



### **Delegation of representatives of the Americas to observe Paraguayan elections**

Asunción, April 16th 2008 – The parliamentarians of the **Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas Confederation (COPA)** arrived today in Paraguay to observe the general elections that will be held on the 20<sup>th</sup> of April. The senator of the province of Buenos Aires in Argentina and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President of COPA, Edda Acuña, will head up the electoral observation mission from April 16<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup>.

The delegation will also include El Salvador Legislative Assembly member Ernesto Angulo Milla, Senator of the Congress of the Mexican Union Mario López Valedéz, Senator of the Congress of the Mexican Union Eduardo Nava, member of the Chamber of deputies of Brasil Nilson Mourão, member of the Legislative Assembly of the Federal District of Mexico Martín Carlos Olavarrieta, and member of the National Assembly of Québec, Alexandre Cloutier.

Invited by the Superior Tribunal of Electoral Justice of Paraguay as observers of the electoral process, the COPA parliamentarians will cover the maximum possible number of polling stations on the day of elections. The delegation will also meet with key actors that play a role in the electoral process in order to better assess the state of the organisation of the elections. Candidates, as well as the heads of political parties and civil society organizations will be among those consulted by the COPA delegation. Following the mission, the parliamentarians of the Americas will present a report of their observations to the Paraguayan electoral authorities as well as to those of the COPA.

This is the 7<sup>th</sup> mission for the COPA. By taking an increasingly active role in election monitoring throughout the Americas, the COPA has established its strategic importance in the consolidation of democracy.

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. For additional information on previous COPA electoral observation missions, please visit the following website: [www.copa.qc.ca](http://www.copa.qc.ca).

<b>Source and information :</b>	
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