

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)]

(Fundación Esquel - Ecuador)

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION CONCERNING *FUNDACIÓN ESQUEL – ECUADOR*

This document was prepared by the Office for the Summit Process to provide information on the *Fundación Esquel - Ecuador*. 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 Esquel- Ecuador* was established in Quito, Ecuador, on August 31, 1990, as a private, independent, nonprofit, nongovernmental organization. Its aim is to contribute to sustainable human development, the improvement of living standards for the poor, and the building of a democratic, cohesive society in Ecuador. The *Fundación Esquel - Ecuador* works mainly in the areas of sustainable human development; children and youth; enterprise development; and building a democratic, cohesive society in Ecuador and the Americas.

In 2003, the *Fundación Esquel – Ecuador* executed a total of 39 projects, of which four were at the national level, six at the regional level, five at the provincial level, and two at the international level. Nearly 1,033 diverse organizations participated in these projects, including nongovernmental organizations, public-sector institutions, and private-sector enterprises.

In the area of sustainable human development, the *Fundación Esquel- Ecuador* has supported initiatives and created projects in the areas of agricultural production, food security, community health, and natural resource management, to support the economic and social development of Ecuador. In the area of children and youth, it has conducted projects to train teachers, seek educational strategies, and improve the health of young people, fostering their leadership development and academic and intellectual achievement.

The *Fundación Esquel- Ecuador* receives income from various sources at both local and international levels. These include the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Kellogg Foundation, *Cooperación Internacional*, and Partners of the Americas.

The Fundación Esquel - Ecuador submitted its application on April 12, 2004.

2. Name, address, and date of establishment

Name: *Fundación Esquel - Ecuador*

Address: Av. Colón #1346, mezzanine, of. 12, Casilla 17-07-9013 Quito, Ecuador

Telephone: (593-2) 2520 001

Fax: (593-2) 2554 029

Internet site: <http://www.esquel.org.ec>

E-mail address: fundación@esquel.org.ec

Executive Chair: Cornelio Marchán

Date established: August 31, 1990

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

The principal aims of *Fundación Esquel - Ecuador* are to help to improve living standards for the poor and to build a more democratic, cohesive society. Therefore, it focuses its efforts on sustainable human development, children and youth, democracy and civic education, and enterprise development. It focuses on:

- Executing integrated projects or local development plans for high-poverty rural areas and marginalized urban areas.
- Supporting social and economic development by promoting public participation, strengthening local government, and promoting the sustainable use of resources.
- Supporting education projects, such as early stimulation, building child-care facilities, scholarships for talented low-income children and youth, training of mothers and teachers, development of intelligence, critical perception, creativity, and youth leadership.
- Health projects such as supporting children with disabilities, sexual and reproductive health.
- Promoting the establishment of the National Youth Forum, which provides a forum where youth can express their views on the problems facing the country and offer possible solutions.
- Contributing to building the rule of law in society, by strengthening civil society participation in justice reform, anticorruption efforts, etc.
- Promoting the creation of different forums and meetings for deliberation and the proposal of alternative solutions to the problem of corruption.
- Encouraging enterprise development by providing nonrefundable credits, microcredits to rural sectors where there is no access to the ordinary financial system, credit to microenterprises and small businesses, and shared capital investments.

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

The *Fundación Esquel – Ecuador* can contribute to OAS efforts in various areas, such as democracy-building in the Americas, sustainable development, education, youth and children, health, and enterprise development. The cooperation offered by the *Fundación Esquel* focuses on:

- Bringing extensive experience from over 15 years of work with the most diverse, marginalized sectors of Ecuador.
- Representing some of the voices of marginalized sectors of the populations of Ecuador and the Americas vis à vis the various initiatives of the OAS.

- Devoting a large part of its efforts to democracy-building initiatives at various levels.
- Working on matters of cooperation with other civil society organizations in the Hemisphere, through the participation channel instituted by the OAS.

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

The activities of the *Fundación Esquel - Ecuador* are related to various areas of OAS work; thus, it could support the work of the OAS and issue recommendations on matters such as sustainable development, education, health, youth and children, enterprise development, and the fight against corruption. Specifically, the cooperation offered by the *Fundación Esquel - Ecuador* is geared toward:

- Working through its Justice Fund on strengthening the rule of law in society, on the tasks of the Justice Studies Center of the Americas, and on the various programs for follow-up to the Inter-American Convention against Corruption.
- Using its program of education in democratic values to support the commitment undertaken by the OAS in the “Declaration against Violence” of the Second Meeting of Ministers of Education.
- Supporting, through its various projects, and its work experience, the objectives of the Unit for Social Development and Education, the Unit for Sustainable Development and Environment, the Unit for the Promotion of Democracy, and the Intersectoral Unit for Tourism of the OAS General Secretariat.
- Supporting the initiatives and programs of the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN).

6. Documents submitted by the CSO

- Letter addressed to the Secretary General of the OAS, April 12, 2004
- Ministerial agreement to establish the *Fundación Esquel – Ecuador*.
- Amended by-laws (present version and ministerial agreement ratifying amendments).
- Annual report *Fundación Esquel 2003*
- Institutional mission statement of the *Fundación Esquel - Ecuador*
- Financial statements, December 31, 2002, to December 31, 2003, audited by Deloitte & Touche
- Detail of donations received by the *Fundación Esquel - Ecuador*