

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)]

*(CENTRE D'ÉTUDES INTERAMÉRICAINES) / CENTRO DE ESTUDIOS INTERAMERICANOS
(CEI) - UNIVERSITÉ LAVAL*

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION CONCERNING THE *CENTRE D'ÉTUDES
INTERAMÉRICAINES (CEI) - UNIVERSITÉ LAVAL*

This document was prepared by the Secretariat for the Summit Process to provide information on the *Centre d'études interaméricaines (CEI)* (Inter-American Studies Center) - *Université Laval*.

It contains the basic data and a list of supporting documentation submitted by this civil society organization (CSO) pursuant to the Guidelines for Participation by Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities.

I. Background

The *Centre d'études interaméricaines* was established on September 10, 2002, to study the evolution of inter-American cooperation through the Summits of the Americas process under the mandates pertaining to economic integration, free trade, democracy, human rights, health, education, hemispheric security, and sustainable development, and thus to provide information and allow for its exchange among universities, research centers, and all actors of the inter-American system.

The Summit of the Americas held in 2001 in Quebec, Canada, gave rise to the establishment of the *Centre d'études interaméricaines*, the aim of which is to study the dynamics of political processes and the construction of theories of international relations in the social and culture arenas and to promote research on integration processes in the Hemisphere.

The CEI funds its activities through an association between the *Université Laval* and the Ministry of International Relations of Quebec. The University is responsible for meeting all infrastructure-building requirements and for funding CEI research on inter-American affairs through the Institute for Advanced International Studies of Quebec.

The *Centre d'études interaméricaines (CEI) - Université Laval* submitted its application on September 26, 2003.

II. Name, address, and date of establishment

Name:	<i>Centre d'études interaméricaines - Université Laval</i>
Address:	Pavillon Charles-De Koninck, Bureau 5458F Université Laval, Québec G1K 7P4 Canada
Telephone:	(418) 656 2131 ext. 6538
Fax:	(418) 656 3634
Director:	Gordon Mace
Internet address:	www.cei.ulaval.ca

E-mail address: cei@hei.ulaval.ca

Date established: September 10, 2002

III. Primary areas of activity and their relationship to OAS activities

The purpose of the *Centre d'études interaméricaines* is to study inter-American cooperation promoting Summits of the Americas initiatives in the areas of economic integration, free trade, democracy, human rights, education, security, and sustainable development and to provide independent multidisciplinary analysis of the challenges of inter-American affairs.

The *Centre d'études interaméricaines* seeks to facilitate cooperation and the dissemination and exchange of information among universities, research centers, governments, and the private sector and thereby foster inter-American dialogue. It focuses on:

- Studying the dynamics of political processes within the study of international affairs, so as to build models appropriate to changing social and cultural circumstances.
- Fostering public awareness of inter-American realities through conventional communications media that promote cooperation in the Hemisphere.
- Supporting research to develop the independent analytical ability to assess the implications of inter-American cooperation.

IV. Contributions by this CSO that could be of interest to the OAS

The *Centre d'études interaméricaines* believes that its participation in OAS activities could support the Organization in the following areas:

- Promotion of educational and research projects, with the cooperation of universities or research centers in cities where Summits of the Americas have been held (Miami, Santiago, Quebec, and Monterrey), possibly to later include new centers or universities.
- Helping to train specialists in inter-American affairs.
- Administering the master's and post-doctoral program in international affairs, so as to establish research opportunities and fellowships in inter-American affairs.
- Working through the departments and schools of the *Université Laval* in conducting conferences, seminars, and forums that promote cooperation in the Hemisphere.
- Establishing an interface between actors of the inter-American system to promote public awareness of events in the Americas.

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

The *Centre d'études interaméricaines* will work with the OAS in seeking solutions to the political, social, and juridical challenges of the member states, through specific programs conducted by OAS bodies.

The Center will support the efforts of the OAS and its various bodies in:

- The follow-up to the Summits of the Americas in the various areas and agreements to be reached.
- Publicizing and supporting the work of the OAS, especially that of the Secretariat for the Summit Process, so as to broaden civil society participation.
- Establishing mechanisms for research and follow-up to find solutions to the political, juridical, economic, and social challenges facing OAS member states.
- Information exchange with the various OAS bodies in the fields of integration, defense, and hemispheric security.
- Conducting and promoting seminars and forums with various academic institutions or civil society organizations, the aim being to set forth clear proposals for government policy design.

VI. Documents submitted by the CSO

- Letter addressed to the Secretary General
- Annual report for the 2002-2003 period
- Statutes dated September 10, 2002
- Financial report for 2003, audited by the *Université Laval*
- Strategic plans and financial reports for 2003 through 2006, audited by the *Université Laval*.