

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

[IFEX]

REVIEW OF THE APPLICATION BY *IFEX* TO BE REGISTERED WITH THE OAS

This document was prepared by the Relations with Civil Society Section of the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity to provide the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) with information on the civil society organization *IFEX*.

The information contained in this report is provided pursuant to resolution CP/RES. 759 (1217/99), “Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities.” This document includes a summary and a list of data and documentation submitted by *IFEX* in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

1. Background

IFEX was established in Toronto, Canada, on November 27, 2014 as a non-profit organization. Its purpose is to defend and promote freedom of expression and information as a human right.

A network of 104 organizations in 65 countries, *IFEX*’s goal is to uncover violations of the right to freedom of expression worldwide in order to get the attention of governments; involve citizens in promoting and teaching human rights at the local level; and fight against censorship and attacks on journalists, citizens, artists, activists, etc.

Through its Americas branch office, *IFEX*-ALC, it promotes the right to freedom of expression and information in coordination with 25 civil society organizations from 17 countries of the Hemisphere in:

- Raising awareness about violations of freedom of expression and information by publishing articles and distributing publications and thematic reports on its website and via social media;
- Advocacy and campaigns to promote and defend freedom of expression and information at the local, national, and international levels;
- Involving citizens in promoting and defending freedom of expression and information against attacks on journalists and human rights advocates;
- Sharing information and best practices on the right to freedom of expression and information;
- Training civil society to protect the right to freedom of expression and information;

IFEX finances its activities with funds from government institutions such as the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency; and from private sector organizations including the Ford Foundation, the Open Society Institute, Oxfam Novib, and Sigrid Rausing Trust.

IFEX applied for registration with the OAS on September 13, 2016.

2. Name, address, and date of establishment

Name of Organization: IFEX

Address: 555 Richmond Street West, Suite 1101, P.O.
BOX 407
Toronto, ON, Canada, M5V 3B1

Telephone: +1 (416) 515-9622 ext. 227

E-mail: agame@ifex.org

Website: www.ifex.org

Executive Director: Anna Game

Date established: November 27, 2014

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

IFEX is engaged in defending and promoting freedom of expression as a human right. The primary areas of activity and contributions by *IFEX* that could be of interest to the OAS include:

- Human rights promotion through campaigns to raise awareness of civil society and governments about violations of the right to freedom of expression, access to information, digital rights, and the right to free association, among others;
- Organizing conferences, workshops, and discussions for civil society and the public at large on the right to freedom of expression and information, through the network's member organizations;
- Producing reports to encourage dialogue and development of public policies on issues related to freedom of and information.

4. Identification of potential areas of collaboration with the OAS

IFEX proposes to support the OAS in the following areas:

- Promoting the principles of the Inter-American Democratic Charter nationally and internationally, especially those related to democracy promotion and human rights protection in the region, through campaigns to denounce violations of these democratic principles;
- Collaborating with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), in particular its Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, to promote

the pursuit of public policies to defend the media's and citizens' right to freedom of expression and information; and supporting on-site visits by providing documents and reports on specific cases of violations of the right to freedom of expression and information;

- Supporting the work of the Mission to Support the Fight against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (MACCIH) by sharing information about violations of the human rights of journalists;
- Participating in the hemispheric debates and activities of the OAS with civil society and remitting recommendations to OAS member states that could serve as inputs for events such as the OAS General Assembly, meetings of the Permanent Council and its committees, IACHR sessions, and so on.

5. Documents submitted to the OAS

- Letter to the OAS Secretary General, dated September 13, 2016
- Articles of Incorporation
- Statutes
- Mission and Institutional Vision Statement
- Management Report for 2015
- Financial Statements 2015

Civil Society Organizations part of the IFEX network in the Hemisphere:

Argentina

Asociación por los Derechos Civiles
Foro de Periodismo Argentino

Bolivia

Asociación Nacional de la Prensa

Brazil

Associação Brasileira de Jornalismo Investigativo

Canada

Canadian Journalists for Free Expression
OpenMedia
PEN Canada

Chile

Derechos Digitales

Colombia

Fundación para la Libertad de Prensa
Fundación Karisma

Costa Rica

Instituto de Prensa y Libertad de Expresión – IPLEX

Ecuador

Fundamedios

United States

Inter-American Press Association
PEN American Center

Guatemala

Centro de Reportes Informativos sobre Guatemala – CERIGUA

Honduras

Comité por la Libre Expresión - C-Libre

Mexico

Centro Nacional de Comunicación Social

Paraguay

Sindicato de Periodistas del Paraguay

Peru

Instituto Prensa y Sociedad

Observatorio Latinoamericano para la Libertad de Expresión - OLA

Trinidad & Tobago

Association of Caribbean Media Workers

Trinidad and Tobago's Publishers and Broadcasters Association

Uruguay

Centro de Archivos y Acceso a la Información Pública

Venezuela

Espacio Público

Instituto Prensa y Sociedad de Venezuela

Source: <https://www.ifex.org/americas/all/>