

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)]

*[Fundación para el Desarrollo de la Libertad Ciudadana
(Transparencia Internacional – Capitulo de Panamá)
(Transparency International – Panama Chapter)]*

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION CONCERNING THE *FUNDACIÓN PARA EL DESARROLLO DE LA LIBERTAD CIUDADANA (TRANSPARENCIA INTERNACIONAL – CAPITULO DE PANAMÁ)*

This document was prepared by the Summits of the Americas Secretariat to provide information on *Fundación para el Desarrollo de la Libertad Ciudadana (Transparencia Internacional – Capitulo de Panamá)*.

It contains the basic data and a list of supporting documentation submitted by the *Fundación para el Desarrollo de la Libertad Ciudadana (Transparencia Internacional – Capitulo de Panamá)* pursuant to resolution CP/RES. 759 (1217/99) "Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities."

1. Background

Fundación para el Desarrollo de la Libertad Ciudadana is a nongovernmental nonprofit organization established in Panama in 1995 for the purpose of contributing to the enhancement and deepening of the democratic system through permanent citizen involvement.

In 1996, *Fundación para el Desarrollo de la Libertad Ciudadana* was accredited as a national chapter of Transparency International. Since then, it has focused on boosting channels for government accountability and transparency and the reduction of corruption at the local, regional, and national level.

To achieve its objectives, *Fundación para el Desarrollo de la Libertad Ciudadana* founded the Panamanian Civil Society Assembly and the 2020 Panama Forum as consensus-building facilities in which Panamanian civil society could debate topics related to the monitoring and implementation of public policies. In addition, this Foundation established educational programs promoting citizens' rights in public life.

Fundación para el Desarrollo de la Libertad Ciudadana is able to carry out its activities thanks to grants by domestic and international organizations and institutions to help finance specific projects. These organizations include Profundación, S.A., which provides grants through Corporación La Prensa, S.A., The Open Society Institute, and *Campaña Ciudadana por la Bahía de Panamá* (Citizens' Campaign for the Bay of Panama), among others.

The headquarters of *Fundación para el Desarrollo de la Libertad Ciudadana* is located in Panama City, Panama. The Foundation's guidelines are set by its Board of Governors, the President, and the Vice President.

Fundación para el Desarrollo de la Libertad Ciudadana submitted its application on December 11, 2004.

2. Name, address, and date of establishment

Name: *Fundación para el Desarrollo de la Libertad Ciudadana*

Address of head office: Ave. Martin Luther King and Ave. 12 de octubre, Dúplex L4
Urbanización Hato Pintado
Panama City, Panama

Telephone: (507) 229-4207, (507)229- 4213

Fax: (507) 229-0294

Website: <http://www.saga.com.pa/libertad/>

e-mail: tipanama@cableonda.net

Executive Director: Angélica Martín Justiniani

Start up: March 31, 1995

Date established: March 31, 1995

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

Fundación para el Desarrollo de la Libertad Ciudadana is devoted to strengthening and developing citizens' freedom and enhancing their standard of living, by promoting, creating, administering, and developing activities designed to encourage citizen participation in public administration as part of the fight against corruption and the establishment of a culture of accountability among civil servants. Accordingly, *Fundación para el Desarrollo de la Libertad Ciudadana* is active in the following fields:

- It contributes to the strengthening of democracy by fighting and punishing corruption.
- It promotes citizen involvement in the forging of a democratic society geared to consolidating the rule of law and guaranteeing the full exercise of democracy.
- It promotes the protection and observance of human rights.
- It promotes transparency, proper use, accountability, and auditing with regard to public funds.
- It promotes transparency in government activities, responsibility in public administration, respect for social rights, and freedom of expression and of the press as a prerequisite for the exercise of democracy.

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

Fundación para el Desarrollo de la Libertad Ciudadana focuses mainly on the consolidation of democracy in Panama, through the implementation of programs and strategies aimed at fostering transparency in public affairs, the ethical behavior and integrity of public servants, the culture of accountability, and auditing of funds.

Fundación para el Desarrollo de la Libertad Ciudadana activities that could be of interest to the OAS involve:

- Preparation and implementation of civic education programs, such as the “Vote According to Your Conscience” program, which seeks to create greater awareness of the responsibility attached to voting and hence better selection of government officials based on objective criteria and values;
- Implementation of the “Visible Candidates” program, which aims to inform the general public regarding, among other things, the political and personal background data, campaign financing, and previous record in office of the candidates, thereby strengthening its commitment to transparency and promoting a culture of accountability.
- Preparation and implementation of the project entitled “Proposal for Strengthening the Institutions Responsible for Preventing and Investigating Corruption Cases in Panama,” which seeks to finance the civil society organizations interested in developing various proposals for strengthening good governance;
- Preparation and implementation of the “Acción y Poder Ciudadano” (Action and Citizen Empowerment) program, which seeks to support and foster citizen concern with community problems.
- Preparation and implementation of the International Transparency Program, which is geared to establishing national coalitions for the prevention of corruption;
- Preparation and implementation of the Environmental Citizens’ Program, which seeks to promote citizen involvement in environmental public administrations and sustainable corporate practices.

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

Fundación para el Desarrollo de la Libertad Ciudadana has offered to work with the OAS on programs designed to defend and consolidate open and fair citizen participation in the government decisions that affect their lives. Thus, the areas in which *Fundación para el Desarrollo de la Libertad Ciudadana* could support the Organization include:

- Extending to the OAS the benefits of the communications network and influence that the Foundation has built up among democratic institutions in Panama;

- Disseminating and promoting implementation of the Inter-American Program for Cooperation in the Fight against Corruption;
- Disseminating and promoting implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Experts of the Mechanism for Follow-up on Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC);
- Assisting in the exchange of information, experience, and corruption prevention tools with the other OAS member states;
- Supporting the work of the Department of Legal Affairs of the OAS General Secretariat in implementing and following up on the commitments undertaken in the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (CICC).

6. Documents submitted to the OAS

- Letter addressed to the Secretary General dated December 11, 2004
- Charter
- Bylaws
- Latest annual report
- Institutional mission statement
- Financial statements