

PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
COMMITTEE ON INTER-AMERICAN SUMMITS MANAGEMENT
AND CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION
IN OAS ACTIVITIES

OEA/Ser.G
CP/CISC-199/05
5 December 2005
Original: Spanish

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

[Fundación del Servicio Exterior para la Paz y la Democracia (FUNPADEM)]

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION CONCERNING THE
*FUNDACIÓN DEL SERVICIO EXTERIOR PARA LA PAZ
Y LA DEMOCRACIA (FUNPADEM)*

This document was prepared by the Summits of the Americas Secretariat to provide information on the *Fundación del Servicio Exterior para la Paz y la Democracia (FUNPADEM)*.

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 *Fundación del Servicio Exterior para la Paz y la Democracia* (Foreign Service Foundation for Peace and Democracy) (*FUNPADEM*) is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1988 with the aim of pursuing mechanisms for promoting peace and democracy in Central America. It has its headquarters in San José, Costa Rica.

FUNPADEM carries out activities to promote human rights and strengthen democratic governance; it pursues local development projects to fight poverty and to support decentralization, integration, and trade. It works in the area of sustainable development, specifically in water resource management and the exploitation of international basins. At the same time, it actively supports legislation and public policies that benefit the region's working children and adolescents.

These objectives are pursued by means of community network training and education programs, seminars, and multidisciplinary workshops targeted at Central American diplomats and students of international relations, and through informational publications dealing with the borders of Central America.

FUNPADEM has worked in conjunction with the Office of Trade, Growth, and Competitiveness of the Organization of American States (OAS), the Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration (SIECA), the Federation of Private Entities of Central America (FEDEPRICAP), the Central American Higher University Council (CSUCA), and the Consultative Committee of the Central American Integration System (CC-SICA).

The organization funds its activities with support from international cooperation agencies, institutional partners, and nongovernmental organizations, including the Ford Foundation, the United States Department of Labor (USDOL), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Swedish Agency for International Development (ASDI), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the government of the Republic of China, the government of the Kingdom of Norway (NORAD), the John and Catherine MacArthur Foundation, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, and the Andean Development Corporation (CAF).

It submitted its application on February 28, 2005.

2. Name, address, and date of establishment

Name: Fundación del Servicio Exterior para la Paz y la Democracia (FUNPADEM)

Address: Barrio Los Yoses, del final de la Avenida 10, 40 metros norte y 100 este,
casa a mano izquierda color café.
Apartado Postal 12835-1000
San José, Costa Rica.

Tel: (506) 283-9435

Fax: (506) 283-9478

E-mail: funpadem@racsa.co.cr

Internet: www.funpadem.com

Executive Director Cecilia Cortés

Date established: 1988

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

FUNPADEM works in Central America on the promotion of democracy and on plans and projects that further human development. In this connection, it encourages leadership and citizen participation in the development of community projects to help eradicate poverty in the borderlands of Central America. *FUNPADEM*'s activities are related to those of the OAS in:

- Promoting crossborder cooperation agreements to ensure proper water usage and prudent management of toxic waste.
- Publicizing immigration and land-ownership laws to prevent conflicts arising from land grabs in border areas.
- Promoting courses, workshops, and seminars on the peaceful solution of conflicts in the communities that inhabit Central America's borderlands.
- Monitoring compliance with government programs for citizen participation by means of tools and indicators that yield accurate conclusions on their impact on the population and in the various fields at which they are directed.
- Developing programs to improve national systems for access to information and civil society participation in the areas of conflict resolution, environmental affairs, and combating poverty.

- Working for the creation of a database on water-resource management in Central America, to be used as a basis for policy and legislation to ensure correct water usage.

