

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)]

*[National Youth Development Network]*

## ANALYSIS OF ELEMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION BY NATIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT NETWORK IN THE FRAMEWORK OF REGISTRATION BY CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS 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 (CSO) *National Youth Development Network*.

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 includes a summary and list of documentation presented by *National Youth Development Network* in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

### **1. Background**

*National Youth Development Network* is a non-profit organization established on September 1, 2004 in Georgetown, Guyana to empower Guyana’s youth with professional and leadership skills to participate in the overall political decision making and developmental processes with an aim toward fostering equitable, participatory democratic governance.

*National Youth Development Network* is composed of 1,069 members between the ages of 16 and 35 years, including young professionals, students and community leaders.

In 2009 through 2011, *National Youth Development Network* held conventions and lectures advocating youth participation in local and national governance, convening under the theme of youth leadership as the catalyst for change in political and developmental processes. Motions approved at the 2009 “Youth! Conduit of Change- Inspiring Leadership for National Development” convention called on the Government of Guyana to support the global call for a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and engage with civil society to find lasting solutions to security concerns. Its annual Youth Leadership Retreat provided training to 200 youth leaders in 2009 and 2010 on topics such as disaster preparedness management, law and order, conflict resolution, human rights advocacy, public security, organization governance, leadership styles, and community mobilization. *National Youth Development Network* was identified as a key partner by the European Union’s Youth and Governance Project and also works to provide access to capital to first time entrepreneurs by collaborating with funding agencies such as the Guyana Youth Business Trust (GYBT).

*National Youth Development Network* has participated in various meetings of the Organization of American States and other international organizations, including: the XL and XLI Regular Sessions of the General Assembly that took place in Peru in 2010 and El Salvador in 2011, respectively; the Civil Society Hemispheric Forum in Washington, D.C. on May 5-6, 2010; the V Summit of the Americas in Trinidad and Tobago on April 17-19, 2009; and the Seventh Inter-American Specialized Conference on Private International Law (CIDIP-VII) in Washington, D.C. on October 2-9, 2008. It also led a Caribbean Youth Delegation to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Frameworks Convention on Climate Change held in Copenhagen, Denmark on December 7-18, 2009.

*National Youth Development Network* has financed its activities with contributions from member dues and the support of public and private funding sources including SustainUS, Guyana

Telephone and Telegraph Co. Ltd., Commonwealth Youth Programme, Food for the Poor Guyana Inc., Partnership Working for Development in Guyana Inc., Guyana Volunteer Consultancy Inc., Giftland OfficeMax Inc., and other private donations.

*National Youth Development Network* submitted its application to register in the OAS on October 8, 2008.

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

Name: National Youth Development Network

Address: 107 E Barrack Street  
Kingston, Georgetown  
Guyana

Telephone: (592) 621-9514 / (592) 226-0203

Fax: (592) 226-7187

E-mail address: nydn\_guyana@yahoo.com

President: Taffieny Conway

Date of foundation: September 1, 2004

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

*National Youth Development Network* advocates for a greater democratic culture, professional and leadership capacity-building among Guyana's youth. The primary areas of activity and contributions of *National Youth Development Network* that could be of interest to the OAS include:

- Strengthening youth participation in political, social and economic affairs through training programs and lectures on relevant topics such as democratic governance, leadership development, conflict resolution and prevention, and entrepreneurship; and
- Supporting the social and economic development of women, single mothers, and youth in entrepreneurial endeavors by offering outreach support for microenterprise development, management concepts, access to capital, and connecting with mentors.

#### **4. Identification of OAS work areas**

*National Youth Development Network* offers to collaborate with the OAS in the following areas:

- Promote the principles of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, particularly the articles that call for special attention to the development of programs and activities for the education of youth as a means of ensuring the continuance of democratic values, including liberty and social justice;
- Share experiences and best practices with the Inter-American Committee on Social Development (CIDES) of the Inter-American Committee for Integral Development (CIDI) and support the programs of the Department of Social Development and Employment of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) aimed at the creation of jobs and income generation as a means of reducing poverty in the region;
- Contribute input and recommendations to the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (CISC) of the Permanent Council, and to the Department of International Affairs (DIA) of the Secretariat for External Relations (SER) regarding the promotion of civil society engagement in OAS initiatives;
- Offer technical support to the Inter-American Program on Education for Democratic Values and Practices of the Department of Human Development, Education and Culture of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) in order to promote a culture of democracy through professional development, research, and exchange;
- Propose recommendations for youth participation in the reinforcement of the hemispheric agenda during the preparatory process of the Summits of the Americas; and
- Cooperate and share best practices with the Young Americas Business Trust (YABT) in the provision of entrepreneurship programs to bestow youth with skill sets and knowledge to pursue employment.

#### **5. Documents submitted by the CSO to the OAS**

- Letter to the OAS Secretary General dated October 8, 2008
- Constitution
- Statutes
- Mission Statement
- Annual Reports 2007-2010 and 2004-2005
- Financial Statements 2008-2010 (signed by the Directors of the National Executive)