

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)]

[*Fundación Pro Acceso*]

## ANALYSIS OF FACTORS RELATING TO THE APPLICATION BY *FUNDACIÓN PRO ACCESO* 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 *Fundación Pro Acceso*.

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.” This document contains a summary and a list of supporting documentation presented by *Fundación Pro Acceso* in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

### **1. Background**

*Fundación Pro Acceso* is a non-profit organization founded on May 8 2006, in Santiago, Chile, to promote transparency and guarantee citizens access to public information, thereby strengthening such access as a fundamental right for public policy formulation.

*Fundación Pro Acceso* works jointly with a number of stakeholders to disseminate the contents of, and promote access to, information in public administration as every person's right. To that end, it conducts training workshops, in which nearly 2,500 civil servants, journalists, and civil society representatives have participated. It has also filed requests for information regarding natural resource management, HIV/AIDS, and budgeting.

In legal matters, *Fundación Pro Acceso* has cooperated with, and contributed to, activities of international concern, such as the *Marcel Claude Reyes et al versus Chile* case before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. The judgment handed down in that case recognizes the right to information as a human right implicit in freedom of expression. Within Chile, *Fundación Pro Acceso* contributed to the parliamentary debate of the Access to Information bill, which culminated in 2008 in Chile's new Transparency and Access to Information Act. Together with the Alberto Hurtado University, *Fundación Pro Acceso* established the Legal Clinic on Access to Public Information.

With a view to promoting access to information, *Fundación Pro Acceso* has produced a number of publications on such topics as salmon farming, aquaculture, protection of privacy and of matters of a personal nature, and sexual and reproductive health rights. *Fundación Pro Acceso* has partnered with Argentina's *Asociación por los Derechos Civiles*, Peru's *Instituto Prensa y Sociedad*, Guatemala's *Acción Ciudadana*, *Centro de Archivos y Acceso a la Información Pública*, *Transparencia Venezuela*, Mexico's *Fundar – Centro de Análisis e Investigación de México*, Ecuador's *Fundación Andina para la Observación y Estudios de Medios (Fundamedios)*, and *Instituto de Derecho y Economía Ambiental (IDEA)*. It also contributed to the launching of the Latin American Network of Journalists for Access to Public Information.

*Fundación Pro Acceso* has financed its projects and activities with contributions and programs financed by Chile's National Council of Culture and the Arts, its National Civil Service Directorate, its Office of the Undersecretary for Telecommunications, its Civil Aviation Board, the

American Bar Associations, Oxfam, the Open Society Institute, the Alberto Hurtado University, and Trust for the Americas.

*Fundación Pro Acceso* submitted its application to the OAS on November 4, 2010.

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

Name: Fundación Pro Acceso

Address: Mariano Sánchez Fontecilla 370, Las Condes  
Santiago, Chile

Telephone/fax: (56-2) 3815663 / (56-2) 3815664

E-mail address: msanchez@proacceso.cl; dcorrea@proacceso.cl

Website: www.proacceso.cl

Executive Director: Moisés Sánchez Riquelme

Date established: May 8, 2006

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

*Fundación Pro Acceso* works to promote access to public information, a fundamental right upheld in the Chilean Constitution, and its impact on social progress and the strengthening of democracy. Primary areas of activity and contributions that could be of interest to the OAS:

- Strengthening of democratic institutions and citizen participation in public affairs through training courses on leadership, transparency, and access to public information;
- Fostering of transparency in public administration and monitoring of the implementation of domestic laws by filing requests for public information; and
- Training of civil servants in integrity, transparency, and access to information.

**4. Identification of potential areas of collaboration with the OAS**

*Fundación Pro Acceso* would like to support the OAS in the following areas:

- Disseminating and promoting the principles of the Inter-American Democratic Charter;

- Reporting on the status of freedom of expression in the region to the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR);
- Putting forward recommendations to the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) of the Permanent Council and to the Department of International Law of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs (SLA) regarding the Model Inter-American Law on Access to Public Information;
- Supporting the Inter-American Juridical Committee with regard to legislation on information and administration of justice;
- Collaborating with the Department of Effective Public Management of the Secretariat for Political Affairs (SPA), especially in its transparency and governance programs, with a view to enhancing the transparency and integrity of the public administrations in the various States; and
- Cooperating with the Department of Human Development, Education, and Culture (DHDEC) of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI), especially in implementing the Inter-American Program on Education for Democratic Values and Practices.

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

- Letter addressed to the OAS Secretary General, dated November 4, 2010
- Articles of Agreement
- Statute
- Mission Statement
- Annual Report for 2009, 2008 and 2006
- Financial Statements for 2009 and 2006 (audited by accountant Carlos Fuentes)
- DVD "*Hacia la Reforma, Chile y otros países de Sudamérica*"