

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 THE PARTICIPATION OF
CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN OAS ACTIVITIES [CP/RES. 759 (1217/99)]

(Panamanian Association of Business Executives)

**SUMMARY OF INFORMATION CONCERNING THE PARTICIPATION OF THE
PANAMANIAN ASSOCIATION OF BUSINESS EXECUTIVES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE
ACCREDITATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS WISHING TO PARTICIPATE
IN OAS ACTIVITIES**

This document was prepared by the Secretariat for the Summit Process to provide member states with information on the *Panamanian Association of Business Executives (APEDE)*, pursuant to resolution CP/RES. 759 (1217/99), "Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities." It contains the basic data and a list of supporting documentation presented by the *Panamanian Association of Business Executives (APEDE)*, in accordance with the aforementioned guidelines.

1. Background

The Panamanian Association of Business Executives was founded in Panama City in 1958. It is an independent, nongovernmental, not-for-profit organization. Its goal is to foster managerial and entrepreneurial efficiency and thereby contribute to development and progress in Panama.

It submitted its application on February 11, 2003

2. Name, address, and date of establishment

Name:	Panamanian Association of Business Executives (APEDE)
Address:	PO Box 1331, Panama 1, Republic of Panama
Telephone:	507- 227 35 11 507- 227 18 72 (fax)
E-mail address:	www.apede.org
President:	John A. Bennett
Date established:	1958

3. Primary areas of activity of the *Panamanian Association of Business Executives* and their relationship to OAS activities

APEDE seeks to contribute to the strengthening, protection, and ongoing presence of free enterprise in Panama as a key ingredient of a free society in which democratic government can prosper. Accordingly, it focuses on:

- Publicizing what it takes to be a business executive and attempting to increase appreciation of the part business executives play in the integral development of Panama.
- Developing advanced training courses for executives and the staff working under them, aimed at enhancing performance.

- Fostering good labor relations based on mutual respect for rights and duties and bearing in mind the ultimate goal of enhancing the economic and social wellbeing of the nation as a whole.
- Establishing closer ties between APEDE and related educational institutions to encourage the study of business administration and informing young people about the advantages of becoming a professional business executive.
- Upholding the principle of free enterprise, promoting improved forms of entrepreneurship, and helping to implement them.
- Urging executives to play an active part in studying and solving Panama's economic problems.
- Turning APEDE into a body that monitors public affairs and takes a keen interest in sound administration of the State and of government departments, while urging members of the Association to provide public services.

4. Panamanian Association of Business Executives contributions that could be of interest to the OAS

The Panamanian Association of Business Executives considers that it can contribute to OAS activities thanks to the experience it has acquired with regard to legal, tourist, civic, financial, educational, business, and economic issues.

APEDE programs include:

- VII Tourism Forum: Technology applied to tourism.
- CADE 2002 "Panama's Financial Center in the 21st Century: Opportunities and Competitiveness."
- I Education Forum: "Today's world and the quality of education in Panama."
- Annual Dinner celebrating Economic Freedom.
- Business Foundation for Development.
- Presentation of the "Transparency in Government" bill to Panama's Legislative Assembly.
- Signing of a cooperation agreement with the Mexican City Business Center, COPARMEX.
- Agreement with the Business Network for Hemispheric Integration.

5. OAS work areas to which the Panamanian Association of Business Executives can provide support:

APEDE focuses on:

- Promotion of a representative and democratic system.
- Combating corruption.
- Boosting the role of private enterprise in economic development.
- Developing small and medium-sized foreign-trade-oriented enterprises.
- The struggle to achieve equal rights for women in society.

APEDE offers to share its experience and to support all areas of the Organization's work in which there is a common interest. Moreover, APEDE considers that its goals are entirely in line with the interests pursued by the OAS and that its experience will greatly assist efforts to bring a private sector outlook to bear on the development of the member states of the Organization.

6. Documents submitted by the Panamanian Association of Business Executives

- Letter addressed to the Director of the OAS General Secretariat Office in Panama
- By-laws
- Annual Report for 2001-2002
- Financial statements (at July 31, 2001 and 2002)