

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)]

[Association Femmes Soleil d'Haiti (AFASDA)]

ANALYSIS OF THE ELEMENTS RELATED TO THE PARTICIPATION OF ASSOCIATION  
*FEMMES SOLEIL D'HAITI (AFASDA)* IN THE REGISTRATION PROCESS OF CIVIL  
SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN OAS ACTIVITIES

This document was prepared by the Summits of the Americas Department to provide Member States with information on *Association Femmes Soleil d'Haiti (AFASDA)* pursuant to resolution CP/RES. 759 (1217/99), "Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities". The document contains the basic data and a list of supporting documentation presented by *Association Femmes Soleil d'Haiti (AFASDA)*, in accordance with the aforementioned guidelines.

1. Background

*Association Femmes Soleil d'Haiti (AFASDA)* was founded in Cap-Haitien, Haiti in 1997 and was legally registered in December, 1998. *AFASDA* is a non-profit organization that works to facilitate and enable Haitian women to participate in all aspects of social life, thereby promoting social and economic development, and a more democratic society that respects the human rights of women. *AFASDA*'s headquarters are located in Cap-Haitien, Haiti.

*AFASDA* focuses its activities and programs on the following thematic areas: literacy, environment, health, education, human rights, training for girls, peaceful conflict resolution, and legal services for imprisoned women. *AFASDA* has carried out activities to provide potable water, education on health, literacy, gender issues and human rights, and the development of agriculture. *AFASDA* achieves its objectives through seminars, disseminating information through radio and television media, and the creation of community centres. *AFASDA* carries out activities in the North, North-East, West, South-East, and Centre regions of Haiti.

*AFASDA* has participated in various international forums and events, such as those implemented by the Organization of American States (OAS) and bodies of the United Nations (UN).

*AFASDA* funds its activities and operations through membership dues from its 1200 members, and has received funding through the Inter-American Civil Society Partnership Initiative implemented by the Summits of the Americas Department of the OAS and funded by the Open Society Institute to carry out the project "Creation of a Legal Assistance Office for the Defense of Human Rights."

*AFASDA* submitted its application on January 26, 2005.

2. Name, address, and date of establishment

Name of the Organization: *Association Femmes Soleil d'Haiti (AFASDA)*

Address: 145, Rue 21 J-K  
Cap-Haitien, Haiti

Telephone: (509) 262-2558 / (509) 557-4626  
Fax: (509) 262-3535  
Website: <http://www.haitimedical.com/afasda>  
E-mail address: [afasdacap@yahoo.fr](mailto:afasdacap@yahoo.fr)  
Executive Secretary: Elvire Eugène  
Permanent Consultant: Jean-Paul Edmond  
Date established: 1997

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

*AFASDA*’s main objective is to build capacity among Haitian women, deliver basic services to communities in Haiti, and promote the rights of women and girls through education. *AFASDA* fights discrimination, inequality, and poverty and promotes citizen participation and democracy. The following areas of activity in which *AFASDA* is involved are related to those of the OAS:

- Promote and participate in the development and implementation of international conventions, declarations, and policies that uphold and advance human rights, poverty alleviation, and gender equality;
- Promote the adoption of policies, programs, and initiatives that encourage the full and equal participation of women in society;
- Work towards alleviating poverty among vulnerable sectors in society through promoting sustainable and equitable development and the creation of decent jobs; and
- Raise awareness and advocate for the economic, social, and political rights of women, girls, and families that suffer inequality, with particular attention to ensuring adequate education, health care, and social support.

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

*AFASDA* works to strengthen the capacity of women to participate in society, addresses poverty and inequality, creates programs and strategies that provide education, basic social services, and promotes the human rights of women. *AFASDA* activities that can contribute to the OAS include the following:

- Design and implement the project “Creation of a Legal Assistance Office for the Defense of Human Rights” through the Inter-American Civil Society Partnership Initiative implemented

by the Summits of the Americas Department of the OAS and funded by the Open Society Institute;

- Support sustainable development initiatives through carrying-out reforestation projects in rural areas, supporting water management projects, and building wells to provide potable water and irrigation supply;
- Provide basic health and education services, including delivery of family and reproductive health education, and support for literacy centres, schools, and training for girls;
- Provide medical, psychological, and legal assistance to incarcerated women in Haiti, including the provision of basic family and reproductive health education; and
- Write reports, disseminate information, and educate women and the larger civil society on national and international instruments related to human rights, including the National Constitution of Haiti, and the American Convention on Human Rights, including designing and producing educational and media programs and campaigns on women's issues and holding seminars, workshops, and discussion groups.

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

As an organization that works at the local, regional and national levels to promote the human rights of women and to equip women and girls to participate actively in all aspects of social life, *AFASDA* can support the efforts of the OAS in the following ways:

- Disseminate information and educate civil society on inter-American pacts, treaties, and conventions related to human rights, and particularly the rights of women, including the Inter-American Democratic Charter, the American Convention on Human Rights, and the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women "Convention of Belem do Para";
- Support the initiatives of the Department of Sustainable Development of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) in the areas of water and management, and contribute to dialogues taking place in the framework of the OAS, such as the Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development;
- Support the Department for the Promotion of Democracy of the Secretariat for Political Affairs in carrying out the Training Program for Democratic Leaders (CALIDEM) and other programs aimed at strengthening democracy, political leadership, and democratic citizenship;
- Assist the Inter-American Committee for Social Development (CIDES) of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) in formulating and implementing programs to alleviate poverty and social inequality among women and girls;
- Contribute to dialogues with civil society organizations through the Summits of the Americas Department and participate in its various activities to foster communication and sharing of experience among civil society organizations and the Member States of the OAS; and

- Participate and follow-up on General Assembly and Summits of the Americas resolutions, particularly those related to the rights of women and girls, and foster recognition of the importance of the Summits and their mandates among civil society.

6. Documents submitted to the OAS

- Letter addressed to the Secretary General (dated January 26, 2005)
- Certificate of Incorporation
- Statutes
- Certificate of registration with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor of the Republic of Haiti
- Financial Reports for 2004 (Publicly notarized by Lincoln Hyppolithe)
- *AFASDA* institutional pamphlet