

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)]

(Corporación Participación Ciudadana Ecuador)

ANALYSIS OF THE ELEMENTS RELATED TO THE APPLICATION BY THE  
CORPORACIÓN PARTICIPACIÓN CIUDADANA ECUADOR  
TO PARTICIPATE IN OAS ACTIVITIES

This document was prepared by the Summits Secretariat to provide member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) with information on the civil society organization (CSO) *Corporación Participación Ciudadana Ecuador* (Ecuador Citizen Participation Corporation).

The information contained in this report 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 the *Corporación Participación Ciudadana Ecuador* in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

1. Background

*Participación Ciudadana* is a nonprofit organization established in July 2002. Its purposes are to strengthen Ecuador’s institutional system and democratic leadership, promote democratic participation by citizens, foster transparency in government activities and democratic processes, and promote debate and the search for agreements on matters of importance to the country. It is based in Quito, Ecuador.

*Participación Ciudadana* has branch offices in all the provinces of Ecuador, a General Assembly that is the mainstay of the work of the organization, a youth network, and a technical team operating at the national and local levels. *Participación Ciudadana* is made up of a corps of national volunteers.

The spheres of action of *Participación Ciudadana*, according to its By-laws, consist of the organization of civic forums to promote citizen participation, the monitoring of democratic processes, the development of research and debate on democracy and citizen participation, education for democracy, and information and the dissemination of results on electoral processes. Its work is focused on the observation of electoral processes and defense of the rule of law in Ecuador.

The projects of *Participación Ciudadana* are financed through agreements and by donations from various international sources, including the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the European Union, the National Democratic Institute (NDI), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), and the International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD), Holland).

*Participación Ciudadana* submitted its application to the OAS on January 22, 2006.

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

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Quito, Ecuador

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María Esperanza Flores, Follow-up Specialist

Executive Director: José Valencia

Date established: July 12, 2002

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

- *Participación Ciudadana* endeavors to strengthen democracy and defense of the rule of law in Ecuador by:
- Organizing civic activities and forums to promote citizen participation in Ecuador's democratic processes.
- Observing Ecuador's democratic processes.
- Disseminating the results of Ecuador's democratic processes.
- Promoting activities geared toward education for democracy for the various social sectors of Ecuador.
- Carrying out academic research activities and debate on matters related to democracy and citizen participation.
- Promoting dialogue among the diverse political actors in order to achieve consensus.

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

*Participación Ciudadana* can contribute to OAS efforts in the areas of strengthening of democracy, defense of the rule of law, and citizen participation by:

- Observing electoral and political processes with the national volunteer network trained in electoral observation.
- Strengthening democracy through projects designed to allow citizens to participate in public administration, education in democratic action and principles, public information, and monitoring of campaign advertising in the media, among other things.
- Fostering transparency and accountability by establishing forums for citizen participation throughout Ecuador, and interaction between candidates and the people at pre-election gatherings.
- Proposing political election reforms and conducting education campaigns on democratic issues with the support of various civil society sectors.
- Strengthening the role of civil society through its participation in the Lima Agreement and the network of civic movements in Latin American and the Caribbean. The network consists of a group of civil society organizations from diverse countries of the region that are committed to strengthening democracy, and promotes experience sharing, mutual political and technical support, and the execution of joint projects.
- Entering into cooperation agreements with national public and private entities, such as the Coalition for Access to Public Information, established by *Participación Ciudadana* and comprising various Ecuadorian nongovernmental organizations, to oversee the application of the Law on Access to Public Information, and holding meetings, *inter alia*, with the National Congress, the Latin American Social Sciences Faculty (FLACSO), and the Ecuadorian Cultural Center (*Casa de la Cultura*).

5. Identification of the OAS work areas in which the CSO proposes to support ongoing activities or to make recommendations on the best way to achieve OAS objectives

*Participación Ciudadana* believes it can further OAS efforts in the strengthening of democracy, citizen participation, and transparency in government activities by:

- Supporting the work of the Secretariat for Political Affairs in the protection, strengthening, and reinforcement of democracy in the Hemisphere.
- Working with the Office for the Promotion of Democracy and the Secretariat for Political Affairs on education for democracy, the promotion of citizen participation, electoral observation missions, and the strengthening of electoral institutions.

- Supporting the national Ecuadorian course under the Training Program for Democratic Leaders (CALIDEM) in its efforts to reinforce democratic values and practices in young leaders in the Hemisphere.
- Supporting the efforts of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) with respect to the Inter-American Program on Education for Democratic Values and Practices.
- Publicizing the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and disseminating and promoting the recommendations of the Follow-up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC).
- Working with future electoral observation missions in Ecuador of the Office for the Promotion of Democracy of the Secretariat for Political Affairs.
- Publicizing and promoting the Inter-American Democratic Charter, especially in connection with its support for free and fair elections, transparency, the rule of law, the accountability of government institutions, and public participation, as fundamental components for strengthening democracy.
- Promoting civil society participation in follow-up and implementation of the mandates of the Summits of the Americas in the area of strengthening democracy.

6. Documents submitted by the CSO to the OAS

- Letter addressed to the Secretary General of the OAS, dated January 22, 2006
- General information on the Corporación Participación Ciudadana Ecuador
- Monthly activity report on services provided – January 23, 2006
- Report of the Office of the Executive Director to the 15th Meeting of the Assembly of Participación Ciudadana
- Institutional mission statement
- Ministerial Agreement on the establishment of the Corporación Participación Ciudadana Ecuador
- Amended by-laws (present version and ministerial agreement ratifying amendments)
- Financial statements for 2004