

PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
COMMITTEE ON INTER-AMERICAN SUMMITS MANAGEMENT
AND CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION IN
OAS ACTIVITIES

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APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN OAS ACTIVITIES PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 6
OF THE GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION BY CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS
IN OAS ACTIVITIES [CP/RES. 759 (1217/99)]

[Asamblea Permanente por los Derechos Humanos (APDH)]

ANALYSIS OF FACTORS RELATING TO THE APPLICATION BY *ASAMBLEA PERMANENTE POR LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS (APDH)* TO PARTICIPATE IN OAS ACTIVITIES

This document was prepared by the Department of International Affairs/Secretariat for External Relations to provide information to the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) on the civil society organization *Asamblea Permanente por los Derechos Humanos* [The Permanent Assembly for Human Rights] - APDH.

The information contained in this report is provided pursuant to resolution CP/RES. 759 (1217/99), "Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities," and includes a summary and a list of data and documentation presented by *Asamblea Permanente por los Derechos Humanos* in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

1. **Background**

Asamblea Permanente por los Derechos Humanos (APDH) is a nonprofit organization founded on December 18, 1975 in Buenos Aires, Argentina at the joint initiative of a group of people from various – intellectual, political, religious, trade union, and social – sectors in response to the political situation at that time. Its purpose is to promote the effective exercise of the human rights proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations and in the Argentine Constitution.

Since its foundation, *ADPH* has focused on disseminating, protecting, and upholding the exercise of human rights as a contribution to the strengthening of democracy, justice, and peace, by safeguarding the rights of vulnerable social groups.

APDH acts through 15 working committees (the elderly; legal affairs; culture; education; women and women's rights; habitat, land, and natural resources; migration; children and adolescents; indigenous peoples; international relations; health; mental health; security and human rights; and voluntary service), all of which address their respective issues from a human rights perspective.

APDH has at various times worked in cooperation with international and/or regional organizations and government entities. It is in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and has submitted various complaints and recommendations relating to the protection of human rights and the drafting and adoption of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance to the United Nations Human Rights Council and to the United Nations Special Rapporteurs on Torture and Summary Execution. *APDH* is also a member of the Inter-American Platform for Human Rights, Democracy and Development, an organization that supports civic mindedness-building processes for monitoring compliance by States with their human rights obligations. *APHD* has worked jointly with the Human Rights Directorate of the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Argentina's Human Rights Secretariat to disseminate human rights programs.

APDH finances its activities with personal donations and the quota contributions of its members.

APDH submitted its application to the OAS on November 8, 2007.

2. Name, address, and date of establishment of the CSO

Name: Asamblea Permanente por los Derechos Humanos

Address: Av. Callao 569 Piso 1 Depto. 15 (1022)
CP 1002, Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires

Telephone: 011-5411-4372-8594/4373-0397

Fax: 011-5411-4814-3714

E-mail address: asambleaporlosderechos@speedy.com.ar
memunaretto@yahoo.com

Website: www.apdh-argentina.org.ar

Presidents: Aldo M. Etchegoyen
Miguel Esteban Hesayne

Date established: December 18, 1975

3. Primary areas of activity of the CSO and their relationship to OAS activities

The purpose of *APDH* is to promote and protect human rights, strengthen democracy, and protect vulnerable social groups. Activities that relate to OAS objectives include:

- Promoting human rights and the training of citizens in human rights issues, paying special attention to vulnerable social groups; and
- Investigating cases of human rights violations and providing legal counseling for victims.

4. CSO contributions that could be of interest to the OAS

APDH conducts its activities through training, research and monitoring programmes, workshops, briefing sessions, and academic workshops. Contributions already made by the organization and that might be of interest to the OAS include:

- The execution of specific human rights research and promotion programs;

- Assistance and legal counseling for vulnerable social groups who are victims of human rights violations;
- The organization of briefing sessions, academic seminars and educational programs to sensitize and train the population in matters relating to the promotion and protection of human rights, paying particular attention to vulnerable groups at the national and regional level;
- Promotion of the discussion of human rights issues in school curricula by means of a series of workshops on the subject;
- Strengthening protection of the human rights of migrants;
- Monitoring of compliance with the civil, cultural, economic, human and political rights of indigenous peoples; and
- Training of members of the security forces by conducting educational programs on security and human rights and fostering dialogue with civil society.

5. Identification of the OAS work areas in which the CSO proposes to support ongoing activities or to make recommendations on the best way to achieve OAS objectives

APDH is interested in supporting the OAS' current activities and in recommending ways in which the Organization can best achieve its objectives in areas such as: human rights, a culture of peace, the promotion of democracy, strengthening civil society participation, and protecting the rights of women, adolescents, and children. The following possible areas of cooperation with the Organization have been identified:

APDH could work with the OAS in the following areas:

- Defending the principles of the Inter-American Democratic Charter with respect to democracy and human rights;
- Supporting the work of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to promote and protect human rights, especially those of vulnerable segments of the population;
- Contributing to the work of the Permanent Council pursuant to AG/RES. 2455 (XXXIX-O/09) on human rights and older persons;
- Making recommendations to the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs of the Permanent Council regarding the draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- Supporting the activities of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) to promote and protect women's rights, particularly in regard to violence against women;

- Supporting the work of the Department of International Affairs (DIA) of the Secretariat for External Relations to promote civil society participation in OAS activities; and
- Helping the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN) in its efforts to develop public policies that ensure the promotion and exercise of the rights of children and adolescents.

6. Documents submitted by the CSO to the OAS

- Letter to the OAS Secretary General, dated November 8, 2007
- Articles of incorporation, December 18, 1975
- Record of Adoption of Statutes
- Annual activities report 2008, 2007, and 2006
- Financial Statements for 2008, 2007, and 2006 (signed by Certified Public Accountant Gustavo Enrique Martínez)