

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)]

[Inclusion International (II)]

ANALYSIS OF THE ELEMENTS RELATED TO THE PARTICIPATION OF *INCLUSION INTERNATIONAL (II)* IN THE REGISTRATION PROCESS OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN OAS ACTIVITIES

This document was prepared by the Summits of the Americas Department to provide Member States with information on *Inclusion International (II)* pursuant to resolution CP/RES. 759 (1217/99), "Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities". The document contains the basic data and a list of supporting documentation presented by *Inclusion International (II)*, in accordance with the aforementioned guidelines.

1. Background

Inclusion International (II) was incorporated as a charity in Cardiff, Wales on March 12, 2004. *Inclusion International* is a federation of organizations working towards the inclusion of persons with intellectual disabilities and their families in all aspects of community life. The office of its president is located in Toronto, Canada and its administrative/secretarial headquarters is located in London, Great Britain.

Inclusion International focuses its activities and programs on the following thematic areas: human rights, education, democracy, poverty, culture, health and child mortality, environmental sustainability, children and family rights, gender equality, and social and economic development. *Inclusion International* pursues its objectives through organizing conferences and forums, partnering with various international and national organizations, engaging civil society, supporting its member organizations in carrying out local and regional activities, researching and writing status reports, and making policy recommendations with regards to intellectually disabled persons and their families.

Inclusion International has a membership of more than 115 organizations in 200 countries throughout five regions (Middle East and North Africa, Europe, Africa and the Indian Ocean, the Americas, and Asia Pacific). *Inclusion International* operates in the Americas through its regional partner, *Inclusion Inter-Americana*, which has a membership of 20 organizations from 19 countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Cuba, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, USA, and Venezuela) and has carried out initiatives in the 34 countries of the region. The Director General of *Inclusion Inter-Americana* is based in Nicaragua and its directive team is comprised of regional councils.

Inclusion International has been involved in programs with the Organization of American States (OAS), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Bank, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the International Labour Organization (ILO), and the United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Inclusion International funds its activities and operations through membership dues paid by its member organizations. Specific projects have been funded by the Norwegian Association, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the World Bank, the Department of Economic and Social Development (DESA) of the United Nations, and the ABILIS Foundation.

Inclusion International submitted its application on May 9, 2005.

2. Name, address, and date of establishment

Name of the Organization:	<i>Inclusion International</i>	
Address:	Office of the President Kinsmen Building York University 4700 Keele Street Toronto, Ontario, M3J 1P3 Canada	Inclusion International Secretariat The Rix Centre, Room 1001 University of East London 4-6 University Way, Dockland Campus London, Great Britain E16 2RD
Telephone:	(416) 661-9611	+44 (0) 208-223-7709
Fax:	(416) 661-5701	+44 (0) 208-223-7411
Website:	http://www.inclusion-international.org http://www.inclusion-ia.org	
E-mail address:	dianer@inclusion-international.org info@inclusion-international.org	
President	Diane Richler	
Date established:	2004	

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

Inclusion International's main objective is to work towards the full and equal participation of people with intellectual disabilities and their families in society. *Inclusion International* develops strategies against discrimination, intolerance, inequality, and poverty, and promotes citizenship and democracy. The following areas of activity in which *Inclusion International* is involved are related to those of the OAS:

- Promote the development of international conventions, declarations, and policies that uphold and advance the rights of people with disabilities and motivate civil society participation in these processes;
- Promote partnerships, cooperation, and information exchange among civil society, government, the private sector, and multilateral organizations in addressing human rights inequalities and foster democracy in encouraging the participation of all citizens, including the disabled;
- Support poverty alleviation activities among vulnerable sectors in society through promoting sustainable and equitable development, the creation of decent jobs, and the elimination of stigma and discrimination in the workplace;

- Raise awareness and advocate for the legal, social, and political rights of children and families that suffer inequality, with particular attention to ensuring adequate education, health care and social support; and
- Address the impact of HIV/AIDS on vulnerable populations and promote policies and programs that provide care for infected persons and children orphaned by the disease.

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

Inclusion International works to create strategies that strengthen the capacity of governments, communities, civil society organizations and multilateral organizations to develop policies and practices that are inclusive of people with intellectual disabilities. *Inclusion International* activities that can contribute to the OAS include the following:

- Monitor the negotiation, implementation and adoption of international instruments directly related to the rights of disabled persons, including the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities, and the United Nations (UN) Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities;
- Make presentations to create awareness among international organizations on ways to assist the disabled and incorporate disabled people into strategies and programs;
- Coordinate and host regional and international forums, meetings and seminars, foster the participation of civil society in these events, and disseminate their results;
- Participate in discussions among multilateral institutions, civil society organizations, and governments to focus attention on persons with disabilities, and promote inclusive policies through elaborating reports, participating in forums, and developing partnerships among these groups to design and implement programs;
- Strengthen civil society engagement in advocacy and policy-making through educational initiatives and facilitating participation of civil society representatives at forums and meetings; and
- Write reports and disseminate information among civil society on international instruments that relate to the rights of disabled persons.

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

As a federation of civil society organizations working at regional, national, and international levels to develop strategies with a view to promoting the equality and social inclusion of disabled persons and their families, *Inclusion International* can support the efforts of the OAS in the following ways:

- Support the work of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) with a view to ensuring compliance with international agreements and treaties that specifically delineate the rights of disabled persons;
- Promote the participation of members of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) in training and skills-building programs for disability rights activists and disabled self-advocates in the Americas;
- Support the efforts of the Working Group to Prepare a Draft Inter-American Convention against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance of the Permanent Council's Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) through making presentations, providing reports and ensuring that issues related to the mentally disabled are included in the negotiations;
- Contribute to dialogues with civil society organizations at ministerial meetings, such as the Meeting of Ministers of Education and the Meeting of Health and Environment Ministers of the Americas (HEMA);
- Assist the Inter-American Committee for Social Development (CIDES) of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) in formulating and implementing policies for combating poverty, social exclusion, and social inequality among disabled persons and their families;
- Raise awareness on issues related to children with mental disabilities and their families by participating in the initiatives of the Child and Family Inter-American Information Program (PIINFA) of the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN) through developing publications, reports, and educational materials and collaborate in workshops, training sessions, and information exchange;
- Support the work of the Summits of the Americas Department and participate in its various activities to foster communication and sharing of experience among civil society organizations; and
- Participate and follow-up on General Assembly resolutions and Summits of the Americas mandates, in particular, cooperate in implementing the proposed Declaration on the Decade of the Americas for Persons with Disabilities (2006-2016) and the program of action, and foster recognition of the importance of the Summits and their mandates among civil society.

6. Documents submitted to the OAS

- Letter addressed to the Secretary General (undated - received on May 9, 2005)
- Certificate of Incorporation
- Memorandum and Articles of Association of *Inclusion International*
- Project Profile "Inclusive Education: a strategy for improving the quality and equity of Central American educational systems" (Spanish)
- Financial Reports for 2003 (audited by Cabinet SA Avvens Sogec Veillerot)
- *II's* Draft Strategic Plan dated July 2003

- *Inclusion* International's Millennium Development Goals (IIMDGs) and associated projects and initiatives
- *Inclusion International* institutional pamphlet
- Document entitled "Poverty and Disability in the Middle East and North Africa"
- Interim Report on the project "Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion on the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities"
- Email received December 22, 2005 providing a list of sources of funding