

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

[ALTERNATIVES- Réseau d'action et de communication pour le développement international  
(Action and Communication Network for International Development)]

**SUMMARY OF INFORMATION CONCERNING THE PARTICIPATION OF  
ALTERNATIVES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE ACCREDITATION OF  
CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS WISHING TO PARTICIPATE  
IN OAS ACTIVITIES**

This document was prepared by the Summits of the Americas Secretariat to provide member states with information about ALTERNATIVES pursuant to resolution CP/RES. 759, "Guidelines for Participation by Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities." It contains the basic data and a list of supporting documentation submitted by ALTERNATIVES in accordance with the aforementioned guidelines.

**1. Background**

Alternatives was founded in Montreal, Canada, in 1994. It is an independent, nongovernmental organization which seeks to foster solidarity, justice, and equity in the relations between individuals and communities.

Alternatives operates in over 35 countries, including several in the Americas, supporting initiatives by community-based movements aimed at protecting the economic, social, and political rights of individuals and communities facing problems such as poverty, discrimination, exploitation, and violence.

It submitted its application on April 2, 2003.

**2. Name, address, and date of establishment**

Name:	Alternatives, Réseau d'action et de communication pour le développement international inc
Address:	3720 Parc Avenue, Suite 300 Montreal, Québec, Canada, H2X2J1.
Telephone:	(514) 982-6606 (514) 982-6122 (fax)
E-mail address:	<a href="http://www.alternatives.ca">www.alternatives.ca</a>
Director General	Pierre Beaudet
Date established:	1994

### **3. Primary areas of activity and their relationship to OAS activities**

Alternatives' chief mission is to support community organizations in Canada and in other countries that are fighting poverty, unemployment, discrimination, and racism. It seeks to forge ties between organizations that defend vulnerable groups in different parts of the world, with a special emphasis on Latin America. It focuses on:

- Providing logistical and financial support to more than 60 nongovernmental organizations in 35 developing countries active in the fields of communication, community reconciliation, the rehabilitation and protection of human rights, including women's rights, economic and social rights, and the right to a healthy environment.
- Raising public interest in these topics through conferences, workshops, seminars, newspapers, radio programs, and internet web pages.
- Cooperating with other organizations on issues to do with globalization, immigration, and social justice.
- Promoting development and enhancing the quality of life of women, youth, and vulnerable groups.
- Consolidating and strengthening local nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in countries in the South with a view to defining and applying development strategies that are better tailored to the needs of the local population with regard to communications, jobs, housing, education, and human rights.
- Facilitating the coordination and systematic development of relations among NGOs in different countries and regions as a way of boosting and supporting their activities.

### **4. Contributions by Alternatives that could be of interest to the OAS**

Alternatives runs programs in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe on subjects related to women's rights, building democracy, participation and protection of the rights of young people, conflict resolution, the development and improvement of communications, research, humanitarian aid, and disaster relief.

Thus, Alternatives can put its experience to good use in programs such as:

- "Peace and Reconstruction." These are projects in Rwanda, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo that promote peace-building, democracy, respect for human rights, and efforts to ensure that crimes do not go unpunished.
- "In Support of African Women"
- "Women and Young People." This is a program conducted in Latin America in cooperation with organizations specializing in education for low-income groups.
- "War, Peace, and Hope." These programs are directed to supporting peace and reconciliation in Kashmir, Afghanistan, and Indonesia.
- "Education and Lobbying" [*Educación y Movilización*]: a research program focusing on work in Hong Kong and southern China. "Democracy and Community Development": programs under way in Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia.

**5. OAS work areas to which Alternatives can provide support**

Alternatives undertakes to support the work of the OAS and to put forward recommendations on the best way to achieve its objectives in the following areas: democracy, education, human rights, and environment.

Alternatives would mainly work with the Unit for Social Development and Education (USDE) and the Unit for the Promotion of Democracy (UPD), helping with social and economic development and democracy-related activities.

Alternatives has also successfully facilitated talks between civil society and the governments of Caribbean countries. The NGOs and the government representatives were able to express their points of view regarding the integration efforts under way in the region. Alternatives hopes to replicate this experience in Central America, the Andean countries, and MERCOSUR.

**6. Documents submitted by Alternatives**

- Letter addressed to the Secretary General
- Annual Reports for 2000 and 2001
- By-laws
- Certificate of Incorporation
- Institutional mission statement
- 2002 Financial Report