

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)]

[Cooperativa Programa de Economía del Trabajo (PET)]
(Labor Economy Program Cooperative)]

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION CONCERNING THE *COOPERATIVA PROGRAMA DE ECONOMÍA DEL TRABAJO*

This document was prepared by the Summits of the Americas Department to provide information on the civil society organization *Cooperativa Programa de Economía del Trabajo (PET)*.

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

Cooperativa Programa de Economía del Trabajo (PET) is a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization, structured as a workers' cooperative, established in Santiago, Chile, in 1978. It has a variable number of worker members, from among whom is elected its management council, charged with implementing the decisions of the General Membership Council.

PET endeavors to foster equitable, democratic, sustainable development in Latin America. Its aims include seeking to strengthen investigation-action, improving the quality of life of the population and the promotion capabilities of labor society actors, strengthening social and institutional networks, contributing to local development, participatory management, and dialogue between civil society and the public sector.

Its mission is to promote stronger social and labor organizations so as to overcome poverty, through research, instruction, training, advisory services, technical assistance, receipt of proposals, dissemination, and development cooperation. Associations with which PET works include labor workshops, microenterprises, workers' cooperatives, indigenous labor organizations, women's territorial social organizations, environmental organizations, union federations, and independent workers.

PET's funding comes from private organizations, such as ECO-ONG, *Fundación Andes*, *Universidad Academia de Humanismo Cristiano*, *Sucursal Valparaíso*, *Tienda de Comercio Justo*; solidarity funds such as FOSIS-metropolitan south zone; and foreign organizations, such as Development Service of the Evangelical Missions in Germany (EED), Ford Foundation, OXFAM, Temuco Project, Global Police, Catholic Committee against Hunger and for Development (CCFD), *Plataforma Komyuniti*, *Responsabilidad Social Empresarial*, *Centro de Asesoría Laboral de Perú* (CEDAL), and the Inter-American Platform on Human Rights, Democracy, and Development.

PET filed its application with the OAS on August 10, 2005.

2. Name, address, and date of establishment

Name: *Cooperativa Programa de Economía del Trabajo (PET)*

Address of head office: Dr. Sotero del Río # 492 Piso 5 comuna de Santiago
Santiago, Chile

Telephone: (562) 2 688 7761

Fax: (562) 2 688 3971

E-mail address: pet@petchile.cl

Website: www.petchile.cl

President/Director: Carmen Espinoza Miranda

Date established: February 1, 1989

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

PET works mainly on strengthening the labor world and fostering action to overcome poverty. It accomplishes its objectives through research, training, and assistance to social agents who interact with the labor market. PET's activities in this area relate to OAS activities as follows:

- Develop and monitor programs for advisory services and training to microenterprise and social organizations, so as to strengthen their understanding of the sector, influence government policy, and promote social and economic development.
- Contribute to the equitable and sustainable development of Latin America and the Caribbean through democracy-building projects.
- Encourage dialogue among the various actors involved in the labor market on best practices for building solid, efficient businesses.
- Promote research projects in a context of respect for economic, social, and cultural human rights; and support projects aimed at eliminating gender discrimination against women in the labor area.
- Support the productive capacity-building of small and medium enterprises as essential participants in the economic growth of countries.

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

PET conducts projects aimed at overcoming poverty and improving living conditions for the population, in an environment that stresses the importance of sustainable development and equitable distribution of wealth. *PET* contributions that could be of interest to the OAS are:

- Conducting studies to evaluate the economic viability, under market and supply-structure conditions, of specific activities in the microenterprise sector.
- Implementing management and business-strengthening programs for small and medium enterprises, including technical training in areas related to associative enterprises, risk prevention, credit access, and others; seeking to implement the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, “Creating Jobs to Fight Poverty and Strengthen Democratic Governance.”
- Publishing and disseminating reports and audiovisual material, aimed at civil society and the governmental sector, on the socioeconomic situation and labor conditions in the region, including areas such as economic openness, sustainable development, the labor market, decentralization, and corporate social responsibility.
- Promoting regional consensus-building on policies for the economic development policies of new generations, among government institutions, private organizations, and nongovernmental organizations.
- Researching new poverty indicators and devising strategies for overall improvement of the quality of life.
- Proposing, to government administrations, government policies that provide means of protecting the human rights of indigenous peoples, women, and children and the rights of migrant workers and their families.

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

The *Cooperativa Programa de Economía del Trabajo* proposes to work with the OAS on programs to strengthen and defend human, economic, social, and cultural rights, especially labor and social security rights. It will thus support the efforts of the OAS in the following areas:

- Supporting the Department of Social Development and Employment of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) in carrying out projects to promote employment as a necessary condition for improving the standard of living of the population, within the framework of the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas.
- Assisting the Department of Education, Culture, Science, and Technology of SEDI in conducting workshops, seminars, and forums to promote education as a critical element for strengthening democracy.

- Collaborating with the Department of Sustainable Development of SEDI in designing programs that highlight the importance of environmental care while stimulating job creation, increased productivity, and economic growth, to bring about sustainable development for the benefit of future generations.
- Promoting the creation of educational forums jointly with the Competition and Small Business Section of the SEDI Department of Trade, Tourism, and Competitiveness, in order to provide training for workers in areas of risk prevention and access to credit.
- Working jointly with the Department for the Promotion of Democracy of the Secretariat for Political Affairs of the OAS on activities aimed at promoting the Inter-American Democratic Charter.
- Promoting jointly with the Permanent Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) programs focused on equal access by women from all walks of life and in all areas of work, eliminating any gender discrimination.
- Implementing together with the Trade Union Technical Advisory Council (COSATE) of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML) programs to promote active participation by trade unions.

6. Documents submitted by the CSO to the OAS

- Letter to the OAS Secretary General
- Constitution
- Statutes
- 2004 financial statements (Audited by: Fusión Consultores)
- Annual report for 2004
- Institutional mission statement
- List of funding sources