

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-610/11
1 December 2011
Original: Spanish

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

[Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina (AMIA)]

ANALYSIS OF FACTORS RELATING TO THE APPLICATION BY *ASOCIACIÓN MUTUAL ISRAELITA ARGENTINA* 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 Mutual Israelita Argentina (AMIA)*.

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," and includes a summary and a list of data and documentation presented by *Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina (AMIA)* in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

1. Background

Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina (AMIA) is a non-profit organization founded in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on February 11, 1894, which was recognized as a legal person on June 13, 1946. Its mission is to promote integral development for the Jewish community in Argentina and to encourage the fight against terrorism and strengthening of democracy and pluralism.

AMIA has a staff of 280 professionals, more than 23,000 members, and 110 volunteers; its areas of activity include older persons, children and youth, culture, persons with disabilities, education, employment, and social development.

Through its Comprehensive Care Center for Older Persons, *AMIA* carries out therapeutic, cultural, social, and leisure activities for people over the age of 60 in a state of vulnerability, promoting their independence and improving their quality of life. To that end, it holds psychology, occupational therapy, art and music therapy, theater, and memory stimulation workshops, as well as providing medications to an average of 400 older people a week. Under this program it offers a Geriatric Care Course and a Geriatric Care Training Program designed to improve the quality of care delivered to older persons. Both courses, which train around 200 care-providers a year, target persons over the age of 25 who have completed secondary school.

AMIA implements the *JOM* program designed to prevent vulnerable groups that are members of the organization from the effects of heat waves. It also offers a "Playgroup," which foment integration, stimulation, and interaction among beneficiaries and users at its Comprehensive Care Center, in which approximately 150 people take part each year. In 2010 *AMIA* held geriatric care training and refresher courses in partnership with *Universidad Tres de Febrero* and with the support of *Fundación Navarro Viola*. After signing a cooperation agreement with the National Institute of Social Services for Retirees and Pensioners (PAMI), *AMIA's* Comprehensive Care Center was added to a Providers Roster, allowing the delivery of comprehensive care to 150 older persons in vulnerable circumstances.

AMIA also carries out initiatives to advance the rights of children and youth, including its *AMIA para Chicos* [AMIA for Kids] program, which includes theatrical, arts, and leisure activities for 0-12 year-olds year-round; it also runs two programs in summer and winter entitled *Vacaciones con Sombrilla* [Vacations with a Sunshade] and *Vacaciones con Bufanda* [Vacations with a Scarf], respectively. *AMIA* runs the *Programa Hippy - Aprendiendo en casa* [Hippy Program - Learning at

Home] for 3-5 year-olds. This program, which is funded by the Government of the City of Buenos Aires, is designed to strengthen education for children. Another of the programs operated by *AMIA* is *Incluir: apoyo para un espacio educativo inclusivo* [Include: Support for an inclusive educational environment], which, through a multidisciplinary team, provides assistance to schools in the Jewish Schools Network on inclusion of children with special education needs.

With regard to youth, *AMIA* has held courses on substance abuse prevention for university students, as well as workshops for young intellectuals and researchers on Jewish issues. It also created the Maaián Center, which provides training for leaders in the area of non-formal education and is jointly managed with the Jewish Agency for Israel. In addition, it carries out a project entitled *Encontrarse en la Diversidad* [Finding Oneself in Diversity], which promotes social harmony in diversity and, within that context, holds exchange and training workshops at formal and informal education facilities. The above program is jointly organized with the National Institute against Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Racism (INADI), the National Office for Youth (DINAJU), *AMIA Juventud*. It is sponsored by the Ministry of Culture, *Escuelas Ort*, *Banco Provincia*, *Instituto Espacio para la Memoria (IEM)*, *C.C. Haroldo Conti*, *Departamento de Actividades para la Diáspora O.S.M.*, *Joint* and *Colegio Martin Buber*.

In the area of culture, *AMIA* stages a variety of theatrical productions, concerts, conferences, art exhibitions, training courses, festivals, and seminars with the aim of promoting Jewish culture and raising awareness about its cultural and artistic heritage. In 2010, it organized 1,500 cultural activities which drew more than 130,000 people. The organization also offers courses in history, literature, Yiddish, Jewish cuisine, Zionism, Middle-East politics, Israeli reality, Kabbalah, and biblical analysis. It organized the annual *Untref* scholarship competition, which awards a scholarship for a Master's degree in cultural diversity organized by the Department of Culture of *AMIA* and *Universidad Tres de Febrero (Untref)*. It annually publishes 12 books through Editorial Milá, creating an opportunity for exchange and reflection for Jewish intellectuals. Moreover, it disseminates the work of artists and other creative talents in the Jewish community through its program on *Radio Clásica Nacional FM 96.7*, among other activities.

AMIA encourages workplace and social integration and participation for persons with disabilities, and provides advisory services to families and related institutions with the aim of influencing public policy in this area. It also provides loans for orthopedic limbs and coordinates the Jewish community's Network of Institutions for the Disabled. In 2010 it organized training events entitled *Diferentes Miradas desde la Salud y la Educación* [Different Perspectives from the Point of View of Health and Education] and *Empresas Socialmente Responsables* [Socially Responsible Enterprises], benefiting more than 130 individuals and 15 enterprises, respectively. *AMIA* advised the National Advisory Committee for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities (CONADIS) in the review of the Country Report prepared by that agency and presented to the United Nations in accordance with the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It is also part of the CONADIS Advisory Committee, the Honorary Consultative Council of the Committee for the Full Participation and Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (COPIDIS), the Civil Society Consultative Council on Disability of the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Worship, the Council on the Rights of Children and Adolescents of the City of Buenos Aires, and the Participatory Planning Program of the Office of the Auditor General of the Republic of Argentina.

