

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-641/12
15 August 2012
Original: English

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

[Associação Artigo 19]

ANALYSIS OF THE REQUEST BY ASSOCIAÇÃO ARTIGO 19 TO BE REGISTERED WITH THE OAS

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 *Associação Artigo 19*.

The information contained in this report 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 *Associação Artigo 19* in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

1. Background

Associação Artigo 19 is a nonprofit organization constituted on June 11, 2008 in Sao Paulo, Brazil as an autonomous regional office of Article 19, an international organization established on February 5, 1987 in London, United Kingdom, with the mission to promote and protect freedom of expression, access to information, and the promotion and protection of human rights.

Associação Artigo 19 works in partnership with local groups in Brazil and conducts its activities around five outcomes: 1) Global governance; 2) Enabling the environment for freedom of expression and press freedom; 3) Campaign against impunity; 4) Strengthen vulnerable groups; and 5) Gender.

The activities carried out under its Global Governance program seek to enhance the right to information. In 2011, *Associação Artigo 19* organized several workshops that focused on the right to information with civil society organizations, journalists, vulnerable communities and public servants. It also participated in campaigns to promote the passing of the access to information bill in the Brazilian Congress and took part in conferences on transparency, accountability and access to public information convened by the Brazilian government at the federal and local level, in over 1,000 municipalities around the country.

Moreover, *Associação Artigo 19* launched a legal reference center that during 2011 conducted research on domestic legislation and case law in Brazil, and on the use of hate speech provisions.

At the international level, *Associação Artigo 19* fielded fact-finding missions, established contacts with other similar organizations, and presented a report on the overall situation of freedom of expression to the United Nations Human Rights Council. In addition, *Associação Artigo 19* was elected to the governance committee of Associação Brasileira de Combate a Corrupção e Impunidade-ABRACCI, a network working against corruption and impunity.

Associação Artigo 19 is one of the founding member organizations of a Broadband Campaign to guarantee internet as a universal right. The activities implemented in the area of freedom of expression and press freedom include a review of the broadcasting regulations in Brazil through the creation of a parliamentary special commission, the “Parliamentary Front for Freedom of Expression and the Right to Communicate”. *Associação Artigo 19* was invited to take part in a

meeting organized by the Minister of Communications to discuss issues related to broadcasting, internet broadband policy and audiovisual legislation, after which *Associação Artigo 19* developed a proposal with other civil society organizations on these issues, which was presented to the Ministry. *Associação Artigo 19* acted as a member of the Mobilization Council of the Brazilian Internet Forum, together with other civil society organizations. In addition, it organized two roundtables on official advertising with experts in Brazil, and collected video interviews with journalists who are facing lawsuits for defamation.

In regards to its campaign against impunity, *Associação Artigo 19* conducted a survey on social media and journalism that involved 210 participants, and partnered with a media portal group to disseminate the results. It also organized an event with communication students in celebration of Press Freedom Day. The activities executed on the topic of strengthening vulnerable groups include two-day awareness workshops for indigenous leaders on human rights and transparency and government, the results of which were published and distributed among indigenous groups. *Associação Artigo 19* also mapped and monitored freedom of expression and freedom of information violations related to large development projects.

In the context of the fifth programmatic area to promote a gender perspective, *Associação Artigo 19* launched the multimedia publication *Women of Expression* that highlights the need for greater access to information to achieve a more democratic and egalitarian society.

Associação Artigo 19 carries out its activities with projects financed by public and private sources, including the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of The Netherlands, Government of Canada, United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF), Sigrid Rausing Trust, Fritt Ord, Tide Foundation, Cappelen Damn, Ford Foundation, Global Network for Free Expression (IFEX), Institute of International Education (IIE), Open Society Institute (OSI), ADESIUM Foundation, and Core.

Associação Artigo 19 submitted its application to be registered with the OAS in February 2012.

2. Name, address, and date of establishment

Name of Organization:	Associação Artigo 19
Address:	Edifício das Bandeiras Rua João Adolfo, 118 cjt 802 01050-020 São Paulo-SP Brazil
Telephone:	+55 (11) 3057 0042
E-mail address:	brasil@article19.org; comunicacao@artigo19.org
Website:	http://artigo19.org/
Executive Director South America Chapter:	Paula Ligia Martins

Date established: June 11, 2008

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

Associação Artigo 19 works to promote freedom of expression, freedom of information, and anti-corruption. The primary areas of activity and contributions of the organization that could be of interest to the OAS include:

- Providing expertise on international human rights standards and creating awareness on legislation that protects freedom of expression, media pluralism, independence and diversity of views through research, reports and training workshops for journalists, public officials, and civil society members on these topics;
- Strengthening democratic institutions and citizen participation in public affairs through the presentation of *amicus curiae* and participation in meetings of governmental entities on topics, such as broadcasting regulations, anti-corruption, internet broadband policy and audiovisual legislation, among others; and
- Fostering transparency in public administration by filing requests for public information and monitoring of the implementation of national laws.

4. Identification of OAS work areas

Associação Artigo 19 proposes to support the OAS in the following areas:

- Disseminate and promote the principles of the Inter-American Democratic Charter;
- Provide the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) with reports on the status of human rights, freedom of expression, and access to information in Brazil;
- Contribute to the Follow-Up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC), in cooperation with the Department of Legal Cooperation of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs;
- Collaborate with the Department of Effective Public Management of the Secretariat for Political Affairs (SPA), especially in its transparency and governance programs, with a view to enhancing the transparency and integrity of public administration; and
- Offer recommendations to the Department of International Law for the development of Inter-American Program on Access to Public Information, in follow-up to the Model Inter-American Law on Access to Public Information and its guide, to be presented to the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) of the Permanent Council, in accordance with resolution AG/RES. 2727 (XLII-O/12) Access to Public Information and Protection of Personal Data.

5. Documents submitted by the CSO to the OAS

- Letter to the OAS Secretary General, dated February 2012
- Articles of incorporation
- Statutes
- Institutional mission statement
- Activities report for 2011
- Financial statements for 2010 and 2011 (signed by Catherine Smadja, Legal Representative, and Peter Gotham, Senior Statutory Auditor)