

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

OEA/Ser.G
CP/CISC-555/11
11 April 2011
Original: Spanish

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)]

[Asociación Interamericana de Defensorías Públicas (AIDEF)]

ANALYSIS OF FACTORS RELATING TO THE APPLICATION OF ASOCIACIÓN INTERAMERICANA DE DEFENSORÍAS PÚBLICAS 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 *Asociación Interamericana de Defensorías Públicas - AIDEF* (Inter-American Association of Public Defenders).

The information contained herein is in response to resolution CP/RES. 759 (1217/99), “Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities.” This document contains a summary and a list of supporting documentation presented by *Asociación Interamericana de Defensorías Públicas (AIDEF)* in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

1. Background

Asociación Interamericana de Defensorías Públicas (AIDEF) is a not-for-profit civil organization established in Rio de Janeiro Brazil, on October 18, 2003. It has been incorporated in Guatemala since 2009, where its administrative headquarters is now located. Its mission is to strengthen access to justice and respect for human rights through training programs for members of the associated entities, in order to harmonize public defense standards.

AIDEF is made up of the public defender offices and associations of Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, The Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, and Venezuela. Its Secretary General is elected for a two-year term, as is its Coordinator General. It also has subregional coordinators, for South America, Central America, and the Caribbean.

AIDEF holds conferences and organizes educational and exchange programs for its members for the purpose of strengthening public defender offices from an institutional point of view and influencing reforms in the legislation of states of the Americas aimed at guaranteeing access to justice.

AIDEF signed an agreement of understanding with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights on September 25, 2002, designed to provide legal assistance in cases where victims do not have legal representation or the necessary funds to pay for their defense.

AIDEF finances its activities and operations through its members’ annual dues.

AIDEF submitted its application to the OAS on September 7, 2010.

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

Name: Asociación Interamericana de Defensorías Públicas (AIDEF)

Address: 7ma Avenida, 10-35 Zona 1, Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala

E-mail address: aidef@aidef.org

Website: www.aidef.org

Coordinator General and Legal Representative: André Luis Machado de Castro (Brazil)

Secretary General: Stella Maris Martínez (Chief Public Defender of the Nation, Argentina)

Date established: October 18, 2003

3. Primary areas of activity and CSO contributions that could be of interest to the OAS

AIDEF holds conferences and training and exchange programs in order to strengthen public defense systems in the associated countries and promote access to justice and respect for human rights. The primary areas of activity that could be of interest to the OAS include:

- Institutional strengthening of public defender offices and independence of the judiciary, by influencing laws in the *AIDEF* member countries to promote access to and harmonization of public defense standards at the regional level; and
- Promoting access to justice and respect for the full observance and efficacy of the human rights and guarantees recognized in the rules of public international law, through the design and implementation of programs to guarantee public defense, with a special emphasis on at-risk groups.

4. 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

AIDEF pledges to work with the OAS in the following areas:

- Defense of the principles of the Inter-American Democratic Charter and of the Inter-American Convention on Human Rights;
- Technical assistance to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights with regard to the defense of victims of human rights violations;

- Submission of recommendations to the Meeting of Ministers of Justice or Other Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA), in cooperation with the Department of Legal Cooperation of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs (SLA);
- Support for the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN) in its programs aimed at promoting public policies to guarantee the rights of minors;
- Support for the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) in following up on implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, "Convention of Belém do Pará";
- Collaboration in the work carried out by the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA) in the institutional strengthening of justice systems in the Hemisphere;
- Submission of recommendations to the Inter-American Juridical Committee with a view to harmonizing the laws of the states of the Hemisphere, with special emphasis on the subject of access to public defense;
- Support for the activities of the Rapporteurship on the Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty and the Unit for Human Rights Defenders of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR); and
- Support for the Department of International Law of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs (SLA), especially regarding programs to combat discrimination for reasons of race, gender, and sexual orientation.

5. Documents submitted by the CSO to the OAS

- Letter to the OAS Secretary General, dated September 7, 2010
- Articles of Incorporation
- Certificate of registration in the Corporation Registry of the Ministry of Interior of Guatemala
- Statute
- Institutional mission statement
- 2008-2010 annual activity report
- Financial statements for 2009 and 2010, audited by José Ramiro Patzán López, Certified Public Accountant