

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

*[Centro de Discapacitados Víctimas de la Talidomida en Chile (VITACHI)]*

## ANALYSIS OF THE APPLICATION FROM *CENTRO DE DISCAPACITADOS VÍCTIMAS DE LA TALIDOMIDA EN CHILE (VITACHI)* TO BE REGISTERED WITH THE OAS

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 *Centro de Discapacitados Víctimas de la Talidomida en Chile (VITACHI)*.

The information contained herein is in response to resolution CP/RES. 759 (1217/99), “Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities,” and includes a summary and a list of data and documentation presented by *Centro de Discapacitados Víctimas de la Talidomida en Chile (VITACHI)* in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

### 1. **Background**

*Centro de Discapacitados Víctimas de la Talidomida en Chile (VITACHI)* was established on February 1, 2010, in Santiago, Chile, to protect and strengthen the rights of persons with disabilities. To that end, it encourages greater proactiveness in the design of public policies to ensure their provision of assistance, autonomy, integration, and advancement in society.

*VITACHI* organizes seminars on the human rights of persons with disabilities with the aim of fostering their social inclusion and raising public awareness. In 2012, it held four seminars, targeting community leaders in Estación Central, Maipú, and students in the Metropolitan Region. The events benefited more than 260 people by disseminating and sharing with them the contents of Law 20.422 (Law on Equal Opportunities and Social Inclusion for Persons with Disabilities in Chile). *VITACHI* also took part in the fourth meeting of the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (CEDDIS) “Forging an Inclusive Americas,” held in Santiago, Chile, from November 27 to 29, 2012.

*VITACHI* participates in the activities and seminars organized for civil society by the National Disability Service (SENADIS). It also stages press conferences and advocacy activities on behalf of people who took thalidomide (a prescription drug sold from 1958 to 1963 as a sedative for calming morning sickness in the first three months of pregnancy) and lobbies for the adoption of Draft Decision No. 237 by the House of Deputies of the Republic of Chile, which includes the creation of a register for anyone affected by the above drug and the establishment of appropriate compensatory benefits.

*VITACHI* is funded through contributions from its 48 members and carries out projects financed by the *Junta de Vecinos Poblaciones Nogales*, the *Junta de Vecinos Comuna de Maipú*, the *Dirección Académica y Centro de Exalumnos del Liceo Ruiz-Tagle*, and the *Centro de Padres y Apoderados del Boston College*.

*VITACHI* submitted its application to the OAS on Wednesday, January 30, 2013.

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

Name: Centro de Discapacitados Víctimas de la Talidomida en Chile (VITACHI)

Address: Pablo Neruda 29  
Estación Central – Santiago de Chile  
Chile

Telephone: +56 2 9697-5417

E-mail address: cesarrodriguez@hotmail.com

President: César Rodríguez Urzúa

Date established: February 1, 2010

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

*VITACHI* promotes and protects the human rights of persons with disabilities. The main areas of activity and contributions of the CSO that may be of interest to the OAS include:

- promotion and protection of the rights of people with disabilities through public policy advocacy in the Republic of Chile and the organization of seminars to exchange information and experiences as well as raise awareness; and
- Disseminating the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (CIADDIS) and the Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (PAD) (2006-2016).

**4. OAS work areas to which the CSO can provide support**

*VITACHI* would like to work with the OAS in the following areas:

- Promoting the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the American Convention on Human Rights.
- Collaborating with recommendations and reporting to the Technical Secretariat for the Implementation of the Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (SEDISCAP) and to the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities;
- Providing the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) with information on the situation of persons with disabilities in Chile; and

- Assisting the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development with its work in the framework of the Inter-American Social Protection Network (RIPSO), in order to foster social inclusion, protection, and opportunities for persons with disabilities.

**5. Documents submitted by the CSO to the OAS**

- Letter to the OAS Secretary General, dated January 30, 2013
- Articles of Incorporation
- Statutes
- Mission statement
- Activity report for 2012
- Financial statements for 2012 (signed by Ángel Gabriel Vallejos Contreras, Treasurer)