

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)]

*[Foro Permanente de Organizaciones de Sociedad Civil (FPOSC)]*

## SUMMARY OF INFORMATION CONCERNING THE *FORO PERMANENTE DE ORGANIZACIONES DE SOCIEDAD CIVIL (FPOSC)*

This document was prepared by the Summits of the Americas Secretariat to provide information to member states of the Organization of American States on the civil society organization, *Foro Permanente de Organizaciones de Sociedad Civil (FPOSC)*.

It contains the basic data and a list of supporting documentation submitted by *FPOSC* pursuant to resolution CP/RES.759 (1217/99) "Guidelines for Participation by Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities."

### **1. Background**

The *Foro Permanente de Organizaciones de Sociedad Civil (FPOSC)* is a private, nonprofit organization established on October 14, 2001, as a tool for follow-up of the agreements entered into and measures taken in the wake of Hurricane Mitch in 1998, for the purpose of Honduras' reconstruction and transformation subsequent to that natural disaster.

Its general objective is to serve as a permanent forum enabling the various sectors of society, institutions cooperating in the reconstruction and transformation process, and the State to engage in dialogue on such issues as poverty reduction, transparency, accountability, governability and strengthening of democracy. To that end, *FPOSC* has held a number of assemblies where strategies and plans have been approved that bear upon issues related to justice, legislative reform, revamping education, political and electoral reform, modernization and decentralization, environmental vulnerability, with emphasis on watershed and micro-watershed management, governability, human, social, and political rights, social economics and land-use planning.

*FPOSC* receives financial contributions from its 327 member organizations.

*FPOSC's* offices are located in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Its National Board is composed of representatives of various sectors of Honduran civil society, such as the social economy, youth, municipal civil society, environment, water and sanitation, the *campesino* population, the disabled, ethnic groups, the academic sector, health, environment and communications.

*FPOSC* applied for registration with the OAS on June 24, 2005.

### **2. Name, address, and date established**

Name: *Foro Permanente de Organizaciones de Sociedad Civil - FPOSC*

Address: Col. El Hogar, 1<sup>era</sup> Avenida, #2803,  
2<sup>da</sup> Planta, atrás de gasolinera ESSO,  
Boulevard Centroamérica, Apdo. Postal #5801  
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Telephone: 504-231-0371  
Fax: 504-231-0318  
E-mail address: pcd\_@cablecolor.hn  
Web site: <http://www.forosociedadcivil.hn>  
President: Julio Cesar Cabrera  
Date established: October 14, 2001

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

*FPOSC* focuses on issues like poverty reduction, strengthening democracy, governability, and civil participation. It has also addressed topics related to justice, education, environmental protection, and others. *FPOSC*'s work ties in with that of the OAS in that it:

- Promotes policies of national consensus building that seek the answers to the problems of inequality and poverty.
- Supports the crafting of public policies that will strengthen laws and standards on environmental protection, educational systems, and health.
- Strengthens community organizations based on principles of solidarity, respect for democratic government, social co-existence, and citizen participation.
- Monitors performance of government programs through active citizen participation, thereby instilling in government authorities a culture of accountability and transparency.
- Strengthens the democratization of information so that the public has access to truthful and accurate information.
- Promotes follow-up of the implementation of the mandates of the Summits of the Americas, particularly in human rights matters.

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

*FPOSC* focuses all its efforts on building a national consensus to find solutions to Honduras' chief social and economic problems. To that end, it has held sectoral assemblies where strategies and policies have been devised to work toward resolving those problems.

The following are among the activities that the *FPOSC* has conducted that may be of interest to the OAS:

- Sectoral meetings held to assist policy formulation in the water and sanitation, education, health, and agro-forestry sectors.
- Participation in drafting the Tripartite Declaration of Tegucigalpa: Government, Civil Society and International Partners – which establishes the basic parameters for developing State policy on issues related to water and sanitation, health, and the prevention and treatment of diseases like HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis.
- Enlisting representatives of civil society to join the Poverty Reduction Strategy Fund; three members of *FPOSC* are now part of the Poverty-Reduction Strategy Advisory Council (CCERP) on which the *FPOSC* serves.
- Creating media space devoted to promoting and publicizing the goals of the civil organizations that are members of *FPOSC*, and their accomplishments.
- Providing its support to secure the certificate of legal status of the Fundación Internacional para el Desarrollo de la Educación Superior, las Ciencias y las Artes (FIDESCA), which seeks to create new educational and scientific research institutions that will further development of education in Honduras.
- A role in the legislative agenda, on such issues as accountability and transparency, democratic governability, environmental regulation, and poverty reduction.

##### **5. OAS work areas to which CSO can provide support**

*FPOSC* has expressed an interest in cooperating on implementation of the Summits' mandates and of those principles of the Inter-American Democratic Charter that advocate respect for and protection of human rights. The following are areas in which the *FPOSC* could cooperate with the work of the OAS:

- Collaborating with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) in staging conferences, seminars and meetings attended by representatives of the government, academic institutions and civil society organizations and calculated to impart information and knowledge about the protection of human rights.
- Cooperating with the IACHR by providing information for the study prepared on the situation of human rights defenders in the region and, through workshops and informative seminars, promoting and supporting the inter-American human rights system and the protection of the rights of the child.
- Working with the IACHR's Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression toward the goal of free and transparent reporting, especially with regard to implementation of government and management policies, thereby ensuring transparency and accountability.

- Working in partnership with the Office of Education, Science and Technology of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) to strengthen education as one of the keys to promoting human rights. This could be done by creating and operating high-level, specialized scientific and technological academic institutions. With international support and cooperation, plans are to create the Civil Society University, the so-called the Central American Polytechnical University [*Universidad Politécnica Centroamericana – UPCA*], the Scientific Research Center [*Centro de Investigación Científica – CIC*], the Evaluation and Certification Center [*Centro de Evaluación y Certificación – CEC*], the Center for Advanced Strategic Studies for Development and Human Security [*Centro de Altos Estudios Estratégicos para el Desarrollo y Seguridad Humana – CAEDSH*] and the Central American Polytechnic Institute [*Instituto Politécnico Centroamérica - IPCA*].
- Collaborating with the Inter-American Program for Cooperation in the Fight against Corruption and the Follow-up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC) in strengthening domestic laws, and the participation of civil society organizations and international organizations in monitoring for, assessing, and reporting cases of corruption.
- Working with SEDI's Office of Sustainable Development and Environment on crafting and following up on policies and programs that make possible sustainable economic development. This could be done through projects in technical cooperation, transfer of sound environmental technologies, promotion of environmental education, and other means.
- Supporting the Summits of the Americas process through forums in which representatives of the government, the international community and civil society participate, thus providing a vehicle for monitoring implementation of and compliance with the Summit mandates.

## **6. Documents submitted to the OAS**

- Letter addressed to the OAS Secretary General, dated June 15, 2005
- Brochure titled *Perfil Institucional del Foro Permanente de Organizaciones de Sociedad Civil*
- Letter filing the application
- Historical facts
- Philosophical principles
- Organic structure and operation
- Policy strategies and general thrusts
- Statute, legal personality and records
- Principal officers
- Plan of activities and areas of action
- Report on activities in 2004
- Financial statements
- Statements and communiqués

- Photocopy of the original legal documents
- A disc containing a copy of the brochure titled *Perfil Institucional del Foro Permanente de Organizaciones de Sociedad Civil*