

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)]

[Oficina Jurídica para la Mujer]

ANALYSIS OF FACTORS RELATING TO THE APPLICATION BY *OFICINA JURÍDICA PARA LA MUJER* 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 (CSO) *Oficina Jurídica para la Mujer* [Legal Office for Women].

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 the supporting documentation submitted by *Oficina Jurídica para la Mujer* in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

1. Background

Oficina Jurídica para la Mujer is a nonprofit organization founded on April 11, 1985, in Cochabamba, Bolivia, to promote women’s rights and the prevention and elimination of violence against women and the sexual exploitation of women. The organization also promotes gender equity and gender mainstreaming in public policy formulation through legal, psychological, and social assistance, and by imparting workshops and educational programs providing training on the prevention of violence against women. It also holds training courses and workshops on women and democracy.

Oficina Jurídica para la Mujer organizes workshops and conflict mediation dialogues to strengthen women’s participation in decision-making processes and in exercising their rights, and to defend their integrity in cases of intrafamily violence. In that context, in 2010, it handled 543 cases of sexual violence and physical abuse, conducted 175 dialogues and workshops in which 889 women took part; instituted legal proceedings in 73 cases of rape, murder, and threats against and sexual exploitation of women; lodged 15 appeals with government authorities, such as the Judiciary Council, the District Supreme Court, and the Departmental Labor Office, among others, and, at the request of the Attorney General’s Office, produced six expert’s reports in cases of rape and attempted rape, and two certificates of cases of sexual and domestic aggression.

In 2013, *Oficina Jurídica para la Mujer* provided assistance to 977 women victims of gender violence, who took part in decision-making empowerment workshops, instituted 30 landmark proceedings, 20 preliminary proceedings, and 25 judicial summons for questioning in order to protect women’s rights. It also held several training courses and workshops on citizenship, women and democracy. In addition, the organization prepared 14 supporting briefs for lawyers on gender and human rights, promoted 2 workshops on criminal law with 77 public officials, led 5 workshops with indigenous leaders to raise awareness about rules that protect women, and conducted 85 radio programs with students, addressing topics such as democracy, discrimination, violence, and human rights, among others.

Oficina Jurídica para la Mujer produces the weekly radio program *Palabra de Mujer* on the radio station Kancha Parlaspa, FM 91.9, which broadcasts updated information on human and women’s rights.

In 2010, *Oficina Jurídica para la Mujer* imparted one course, in coordination with the Supreme Court of Justice of Cochabamba and the Judiciary Council, to disseminate international legislation and jurisprudence in the area of women's rights, in which 97 persons took part, including judges, prosecutors, public and private officials working in the human rights area, and students; and two training courses and one seminar that discussed subjects such as gender-related and sexual violence, care for victims thereof, and analysis of Law No. 2033, Protection of Victims of Sex Crimes, in which 40 police officers and 98 armed forces members took part.

In 2010, *Oficina Jurídica para la Mujer* implemented, in coordination with the Departmental Education Service (SEDUCA), Tarata province, a training workshop for therapy groups to improve relations among partners, benefiting 30 individuals (15 men and 15 women); organized therapy groups with survivors of violence in partner relationships, in conjunction with the Sacaba Municipal Comprehensive Legal Service (SLIM), in which 31 women of District IV took part, and with women victims of physical and sexual violence, in which 131 women took part. It also imparted three psychological and social courses with participation by 91 women, in coordination with District I of the Quintanilla submunicipality, partner organizations of the *Instituto de Investigación Cultural para Educación Popular* (INDICEP), and with Sacaba Municipality, through SLIM; 19 courses, 20 educational workshops, nine days of reflection, and one seminar on violence prevention, gender equity, and women's rights, benefiting 380 women, 227 men, 132 teachers, and 634 students in urban and rural areas.

As regards women's sexual and reproductive rights, in 2010, *Oficina Jurídica para la Mujer* imparted 10 courses, four workshops, and one seminar, in which 119 teachers, 96 students, 37 directors in urban and rural areas, and 56 parents took part; and published the book "Your Sexuality and Mine."

