



COPA Electoral Mission in the State of Mexico

COPA PARLIAMENTARIANS CONGRATULATE THE ELECTORS OF THE STATE OF MEXICO ON THE ORDERLINESS OF THE RECENT STATE GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION

Toluca de Lerdo, July 4, 2011 – At the invitation of Electoral Institute of the State of Mexico, a delegation of 15 parliamentarians from the **Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA)** observed the gubernatorial election of the State of Mexico held on July 3, 2011. The delegation was led by Zulma Gómez, First Vice-President of COPA and Senator of the Republic of Paraguay. The observers were able to note firsthand that voting proceeded in a calm and orderly manner, and that electoral rules were generally upheld.

The COPA delegation also included members of the following bodies: the Chamber of Deputies of the Argentine Nation; the Chamber of Deputies of the Province of Santa Fe (Argentina); the National Assembly of Québec (Canada); the Chamber of Senators of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay; the Congress of the Republic of Guatemala; the National Assembly of the Republic of Suriname and the Chamber of Deputies of the Dominican Republic.

On voting day, the delegates dispersed to different regions of the State where they observed the vote in some fifty voting centres, both urban and rural. The towns and cities chosen were Acatzingo, Atizapan, Chalco, Coalcalco, Ecatepec, Lerma, Naucalpan, Nezahualcoyotl, Tlalnapantla, Toluca and Valle de Chalco.

No major election irregularities were observed. The delegates were impressed by the sense of civic responsibility and the serious-minded attitude displayed by voters and election officials. Equally impressive were the high-minded conduct of the population on election day and the peaceful atmosphere in which the electoral process unfolded.

In addition to fulfilling their observation role at polling stations, the COPA delegates began meeting with key stakeholders right from the day of their arrival (June 29). Hence they were able to form a good idea of election preparations and the situation prevailing in the State and in the country on the eve of the vote. The people they met included representatives of political parties, two gubernatorial candidates, State electoral authorities and public figures.

This was COPA's 12th election observation mission. COPA's increasingly active participation in such missions in the Americas confirms its strategic role in the consolidation of democracy. Founded in Québec City in 1997, COPA brings together more than 300 parliamentary assemblies of the unitary, federal, federated and associated States, the regional parliaments and the interparliamentary organizations of the Americas.

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Source and further information:

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