

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)]

[Société de coopération pour le développement international (SOCODEVI)]

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION CONCERNING THE
SOCIÉTÉ DE COOPÉRATION POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT INTERNATIONAL (SOCODEVI)

This document was prepared by the Summits of the Americas Secretariat to provide information on the *Société de coopération pour le développement international (SOCODEVI)*.

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.

1. Background

The *Société de coopération pour le développement international* (Association for Cooperation for International Cooperation) (*SOCODEVI*) is a private, nonprofit association founded in 1985. *SOCODEVI* is an organization of Canadian cooperatives. Its purpose is to use the experience of its active members to help people in developing countries create job and business opportunities. It is headquartered in Quebec, Canada.

SOCODEVI conducts its activities in the areas of agri-food, insurance, forestry, microfinance, local development, health, funeral services, and school services. It pursues its objectives through project design and implementation, technical assistance for said projects, the establishment of commercial partnerships, environmental protection and conservation, the creation of mechanisms facilitating access to credit, strengthening of cooperatives, and advisory services.

SOCODEVI works with various organizations in pursuing its objectives. The expertise of its nine active members is in milk products, maple products, farm supplies and related services, insurance, and financial products. Its principal partners are the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Inter-American Development Bank.

It receives the largest share of its financial support from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), and also receives contributions from the French Development Agency, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Lastly, it receives financial support from its member organizations.

SOCODEVI submitted its application on February 17, 2005.

2. Name, address, and date of establishment

Name of the Organization: *Société de coopération pour le développement international (SOCODEVI)*

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Quebec, Canada G1S 4P2

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E-mail address: administration@sociodevi.org
r.lantagne@socodevi.org
Contact Person: Réjean Lantagne, President
Date established: January 10, 2001

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

SOCODEVI's primary objective is to promote the cooperative movement among people in the developing countries. It does so by designing projects on sustainable development, credit access mechanisms, technical assistance for updating projects, environmental protection, coordination of member organizations, and publication of a biannual bulletin. In this regard, *SOCODEVI*'s areas of activity are related to those of the OAS in the following:

- Advocacy of activities to promote such basic rights as health, employment, and education for the inhabitants of the world's poorest villages and to foster the participation of these people in managing their own future
- Exchange of information to help people take decisions on how to implement, update, and streamline their sustainable development projects
- Participation, along with other sectors and civil society organizations, in workshops, conferences, and seminars in order to develop agreements and policies to promote the cooperative movement and encourage dialogue among the players on best practices in the area of sustainable development
- Following up on agreements and mandates on achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals to combat the poverty afflicting many of the world's underdeveloped countries.

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

SOCODEVI considers that its participation in OAS activities can play a role in strengthening the cooperative movement and in promoting basic rights and sustainable development. Likewise, *SOCODEVI* can contribute to the OAS as follows:

- Sharing of experiences with, and presentation of reports to, various OAS bodies so as to discuss the accomplishments and challenges of sustainable development activities in the field

- Support for the formulation of agreements, policies, and projects to raise awareness of the cooperative movement and implement the Millennium Development Goals
- Collaboration in following up on mandates on the fight against poverty in the countries of the Hemisphere that may be essential to boost the economy and achieve the economic stability needed to strengthen democracy
- Design of leadership courses and workshops to teach people in the developing countries of the Americas how to assert their rights and raise their standard of living

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

SOCODEVI offers to work with the OAS in the areas of trade, sustainable development, the environment, science and technology, and labor. It supports stronger ties between the OAS as an international organization, local governments, and civil society, to promote the Millennium Development Goals in the Americas. It will support the efforts of the OAS in the following:

- Collaboration with the OAS Office of Education, Science, and Technology of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) in holding workshops, seminars, and forums to discuss how basic workers' rights affect the economy and on how to improve employee working conditions. Likewise, *SOCODEVI* could help design teaching programs to train workers in the use of technology designed to improve work efficiency and obtain higher quality products
- Collaboration with the Office of Sustainable Development and Environment of SEDI in environmental protection and management, which are essential for the sustainable use of natural resources, for the economy, and for preservation of the lifestyles of the inhabitants of the Americas
- Development with SEDI of projects involving both civil society and the private sector to bolster relations between those sectors, with a view to eradicating poverty, benefiting from the digital revolution, and moving toward economic and social development
- Support for the Office of Trade, Growth, and Competitiveness of SEDI in its efforts to promote prosperity and free trade, and technical assistance to small and medium-sized enterprises to achieve economic growth

6. Documents submitted by the CSO

- Letter addressed to the Secretary General, dated February 17, 2005
- Articles of Constitution
- Bylaws
- 2003-2004 Annual Report
- Financial report for 2003 (audited by PriceWaterhouseCoopers S. R. L.)