE ON A WELL-RUN ELECTION DAY**

**Guatemala City, September 10, 2007**—A delegation of ten legislators from the **Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA)** led by Mr. Jean-François Roux, chair of COPA's Democracy and Peace Committee and a member of the National Assembly of Québec, observed Guatemala's September 9, 2007, presidential and legislative elections. The COPA delegation, composed of legislators of the Legislative Assembly of the Federal District of Mexico, the Congress of the State of Veracruz (Mexico), the Andean Parliament of Venezuela, the National Assembly of Surinam and the National Assembly of Venezuela as well as five electoral advisors, noted that voting proceeded in order and in accordance with electoral rules in effect in this country.

On election day, the delegates went to the capital city of Guatemala and the department of Sacatepequez to observe election proceedings at close to seventy polling stations. Delegation members noted that election procedures were observed and voting ran smoothly. They were extremely impressed by the enthusiasm and responsible citizenship demonstrated by citizens with respect to this major election. The members of the delegation want to point out in particular the diligence of the polling officials and political party representatives in accomplishing their task. Furthermore, the observations of the delegation will be recorded in a report and made public.

In addition to observing polling stations on election day, the COPA delegation attended important meetings with political party and civil society representatives upon their arrival on September 5, to learn about the situation in the country.

This was the fifth electoral observation mission organized by COPA since it set up a regulatory framework for organizing such missions in May 2005.

Founded in Québec City in 1997, the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA) brings together over 300 parliamentary assemblies of unitary, federal, federated, and associated states, as well as the regional parliaments and interparliamentary organizations of the Americas. By taking an increasingly active role in election monitoring throughout the Americas, COPA has established its strategic importance in the consolidation of democracy.