



Delegation of observers from the Americas to monitor Brazilian Elections

Brasília, September 28, 2006 – Member of the National Assembly of Québec and chair of the Committee on Democracy and Peace of the **Parliamentary Conference of the Americas (COPA)** Éric R. Mercier is to lead COPA's third electoral observation mission, from September 28 to October 2. After missions in Bolivia in December 2005 and Mexico in June 2006, Brazil's capital, Brasilia, will be the destination for COPA's parliamentarians, invited as international observers to the conduct of the presidential and legislative elections taking place October 1. Rounding out the delegation will be Edda E. Acuña, COPA First Vice-President and senator of Buenos Aires province (Argentina); Jhannett Madriz Sotillo, former COPA President and Vice-President of the Andean Parliament (Venezuela); María Elena D'Andrea of the Chamber of Deputies of San Luis province, Argentina; Jacques Côté of the National Assembly of Québec; Nora Estrada of the Chamber of Deputies of San Luis province, Argentina; and Efraín Villanueva of the Congress of Quintana Roo State, Mexico.

Invited by the Brazilian Superior Electoral Court, COPA's parliamentarians will conduct a technical observation on election day in this country that, in 2000, became the first in the world to computerize the voting process over its entire territory. They also plan to meet with representatives from institutions and organizations involved in organizing the elections, in particular candidates, leaders of political parties, and organizations from civil society.

The parliamentarians will be assisted by the Secretary of the Committee on Democracy and Peace Jacques Paquet and Québec's Assistant Chief Electoral Officer Octavio Soares.

Founded in Quebec 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. It promotes dialog on issues related to inter-American cooperation and continental integration and helps strengthen parliamentary democracy and build the Americas into a community founded on respect for human rights and dignity, peace, democracy, solidarity among peoples, social justice, and gender equality.