

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)]

*[Colegio Panameño de Químicos (COPAQUI)]*

## SUMMARY OF INFORMATION CONCERNING THE *COLEGIO PANAMEÑO DE QUÍMICOS*

This document was prepared by the Secretariat for the Summit Process to provide information to the member states of the Organization of American States on the civil society organization *Colegio Panameño de Químicos* ("Panamanian College of Chemists"; COPAQUI).

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

### 1. **Background**

The *Colegio Panameño de Químicos* ("Panamanian College of Chemists"; COPAQUI) was founded on May 27, 1974, following a meeting held in room 5-22 of the Faculty of Pharmacy and Natural Sciences of the University of Panama. It is a not-for-profit organization that gathers together Panama's chemistry practitioners for the ongoing professional development of its members by means of a strategy aimed at promoting the ethical values of science through a broad and permanent training effort.

The main objectives of *COPAQUI* are to uphold the prestige of the profession; expand the professional knowledge of its members; work for laws and public policies that regulate and protect chemists in the pursuit of their profession; cooperate effectively with the established Schools of Chemistry to assist them in their functions; and to contribute the profession's achievements to the progress of Panamanian society.

The statutes of *COPAQUI* were amended and updated in 1994. The changes of that year upheld the goals originally set by the founding members and extended the College's area of action into the international arena; it was also expanded domestically, as regards the contribution the profession can make to the progress and development of Panamanian society.

Finally, on August 7, 2001, Law 45 recognized the existence of *COPAQUI* and empowered it, in Article 25, to take concrete steps by means of advisory efforts and technical studies toward issuing recommendations for state agencies relating to the impact of chemistry on economic and social development. Its headquarters is in El Dorado, Panama.

Internationally, *COPAQUI* is affiliated to the Latin American Federation of Chemical Associations (FLAQ) and it actively participates in all plans, policies, and technical commissions aimed at strengthening regional integration in the field of chemistry.

In addition, *COPAQUI* is registered as a participant in the affiliate membership program of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC). In that program COPAQUI works to further strengthen the professional training of young Panamanian chemists, as a preliminary step toward its future full membership of IUPAC as an affiliated society.

*COPAQUI*'s net worth comes from its members' enrollment fees and regular and special dues; donations and bequests; the real estate and other assets it acquires; and such valuables and economic resources as it raises.

*COPAQUI* submitted its application to the OAS on March 28, 2005.

**2. Name, address, and date of establishment:**

Name: *Colegio Panameño de Químicos*

Headquarters address: Avenida Perú y Vía España, Perejil  
Edificio Las Camelias  
Primero Piso, Oficina 105-A  
El Dorado Panamá, Republic of Panama

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Fax: 507-264-4119

E-mail: [copaqui@yahoo.com](mailto:copaqui@yahoo.com)

Website: <http://www.copaqui.org.pa>

President: Rafael Vázquez

Date established: May 27, 1974

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

Under Panamanian legislation, *COPAQUI* is empowered, by Law 45 of August 7, 2001, to assist the National Technical Chemistry Committee in ensuring the correct pursuit in Panama of the chemistry profession and its specialties. The law's legal framework gives *COPAQUI* broad powers to embark on actions of all kinds in support of the progress of chemistry, related technologies, industry, and science and science-related endeavors. The law also empowers *COPAQUI* to collaborate effectively and permanently with national and international bodies, public and private alike, associated with the profession, in pursuit of positive achievements to benefit Panamanian society.

*COPAQUI*'s areas of endeavor are related to those of the OAS in:

- The regular organization of congresses, conferences, seminars, practical exercises, and advanced courses.
- Helping its members obtain bibliographic materials, publications, journals, and reports from the world of chemistry.
- Editing and publishing works on chemistry and on science and technology.

- Participating and maintaining relations with professional organizations, institutions, and associations, national and international alike, and particularly with Latin American federations and associations.
- Promoting exchanges of chemical knowledge and sponsoring scientific and professional exchange programs with chemical organizations from around the world.
- Devising guidance programs for beginning students of chemistry.

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

*COPAQUI* says that its interest in participating in the OAS is due to the fact that, both at the national level and internationally, its mission and vision are focused on the development of chemistry with a view to constructing, in Panama and the rest of the Hemisphere, an appropriate framework of reference for promoting strengthened science and technology as a social force for driving the region's economic development.

*COPAQUI* actively participates in events organized by the American Chemistry Society of the United States – specifically, in promoting that association's scholarships program.

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

The work of *COPAQUI* focuses on promoting and improving science and technology in the region, in order to make a direct contribution to the sustainable economic development of Panama and the Hemisphere. In addition, *COPAQUI* offers its effective and permanent collaboration with national and international agencies active in its fields of endeavors, in order to thereby secure positive results for the benefit of the region. Thus, the organization will support the OAS's work in the following areas:

- Conducting research and developing methods and techniques for the further exploration of the chemical and physical properties of substances and for controlling or developing industrial manufacturing procedures. Development of infrastructure and generation of energy. Specifically, in the training, encouragement, and protection of professional chemists, who are to conduct experiments, tests, and analyses of live and inert matter in order to test, develop, transform, or improve products and materials.
- Supporting the work of the Office of Education, Science, and Technology of the OAS's Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) in the development of programs to encourage the region's scientific and technological progress.
- Promoting the activities undertaken by the OAS's Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) in the areas of environmental protection and sustainable development.

**6. Documents submitted by the CSO**

- Letter addressed to the Secretary General of the OAS, dated May 26, 2005
- Letter addressed to the OAS's Office of Science and Technology, dated June 1, 2005
- *Revista COPAQUI*, June 2004 (annual report for 2004, constitution, statutes)
- COPAQUI president's report
- COPAQUI financial statements