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

FUNPADEM pursues projects that help fight poverty and promote development in pursuit of Central American integration and cooperation. Since 1997 it has been carrying out the Central America Crossborder Cooperation Project, which works to resolve land and sea border disputes, based on participation by governments and local communities in order to promote democracy and peace in the region. *FUNPADEM*'s contributions to the OAS focus on:

- Promoting peace and democratic values by means of an academic program for the training of diplomatic officers in Central America.
- Updating databases on work, borders, and delimitation in Central America and developing the Geographical and Documentary Information System (SIG) on Central America's borders.
- Publishing documents, atlases, and educational materials for public debate on border issues, and conducting mediation courses in Central America's border communities.
- Holding meetings with local leaders and diplomats from Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Honduras in order to establish cooperation agreements among those countries' borderland communities.
- Creating a network of research into borders, security, migration drug trafficking, trade, and crossborder in Central America and in relations between Central America and Colombia.
- Coordinating processes aimed at strengthening protection mechanisms for working Central American children and adolescents, adapting those processes to the individual contexts of each country.
- Conducting research into labor relations in the public and private sectors of Central America, to be used as the basis for modernizing the labor ministries of Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Panama.
- Organizing courses, workshops, and videoconferences to heighten awareness of labor laws and provide training for officials from Central America's labor ministries.
- Making public policy proposals to governments to resolve the problem of unemployment, particularly in the borderlands of Central America.

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

FUNPADEM organizes its efforts along four program lines: borders and environment, diplomatic training, strengthening democracy, and international economic relations. Thus, *FUNPADEM* undertakes to assist the OAS in the following areas:

- Participating alongside the Office for the Promotion of Democracy (OPD) of the Department of Democratic and Political Affairs in carrying out the Training Program for Democratic Leaders (CALIDEM) and in promoting democratic strengthening, political leadership, and democratic citizenship.
- Disseminating information to prevent accidents involving antipersonnel mines in the Central American countries covered by the Mine-Clearing Program in Central America (PADCA).
- Serving as a liaison with local governments, civil society in the Central American borderlands, and the Office for Conflict Prevention and Resolution of the Department of Democratic and Political Affairs to assist the Central American Program for Strengthening Democratic Dialogue (PCA).
- Assisting with the design and subsequent dissemination among local community leaders in Central America of the Democratic Governance Manual and “Resource Pack” of conflict prevention and resolution tools of the Office for Conflict Prevention and Resolution of the Department of Democratic and Political Affairs.
- Providing inputs for the recommendations to be adopted at the Third Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities Responsible for Policies on Decentralization, Local Government, and Citizen Participation at the Municipal Level in the Hemisphere, organized by the High-Level Inter-American Network on Decentralization, Local Government, and Citizen Participation (RIAD).
- Collaborating with the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) of the OAS Permanent Council on developing the proposed “Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants” by compiling and analyzing statistical data and reports of experiences regarding migration issues in the Central American region.
- Supporting the Permanent Council’s draft resolution, “Access to Public Information: Strengthening Democracy” (CP/CG-1588/04 rev. 3).
- Assisting the work of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) by means of workshops to publicize the international legal instruments that deal with human rights and the rights of migrant workers and women.
- Participating in the programs carried out by the Office of Sustainable Development and Environment of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) in order to integrate environmental and economic policies and so alleviate poverty and promote rural development and economic integration in Central America. Providing

that Office with data to support decision-making on the adoption of legislation governing water-resource usage and basin exploitation by the member states of the OAS.

- Participating in the preparatory meetings for the meetings of ministers of health and the environment of the Americas and assisting in monitoring the mandates of those meetings in conjunction with the Office of Sustainable Development and Environment.
- Organizing, in conjunction with SEDI's Office of Trade, Growth, and Competitiveness, seminars, workshops, and conferences aimed at exploring and discussing the processes of economic integration in Central America.
- Supporting resolutions adopted by the member states regarding the eradication or regulation of child labor in the region.

6. Documents submitted by the CSO

- Letter addressed to the Secretary General, dated February 28, 2005
- Articles of Constitution
- Bylaws
- Activity reports, 1997, 1998, 2004
- 2004 financial statements, with sources of funding