

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)]

[Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI)]

ANALYSIS OF ELEMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION BY CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES AND COOPERATION (CECI) IN THE FRAMEWORK OF REGISTRATION BY CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS 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 *Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI)*.

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." This document includes a summary and list of documentation presented by *Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI)* in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

1. **Background**

Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI) is a civil society organization founded on October 18, 1968 in Quebec, Canada, with the mission to combat poverty and exclusion and improve citizen security and violence prevention by mobilizing resources and the transfer of knowledge to disadvantaged communities around the world.

CECI carries out projects in nearly 40 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Asia, including Bolivia, El Salvador, Guatemala and Haiti. Its projects fall into five main categories: 1) Democratic governance and local development; 2) Agriculture and food; 3) Volunteering programs; 4) Humanitarian aid and security; and 5) Gender equality.

In the area of democratic governance and local development, *CECI* works in partnership with governments and local civil society organizations to strengthen their efforts toward decentralization. *CECI* carries out projects in Guatemala and Haiti aimed at improving the efficiency of small businesses and indigenous peoples, particularly in the fields of agriculture, public-private investments, tourism and local entrepreneurship in order to stimulate job creation and income generation.

CECI's programs in agriculture seek to improve food security and food distribution in vulnerable communities by supporting rural production and domestic consumption of food goods as a tool for fostering a participatory model for local development. *CECI's* volunteer programs have the objective of transferring skills and knowledge to the global south, building the capacity of marginalized groups and civil society to act effectively in their communities to promote their growth, especially in the areas of economic development, health, women's rights, governance and non-formal education. Examples of such projects include the Uniterra program underway in Guatemala, in which volunteers trained indigenous women skills for producing food and generating income for their families, as well as in Haiti, for which *CECI* supports the deployment of the Haitian Diaspora in Canada to Haiti to aid humanitarian efforts.

In the field of security, *CECI*, in cooperation with RTI International, has launched its Community Violence and Crime Prevention Program (CVPP) in El Salvador with the goal to improve citizen security by strengthening the capacity of governments at the national level to prevent

crime and violence through decentralized policy and strategy, crime observatories, and standardized indicators that monitor violence and prevention efforts. At the local level, this program supports community-based prevention programs in 12 municipalities in El Salvador through technical assistance and small grants, in cooperation with community leaders, youth, civil society organizations and government authorities.

CECI places a particular emphasis on the role of women in development and gender equality in political participation. Some of its projects include the “Un Aguayo for Risk-Free Childbirth” in Bolivia that seeks to reduce infant and maternal mortality rates among Aymara communities, the Uniterro program in Guatemala, and the Gender Equality Project in Mali that has as its objective to increase the participation of women in healthcare, law and governance.

CECI has financed its activities through grants from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the World Bank.

CECI presented its application to be registered with the OAS on February 15, 2011.

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

Name: Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI)

Address: 300 Omer Lavallée
Monreal, Quebec H1Y 3R8
Canada

Telephone: (514) 875-9911

Fax: (514) 875-6469

E-mail address: info@ceci.ca

Website: www.ceci.ca

Chair, Board of Directors: Suzanne Laporte

Executive Director: Mario Renaud

Date of foundation: October 18, 1968

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

CECI seeks to promote development, inclusion and citizen security by supporting local and national initiatives to empower communities to effectively contribute to their own development. The main areas of activity and contributions that could be of interest to the OAS include:

- Strengthening public security through the implementation of programs that support national and municipal strategies to address the causes of crime and violence, monitoring and evaluation of crime indicators and the establishment of partnerships among governments, civil society organizations, local leaders and at-risk youth;
- Fostering social and economic development of marginalized and vulnerable communities through training programs in which volunteers teach skills for agricultural production, and improved efficiency of small and micro enterprises that contribute to job creation, increased income and improved living conditions;
- Promoting democratic governance by providing technical assistance to government decentralization initiatives and facilitating greater collaboration between governments and civil society organizations; and
- Increasing gender equality and the development of women through projects that focus on increasing women's political participation, building their capacity to establish and maintain small businesses, and improving maternal health.

4. OAS Work Areas to which the CSO can provide support

CECI offers to collaborate with the OAS in the following areas:

- Promote the principles of the OAS Charter and the Inter-American Democratic Charter;
- Offer recommendations to the Committee on Hemispheric Security of the Permanent Council regarding strategies for the prevention of crime and violence in the Americas;
- Participate in and present recommendations during the Meetings of Ministers of Public Security of the Americas (MISPA) regarding the follow-up and implementation of the Commitment to Public Security in the Americas and the Consensus of Santo Domingo on Public Security;
- Collaborate with the Department of Public Security of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security, especially by providing information and data to the Inter-American Observatory of Public Safety in relation to trends in crime and violence in the region;
- Provide recommendations to the Inter-American Committee on Social Development (CIDES) of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), and cooperate with the Department of Social Development and Employment of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development, particularly in its programs related to food security, poverty reduction and employment;
- Share experiences with and lend technical assistance to the Department of Effective Public Management of the Secretariat for Political Affairs (SPA) regarding best practices for strengthening government institutions and decentralization; and

- Cooperate with the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) in the promotion of the full and equal participation by women in the civil, political, economic, social, and cultural spheres.

5. Documentation submitted to the OAS

- Letter to the OAS Secretary General dated February 15, 2011
- Certificate of Incorporation
- Statutes
- Declaration of institutional mission statement
- Annual Report 2009-2010
- Financial Statements 2010 (audited by Samson Bélair, Chartered Accountant Auditor, Deloitte & Touche)
- Informational Brochure – Community-Based Crime and Violence Prevention in El Salvador