



Bolivian mission visits Stockholm, Oslo and Madrid, 21-27 May 2006

The mission from Bolivia includes:

- Carlos Valverde of the PAT National Media Network;
- Edgar Patana, General Secretary of the El Alto Regional Labour Union;
- Congressman Edmundo Novillo (MAS), President of the Lower House of Congress;
- Fernando Quiroga, Vice President of the Bolivia Entrepreneurs Confederation;
- Germán Antelo, President of the Santa Cruz Civic Committee;
- Isaac Ávalos, General Secretary of the Rural Workers Labour Confederation;
- Julio Kolberg, General Manager of La Cabaña Wineries and Vineyards;
- Congresswoman Katia Romero (Podemos);
- Loyola Guzmán, president of the Association of Victims of Political Violence;
- Mario Justiniano, Lower House Caucus Chief for the Movimiento Nacional Revolucionario (MNR);
- Peter Maldonado, Lower House Caucus Chief for Unidad Nacional; and
- Román Loayza, former General Secretary of the Bolivian Workers' Trade Union (CSUTCB).

The delegation also includes:

- Alfonso Ferrufino, coordinator for the UNDP/IDEA programme in Bolivia
- Kristen Sample, International IDEA's Andean Region programme officer and
- Rafael Roncagliolo, Head of Office for the Andean Region.

Stockholm (22 May):

The delegation members will begin their visit in Stockholm with a visit to IDEA headquarters for an orientation session, and will then meet with a representative of the Swedish Trade Union organisation and Anders Morin of the Swedish Business Federation to discuss issues related to trade and trade unionism.

After a working lunch with representatives of political parties, they will meet with representatives of the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Sida.

Other activities will include a meeting focusing on issues related to the Welfare State. Stefan De Vylder, an economist and professor specialising in development issues, will provide a general overview, while other experts will address issues related to development, development policy and systems.

Oslo (23-24 May):

In Oslo, the delegates will have a working luncheon with the minister of foreign relations and representatives from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD). They will also meet with Leiv Lunde of the NORAD Development Program and Gulbrand Wangen of INTSOK to discuss the issues of hydrocarbons and resource management.

Indigenous issues are on the agenda for a meeting with Carsten Smith, a Sami legal expert; Olel Henrik Magga, a Sami member of Parliament; and Turid Arnegard of NORAD. Gender equity will be addressed in a meeting with representatives of the Office for Gender Issues.

Madrid (25-27 May):

One part of the visit to Madrid will focus on experiences related to constitutional reform and decentralisation. The delegation will meet with Partido Popular Deputy Gabriel Cisneros, who was a member of the parliamentary commission that drafted the 1978 Constitution, and Joaquín Leguina, who has served as president of the Madrid Community (1984-96), as well as president of the Social Council of the University of Alcalá, a PSOE legislator and an adviser for the Moncloa Pacts.

During a visit to the Spanish Congress, the delegation will meet with Jesús López Medel of the Partido Popular and Javier Torres Vela of PSOE to discuss Spain's experience with decentralisation of the state, and will join Spanish parliamentarians for a luncheon.

A meeting with Toni Ferrer, union action coordinator for the UGT, and Luis Fabián Márquez Sánchez, president of Industrial Relations Analysts, will focus on Spain's experience with social dialogue processes.

During its stay in Spain, the Bolivian delegation will visit the institutions of the Board of Communities of Castilla La Mancha in Toledo.