

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)]

[Asociación de Micro, Pequeños y Medianos Empresarios Afro Hondureños (CAMAFROH)]

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION CONCERNING THE *ASOCIACIÓN DE MICRO, PEQUEÑOS Y MEDIANOS EMPRESARIOS AFRO HONDUREÑOS (CAMA FROH)* (ASSOCIATION OF AFRO-HONDURAN MICRO, SMALL, AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES)

This document was prepared by the Summits of the Americas Department to provide information on the *Asociación de Micro, Pequeños y Medianos Empresarios Afro-Hondureños (CAMA FROH)*.

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 *Asociación de Micro, Pequeños y Medianos Empresarios Afro-Hondureños (CAMA FROH)* is a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization headquartered in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. It was founded in 1996 with the mission of providing support and assistance to the Afro-Honduran entrepreneur, and to the Afro-Honduran population in general, in matters of integrated development. *CAMA FROH* was founded to eradicate the social, economic, political, and cultural exclusion of the Afro-Honduran population. It focuses on implementing programs and projects for the support, development, and leadership skills of Afro-Honduran entrepreneurs and the promotion of their human rights.

CAMA FROH promotes integral and sustainable development of, and with, communities of indigenous peoples, persons of African descent, and people with few resources, especially children and women.

CAMA FROH works with community organizations, educational institutions, social movements, businesses, and communities. Its work team consists of teachers, artisans, ranchers, farmers, businesspersons, and human rights defenders, among others.

CAMA FROH has participated in dialogues and workshops with local and national institutions like the *Organización Fraternal Negra Hondureña (OFRANEH)* (Honduran Black Fraternal Organization), the Central Bank of Honduras, the *Fondo Hondureño de Inversión Social (FHIS)* (Honduran Social Investment Fund), and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

CAMA FROH has worked on projects with funding from national and international organizations like the *Centro para el Desarrollo Comunal (CEDECO)* (Center for Community Development) and the World Bank, but its principal source of funding is the contributions of its members.

CAMA FROH filed its application with the OAS on March 28, 2005.

2. Name, address, and date of establishment

Name: *Asociación de Micro, Pequeños y Medianos Empresarios Afro Hondureños (CAMA FROH)*

Address of head office: Boulevard Comunidad Económica Europea, # 1720 Barrio Comayaguela, M.D.C. Apdo. Postal 4216 y 3937 Tegucigalpa, Honduras

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rguevara@hondumail.net

Director General: Mr. Roy Guevara Arzu

Date established: September 11, 1996

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

CAMA FROH's works mainly in the area of sustainable, democratic, and equitable development. It focuses on protecting the Afro-Honduran small businessperson, fighting poverty and gender and racial discrimination, and promoting and protecting human rights. Activities of CAMA FROH that could be related to those of the OAS include:

- Helping to create and train democratic leaders and promote civic participation;
- Developing productive employment to ensure participation by the various sectors of society in the Honduran economy;
- Promotion and development of democratic values and institutions by means of information exchange and the establishment of various cooperative ties between academic institutions, nongovernmental organizations, and regional and international organizations;
- Strengthening capacity to disseminate and contribute information on protecting the rights of women, children, and persons of African descent, especially persons at risk of abuse, by implementing training programs, developing defense and protection mechanisms, and issuing publications and conducting discussions on the subject;
- Contributing suggestions and comments on topics involved in eradicating racism and all forms of discrimination and intolerance.

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

CAMAFROH conducts its activities by means of training programs, publications, research, and participation in consultations at local and national levels. Noteworthy among its contributions that may be of interest to the OAS are:

- Training workshops and national seminars to raise awareness on human rights and democracy topics;
- Development of Afro-Honduran community encounters, women's and youth organizations, community action councils, and local administrative councils;
- Creation of educational assistance services to benefit small and medium business owners;
- Organization of product exhibits in Canada, the United States, Spain, Panama, Costa Rica, and Mexico, with the participation of small entrepreneurs of African descent;
- Implementation of professional development programs for women and the elderly;

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

CAMAFROH believes its work with the Afro-Honduran community and in developing and protecting human rights can be useful in the activities of the various bodies and dependencies of the OAS. It could support their work as follows:

- Provide studies and opinions to the Working Group to Prepare the Draft Inter-American Convention against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance of the OAS Permanent Council
- Support the Department of Social Development and Employment of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) in planning and implementing programs dealing with populations of African descent in all member states
- Provide the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) with reports and research to help strengthen the protection and promotion of human rights in the Americas
- Collaborate with the Department of Education, Culture, Science, and Technology of SEDI in the development of strategies and educational programs to promote and disseminate the Inter-American Democratic Charter and foster democratic values in the member states
- Assist the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) in the design of programs to educate women, adolescents, and children concerning domestic violence, family law, and gender identity

6. Documents submitted by the CSO

- Letter addressed to the Secretary General of the OAS, dated March 28, 2005
- Financial statements through April 31, 2003
- Incorporation documents and legal certification of the *Asociación de Micro, Pequeños y Medianos Empresarios Afro Hondureños*
- By-laws of the *Asociación de Micro, Pequeños y Medianos Empresarios Afro Hondureños*