AMIA fosters employment through programs it implements, such as *Valor* [Value], which receives support from the Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF) of the Inter-American Development

Bank (IDB). The purpose of this program is to boost competitiveness and market opportunities for small and medium enterprises, as well as disseminating best practices in corporate social responsibility (CSR) in Argentine society. The companies that participate in this program include Novartis, Loma Negra, IRSAS, INVAP, Banco Galicia, and Banco Santander Río. In order to implement the program, *AMIA* has signed cooperation agreements with the Government of the City of Buenos Aires, the Municipality of Río Cuarto, *Universidad Tecnológica Nacional*, and the firm Endeavor.

AMIA also has an employment services system with a database of more than 500,000 applicants and 10,000 companies that use this free service for their respective recruitment needs. The organization has also signed an agreement with the Province of Chaco to provide training to more than 300 jobless persons between November 2011 and March 2012.

In addition, *AMIA* provides services to vulnerable families to help them meet their basic needs and facilitate their social inclusion. Through this activity it benefits more than 2,400 people annually. These services include the provision of coupons for food, medicines, and clothes, as well as economic subsidies for subsistence, geriatric hospitalization, and emergencies. *AMIA* also signed an agreement in 2010 with the Ministry of Social Development for the provision of food assistance to vulnerable groups.

The *AMIA* structure includes the Marc Turkow Documentation and Information Center on Argentine Judaism, whose functions include the preservation, consolidation, and dissemination of elements that record the history of life in the Jewish community in Argentina by means of an archive of photographs, newspapers, books, films, and press articles since the July 18, 1994, attack on *AMIA*, in addition to personal experiences and events in the community; the *Vaad Hajinuj* (Central Council for Jewish Education in Argentina), which designs and carries out educational programs to strengthen the Jewish identity as well as representing Jewish schools before the Argentine educational authorities; and chairs the *Vaad Hakehilot* (Federation of Jewish Communities of Argentina), an umbrella organization representing more than 50 Jewish communities across Argentina.

AMIA is a member of the Argentine Chapter of the International Task Force (ITF), the National Committee on Nutrition and Food, INADI, CONADIS, the Council for the Rights of Children and Adolescents, the Committee to Follow up on the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Argentine Network for International Cooperation (RACI). Furthermore, in carrying out its mission, it engages in joint activities, such as seminars and training events in its different areas of endeavor, with the Government of the City of Buenos Aires, *Universidad de Buenos Aires*, *Universidad de Palermo*, *Universidad Maimónides*, *Universidad Tres de Febrero*, and *Universidad Torcuato Di Tella*.

AMIA finances its activities with contributions from its executive members; revenue from services rendered; funding from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Banco Santander Río, and Banco Galicia; and income from services contracts with the state.

AMIA submitted its application on August 4, 2011.

2. Name, address, and date of establishment

Name of Organization: Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina (AMIA)

Address: Pasteur 633, CP C1028 AMM,
Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, Argentina

Telephone/fax: (011-5411) 4959-8800

E-mail address: amia@amia.org.ar; anita@amia.org.ar

Website: www.amia.org.ar

President: Guillermo Borger

Legal Representative/
Executive Director Daniel Pomerantz

Date established: February 11, 1894

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

AMIA promotes integral development for the Jewish community by carrying out programs and projects that foster their well-being. The activities in which *AMIA* engages that might be of interest to the OAS include:

- Design and execution of educational programs and workshops that raise awareness about the importance of respect for cultural and religious diversity and eradication of all forms of discrimination;
- Advancement and protection of the rights of children, youth, older persons, and people with disabilities by influencing public policy in Argentina; promotion of partnership between like-minded associations; and organization of seminars, meetings, and courses; and
- Fostering decent work creation through training and employment programs, strengthening small and medium-sized enterprises, and promotion of corporate social responsibility.

4. Identification of potential areas of collaboration with the OAS

AMIA would like to work with the OAS in the following areas:

- Support the Permanent Council in implementing resolution CP/RES. 2687 (XLI-O/11), “Promotion of Corporate Social Responsibility in the Hemisphere”;

- Offer input to the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) of the Permanent Council on matters concerning older persons in Argentina;
- Present reports and recommendations to the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities on the implementation of and improvements to the Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (2006-2016) at the domestic level;
- Offer recommendations to the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) and support the activities of the Department of Social Development and Employment of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) in the areas of promotion of decent work and employment generation as well as advancement of the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (CIADDIS) and of the Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (PAD);
- Present recommendations to the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (CISC) and work with the Department of International Affairs (DIA) of the Secretariat for External Relations to encourage civil society participation in OAS activities;
- Provide assistance to 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; and
- Contribute to the work of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) in its mission to prevent, combat, and eliminate terrorism.

5. Documents submitted by the CSO to the OAS

- Letter to the OAS Secretary General, dated August 4, 2011
- Articles of Incorporation
- Statutes
- Institutional mission statement
- Annual Activities Report, 2009-2010
- Financial statements for 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 (audited by Price Waterhouse & Co. S.R.L.)