

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)]

[African Canadian Legal Clinic (ACLC)]

ANALYSIS OF THE ELEMENTS RELATED TO THE APPLICATION BY
AFRICAN CANADIAN LEGAL CLINIC (ACLC)
TO PARTICIPATE IN OAS ACTIVITIES

This document was prepared by the Summits of the Americas Secretariat to provide Member States of the Organization of American States (OAS) with information on the civil society organization (CSO) *African Canadian Legal Clinic (ACLC)*.

The information contained in this report responds 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 *ACLC* in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

1. Background

ACLC is a non-profit association, founded July 19, 1994 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, with the objective to address issues of racism against afro-descendents and other forms of systemic and institutional discrimination through a judicial platform. Its headquarters are based in Toronto.

The purpose of *ACLC* is to carry out test case litigation including interventions on behalf of, or in relation to, Canadians of African descent or other persons in cases involving issues of racism and racial discrimination, which are likely to result in decisions that set significant legal precedents. *ACLC* has been granted intervener status in a number of race-based court cases. *ACLC* also monitors and addresses significant legislative, regulatory, administrative, judicial and policy developments for, or in relation to, Canadians of African descent. *ACLC* also organized meetings on the impact of Canadian anti-terrorism and immigration legislation.

ACLC focuses on promoting community-based solutions to violence and socio-economic inequalities affecting African Canadian communities. The organization also worked with African Canadian communities as a member of the *Coalition of African Canadian Organizations (CACO)* and participant in the UN Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent. The organization engages in select representation, advocacy, legal education and community development.

ACLC receives its core funding from *Legal Aid Ontario (LAO)*, with occasional funding from other sources.

ACLC submitted its application on April 21, 2006.

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

Name of the Organization: *African Canadian Legal Clinic (ACLC)*

Address: 111 Richmond St. West, Suite 503
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2G4
Canada

Fax: (416) 214-4748

Telephone: (416) 214-4747

E-mail address: info@ACLC.net

Website: <http://www.aclc.net/index.html>

Executive Director: Margaret Parsons

Date established: July 19, 1994

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

The main objective of *African Canadian Legal Clinic (ACLC)* is to use a judicial platform to address issues of racism and other forms of discrimination against afro-descendents. Its activities are related to those of the OAS in the following areas:

- Advocate on behalf of the human rights of afro-descendents;
- Develop and implement strategies and programs that address racism in society;
- Work in the interest of constructing communities with stronger democratic foundations, and socio-economic equity;
- Develop proposals on methods the legal community can utilize to address issues of racism; and
- Support national and international anti-racism networks.

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

ACLC carries out its activities through test case litigations, consultation with the African Canadian community in Ontario, collaboration with the legal clinics in the province of Ontario, legal education, provision of resources, and implementation community development. In this regard, the following activities that this organization carries out may be of interest to the OAS:

- Assist individuals involved in human rights complaints involving racial issues such as racial profiling, safe schools, workplace harassment and discrimination, correctional law issues, and systemic workplace issues;
- Disseminate information to civil society in order to develop awareness of racism and human rights;
- Promote anti-racist policies and practices in the community, workplace, and government through legal action;
- Coordinate community legal education workshops and discussions regarding local issues;
- Develop consensus among civil society organizations involving anti-racism in order to advance the needs of the African Diaspora at regional, national, and international levels; and
- Participate in hemispheric meetings and initiatives against racism in the Americas.

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

ACLC can provide particular support to the Human Rights organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization in the following ways:

- Support the work of the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights (IACHR) regarding the implementation and monitoring of international obligations at the national level on inter-American human rights and anti-racism treaties;
- Contribute to the efforts of the Working Group to Prepare a Draft Inter-American Convention against Racism and all Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) of the Permanent Council of the OAS;
- Monitor the implementation of the Declaration of Mar del Plata, particularly paragraph 32, affirming the commitment of the OAS Member States to respect the rights of afro-descendents; and

- Participate in civil society forums and meetings in preparation for the Summits of the Americas in promoting and prioritizing recommendations around human rights and anti-racism.

6. Documents submitted by the CSO to the OAS

- Letter addressed to the Secretary General dated April 21, 2006
- Article of Incorporation
- Bylaws
- Financial Statement ending March 31, 2005 (Audited by Horwath Orenstein LLP)
- Annual Report 2005-2006