

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

(Voces Vitales de Panamá)

**ANALYSIS OF THE ELEMENTS RELATED TO THE APPLICATION BY THE
VOCES VITALES DE PANAMÁ
TO PARTICIPATE IN OAS ACTIVITIES**

This document was prepared by the Department of International Affairs, Secretariat for External Relations to provide member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) with information on the civil society organization *Voces Vitales de Panamá*.

The information in this report is in response to resolution CP/RES.759 (1217/99) "Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities." The document contains a summary and a list of supporting documentation presented by *Voces Vitales de Panamá* in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

1. Background

Voces Vitales de Panamá is a non-profit civil society organization (CSO) with headquarters in Panama City, Panama, established on September 4, 2006, and legally recognized by the Ministry of Government and Justice of Panama on November 29, 2006. *Voces Vitales de Panamá* is inspired by the objectives of the "Vital Voices Global Partnership," with headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Voces Vitales de Panamá works for the defense of human rights and the proposal of and quest for solutions to social problems in order to attain development with equity and justice, by mobilizing women to change society through a global leadership network.

The mission of *Voces Vitales de Panamá* is to stimulate women's involvement and promote education, health, and equal access to opportunities in order to achieve a profound social transformation.

Voces Vitales de Panamá receives funding from direct contributions of its affiliates and income from special events, workshops, seminars, and conferences, as well as donations from corporations such as Exxon Mobil, Microsoft, Goldman Sachs, Citigroup, and Boeing, among others.

Voces Vitales de Panamá submitted its application on February 13, 2007.

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

| | |
|------------|---|
| Name: | <i>Voces Vitales de Panamá</i> |
| Address: | Vía Porras San Francisco Parque Omar, Casa Club Salón Santiago Panama City, Panama |
| Telephone: | (507) 527-9350 / (507) 527-9351 |
| Fax: | (507) 527-9352 |

Website: www.vitalvoices.org
President: Vivian Fernández de Torrijos
Vice President: Briseida Jacinto Fuentes de López
Director: Joan Levin
Date of establishment: November 29, 2006

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

Voces Vitales de Panamá promotes the promotion and protection of human rights and women's participation in the political, economic, and social processes. The following areas are among those in which *Voces Vitales de Panamá* is engaged that relate to OAS activities:

- Work for the protection of human rights in the population, especially for women and children, and specifically condemn domestic violence;
- Identify, train, and support emerging women leaders in Panama, strengthening their role in Panama's economic and social progress;
- Participate in the proposal and discussion of legislative reforms in the area of human rights, gender, administration of justice, equality and equity, and promote antidiscrimination legislation to benefit women;
- Promote education and health services, especially sexual and reproductive education and health;
- Submit proposals to the National Assembly of Panama and participate in the debate on the bill to amend the penal and penal procedure codes, motivated by concern for the laws' effect on voiceless persons without access to justice; and
- Work jointly with the National Commission on Sexual and Reproductive Health in Panama to develop a regulatory framework and facilitate the effective execution of the plan.

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

In the course of its work, *Voces Vitales de Panamá* carries out several activities that could support the OAS in its mission. The organization's activities are as follows:

- Participation in national and international summits, forums, and seminars on the defense of human rights of the population, especially women, children of both sexes, and adolescents;
- Technical and logistical support for civil society organizations and the government in the area of training women leaders;

- Participation in drafting, consultation, and validation in connection with the Integral Sexual and Reproductive Health Act of Panama; and
- Participation in the “Vital Voices Global Partnership” and facilitation of the exchange of information, best practices, and professional support so that women can achieve financial autonomy and exercise their political and civil rights.

5. Identification of OAS work areas

Voces Vitales de Panamá considers that it can contribute to OAS efforts in the following ways:

- Support for the inter-American human rights system and the work of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) through dissemination of information and promotion of a dialogue on human rights and international humanitarian law;
- Disseminate and support the work of the Permanent Council’s Working Group to Prepare a Draft Inter-American Convention against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance;
- Support and disseminate the work done by the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) on gender equity, especially as regards training of women leaders in Latin America, and work with it for the prevention, punishment, and eradication of all forms of gender violence in accordance with the Convention of Belém do Pará; and
- Cooperate with the work of the Department of International Affairs of the Secretariat for External Affairs to participate in activities to strengthen and promote democratic values.

6. Documentation submitted by the CSO to the OAS

- Letter to the Secretary General of the OAS, February 13, 2007
- Charter of the Association, September 4, 2006
- Act of Incorporation of the organization, November 29, 2006
- Principal areas of activities and objectives
- Vision for 2011
- Statutes
- Annual Report 2006
- Institutional Mission Statement
- Financial Statements 2006