In implementation of its aim of gender mainstreaming in public policy formation and legislation, *Oficina Jurídica de la Mujer* presented suggestions and observations to the Legislative Assembly on draft laws, such as the Jurisdictional Demarcation Act and the Penal Code Reform Act; and held three workshops to disseminate the draft Law on Legal Protection of Children and Adolescents, with participation by 77 women from different civil society organizations; and four discussions on the Law against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination. It is also represented on the Committee for the Defense of Sexual and Reproductive Rights, whose mission is to prepare a new draft law in this area.

Oficina Jurídica de la Mujer presented an alternative report on the situation of human rights in Bolivia to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) at its 134th session, held from March 16 to 27, 2009. At the request of the IACHR's Rapporteurship on the Rights of Women, it prepared a report on limitations on the full exercise of women's economic, social, and cultural rights.

Oficina Jurídica para la Mujer is a member of the Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defense of Women's Rights (CLADEM). It is also a member of the *Red de Mujeres Ciudadanas para la Cooperación al Desarrollo y la Igualdad de Género* [Network of Women Citizens for Development Cooperation and Gender Equity], composed of civil society organizations of Bolivia, Spain, Nicaragua, and Paraguay, whose mission is to strengthen women's leadership and

promote a culture of respect for their rights. It has established cooperation agreements and works jointly to implement various programs with over 40 civil society organizations in Bolivia.

On October 11, 2004, *Oficina Jurídica para la Mujer* received the Silver Flag Medal from the National Senate of Bolivia for its 20 years of efforts to defend and promote women's human rights. The organization also received the "Forgers of Education" award for its promotion and awareness-raising work.

Oficina Jurídica para la Mujer finances its activities with contributions from the Ministry of Health, Social Policy, and Equality of Spain, the Embassy of the Netherlands, *Liechtensteinischer Entwicklungs Dienst* [Liechtenstein Development Service] (LED), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN), OXFAM Novib, and CONEXIÓN, National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Oficina Jurídica para la Mujer submitted its application for registration with the OAS on March 31, 2011.

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

Name:	Oficina Jurídica para la Mujer
Address:	Costanera equina La Paz y Hamiraya Casilla 2287 Cochabamba, Bolivia
Telephone:	(591) 422-8928
Fax:	(591) 442-51551
Email address:	ojmujer@entelnet.bo; cendocojm@gmail.com
Director:	Julieta Montaña
Date established:	April 11, 1985

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

Oficina Jurídica para la Mujer promotes women's comprehensive development and their political and social inclusion by implementing programs and projects to build their leadership capacity and protect their rights. The following activities of the organization bear some relation to the work of the OAS:

- Research on the situation and condition of women and preparing working documents on the application of national laws as input for the formulation of public policy and

legislation promoting the exercise and full recognition of women's rights and their social and political inclusion;

- Designing and holding workshops that promote awareness of women's human rights and the eradication and prevention of gender-based violence and prostitution;
- Promoting women's participation in decision-making processes through the design and implementation of workshops and seminars to strengthen the generation, education, and training of women leaders; and
- Promoting women's human rights by implementing publicity campaigns and media actions to raise public awareness of situations of inequality and dissemination encountered by women.
- Fomenting knowledge and application of women's human rights in indigenous communities, as well as prevention of gender violence.

4. OAS work areas to which the CSO can provide support

Oficina Jurídica para la Mujer considers that its activities may be useful for the work performed by the various agencies and units of the OAS. Thus, it could lend support to their work by:

- Contributing to the work of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) in its mission to promote and protect women's rights and 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";
- Supporting the activities of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), especially the Rapporteurship on the Rights of Women, to promote and protect women's human rights and gender equity and equality;
- Offering recommendations to the Committee on Hemispheric Security (CSH) of the Permanent Council, in collaboration with the Department of Public Security of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security in its activities to combat the smuggling of and trafficking in persons;
- Presenting reports and recommendations on the smuggling of and trafficking in persons at Meetings of Ministers of Justice or Other Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA); and
- Supporting the Permanent Council in following up on and implementing the mandates contained in resolution AG/RES. 2686 (XLI-O/11), "Prevention and Eradication of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Smuggling of and Trafficking in Minors," and resolution AG/RES. 2689 (XLI-O/11), "Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality."

5. Documents submitted by the CSO to the OAS

- Letter to the OAS Secretary General dated March 31, 2011
- Articles of incorporation
- By-laws
- Institutional mission statement
- Annual report for 2010 and 2013
- Financial statements for 2010 and 2013 (audited by María Teresa Cabero C.)