

PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
COMMITTEE ON INTER-AMERICAN SUMMITS MANAGEMENT
AND CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION
IN OAS ACTIVITIES

OEA/Ser.G
CP/CISC-435/09
15 July 2009
Original: Spanish

APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN OAS ACTIVITIES PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 6
OF THE GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION BY CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS
IN OAS ACTIVITIES [CP/RES. 759 (1217/99)]

[Plan International – Regional Office for the Americas]

ANALYSIS OF FACTORS RELATING TO THE APPLICATION BY
PLAN INTERNATIONAL –REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE AMERICAS
TO PARTICIPATE IN OAS ACTIVITIES

This document was prepared by the Department of International Affairs/Secretariat for External Relations to provide information to the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) on the civil society organization (CSO) *Plan International – Regional Office for the Americas (Plan International)*.

The information contained in this report is provided pursuant to resolution CP/RES. 759 (1217/99), “Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities,” and includes a summary and a list of data and documentation presented by *Plan International – Regional Office for the Americas* in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

1. Background

The nonprofit organization *Plan International* was founded on October 12, 2004 in Panama City, Panama, to promote the defense and protection of children’s human rights.

Plan International promotes children’s rights by supporting efforts to ensure sustainable improvement in their living conditions. Programs facilitated by *Plan International* are based on the principle that children, their families, and communities, as subjects of the law, can and should participate actively in achieving these objectives.

Plan International has consultative status with the Children’s Rights Committee of the United Nations Children’s Fund, and is part of global coalitions of nongovernmental organizations engaged in improving the quality of life for children in developing countries.

Plan International works in conjunction with local and national governments, civil society, and community activists in 12 countries of the Hemisphere: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic. *Plan International* receives voluntary contributions.

Plan International –Regional Office for the Americas submitted its request for registration with the OAS on September 27, 2007.

2. Name, address, and date of establishment of the CSO

Name: Plan International –Regional Office for the Americas
Address: Edificio 802, Ciudad del Saber
Apartado 0819-05571
Panama City, Republic of Panama
Telephone: (507) 317-1700
Fax: (507) 317-1696
Email address: feedback@plan-international.org
Website: www.plan-international.org
Director: Pia Stavås Meier (Regional)
Date established: October 12, 2004

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

Plan International – Regional Office for the Americas promotes children's rights and plans, implements, and monitors projects to benefit them and their families and communities by joining efforts with governments, local authorities, communities, and civil society organizations. Activities in which *Plan International* is engaged are related to OAS activities in the following areas:

- Promoting and protecting children's rights;
- Carrying out programs focused on the development and promotion of educational programs with gender-equity, cultural adaptation, and inclusion;
- Strengthening basic family skills and institutional capacity in promotion, prevention, and comprehensive health care for children and women;
- Improving environmental conditions for children's development through water, health care, and environmental conservation projects;
- Promoting better family income and savings through the development of entrepreneurial skills, access to credit, and marketing support; and
- Building communication and educational linkages between cultures of developing countries and those in countries that provide sponsorship support.

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

Projects in which *Plan International* is engaged contribute to the protection of children's rights. The organization has worked on the promotion children's rights, with an emphasis on the right to identity, protection against violence, the right to quality education, sexual and reproductive rights and HIV/AIDS prevention, and the promotion of a culture of children's rights protection.

Contributions by *Plan International* that might be of interest to the OAS include:

- Evaluations on the status of registration of children in the Americas;
- Promotion of mechanisms for legal protection from violence, especially in the family and in schools, detention facilities, the workplace, and the community;
- Designing and implementing programs to ensure the right to education regardless of gender, ethnicity, physical, or social status, including the optimal use of teaching methodologies;
- Increasing children's awareness and skills in exercising and invoking their sexual and reproductive rights, including informed decision-making for safe, healthy, and pleasurable sexuality;
- Creating an environment conducive to the exercise of sexual and reproductive rights, including formulating and implementing rules and public policies to ensure access to proper, quality services in health, education, and protection; and
- Strengthening the ANDI-Latin America Network to build a culture of socially-responsible journalism, based on the promotion of children's rights.

5. Identification of OAS work areas in which the CSO proposes to collaborate

Plan International –Regional Office for the Americas proposes to collaborate with the OAS in the following areas:

- Supporting Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) activities in promoting and protecting children's human rights;
- Enhancing coordination with the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN) by sharing the results of its experiences and by providing information and analysis on the situation of children's rights in Latin America and the Caribbean;
- Promotion of forums for dialogue between civil society and the state, to discuss issues of children's rights, policies, and legal reform;
- Following up on tasks and agreements from the Latin American Regional Conference on the Right to Identity and Universal Birth Registration, especially in the countries in which *Plan International* supports this initiative;
- Supporting activities of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) in relation to the Universal Civil Identity Program in the Americas (PUICA); and
- Developing cooperation mechanisms and conducting ad-hoc studies for the OAS General Secretariat on issues of children's human rights.

6. Documents submitted by the CSO to the OAS

- Letter addressed to the OAS Secretary General, dated September 26, 2007
- Articles of incorporation, October 12, 2004
- Certificate of Approval of Statutes, June 6, 2006
- Annual Report for 2006-2007
- Financial Statements 2005, 2006, 2007-2008 signed by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP