

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)]

[Organización Semillas para la Democracia]

ANALYSIS OF THE ELEMENTS RELATED TO THE APPLICATION BY *SEMILLAS PARA LA DEMOCRACIA* 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 *Semillas para la Democracia* – SPD (Seeds for Democracy).

The information contained in this report is in response to resolution CP/RES. 759 (1217/99), “Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities.” This document contains a summary and a list of supporting documentation presented by *Semillas para la Democracia* in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

1. Background

Semillas para la Democracia is a nonprofit organization established on August 21, 2006, in Asunción, Paraguay. Its mission is to help enhance the quality of democracy by promoting citizen participation in matters of public interest and responsible government.

Its projects center on consolidation of the justice system, on civil society participation in matters of public interest and, at the hemispheric level, in the Summits of the Americas process and on the promotion of democracy through empowerment of local governments. *Semillas para la Democracia* has carried out activities such as theatre plays and training workshops on legal ethics and has also partnered with other organizations such as PARTICIPA in Chile and participates in the Citizen Observatory on the Fight against Corruption.

Income for *Semillas para la Democracia* comes from agreements or donations from organizations such as the AVINA Foundation Asuncion, the Center for Development Information and Evaluation of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, PARTICIPA of Chile and from the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), among others.

Semillas para la Democracia submitted its application on January 23, 2007.

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

Name:	<i>Semillas para la Democracia Organization</i>
Address:	Estados Unidos 1461, 2ª and 3ª, Asuncion, Paraguay
Telephone:	595.21.373.640
Fax:	595.21.373.640
E-mail:	semillas.paralademocracia@gmail.com ferraramarta@hotmail.com
Website:	www.spd.org.py

President: Marta Ferrara

Date established: August 21, 2006

3. Primary areas of activity and their relationship to the activities of the OAS organs, agencies and entities in which the organization wishes to participate

Semillas para la Democracia activities are primarily related to OAS activities in the areas of promoting justice, citizen participation, as well as fostering effective communication between civil society, government, and the public at large. Its primary activities are:

- Fostering civil society participation in the Summits of the Americas Process and in matters of public interest through seminars, conferences, workshops and publications;
- Developing support, technical assistance, and advisory assistance programs for base communities, social organizations, political parties, and labor unions for the purpose of promoting democracy and democratic values;
- Supporting Paraguay's national authorities through the execution of projects aimed at strengthening the institutional capacity of the legal system;
- Providing opportunities for citizens to participate in efforts to achieve best practices and transparency in the public sector following an ethical approach that fosters the peaceful, harmonious, and productive life of the citizenry.

4. Reasons why it believes its proposed contributions to OAS activities would be of interest to the Organization

The activities of *Semillas para la Democracia* (democracy, governance, strengthening civil society, and strengthening justice) are linked to some of the mandates established by the Summits of the Americas process, thus the organization can support the OAS effort with the following activities:

- Fostering legal ethics through the project "An Active Citizenry with Ethical Judges" targeting the inner workings of the legal system, through the dissemination of information on the subject and promoting discussion among the citizenry about the importance of the exchange of best practices between civil servants in the judicial system.
- Promoting the participation of an organized citizenry through Citizen Observatories with the initiative "Impact of Citizen Observatories on Public Policy."
- Supporting citizens to direct their interests and demands to local governments through a project called "Building up Capacity in Local Governments and in an

Organized Citizenry” which consists of training workshops on the operation, expertise, and responsibilities of municipal governments.

- Informing civil society organizations about how the Summits of the Americas process works, emphasizing the project “Active Democracy,” an initiative that promotes the active participation of civil society organizations in the Summits of the Americas process.

5. Identification of OAS work areas

Semillas para la Democracia proposes to collaborate with the OAS in the areas of promoting democracy, combating corruption, citizen participation and is committed to work in the following areas:

- Make recommendations to the Department of Sustainable Democracy and Special Missions and to the Department of State Modernization and Good Governance of the Secretariat for Political Affairs for the purpose of strengthening democratic institutions and fostering democratic values in Paraguay, through the activities and projects being carried out by the Inter-American Democracy Network (IADN) –an organization registered with the OAS of which *Semillas para la Democracia* is a member.
- Contribute to the activities being carried out in compliance with the provisions of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, through its Follow-up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC), through the activities of the Citizen Observatory on the Fight against Corruption. And, also, to make recommendations to the Department of Legal Cooperation (Technical Secretariat for Legal Cooperation Mechanisms) of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs to combat corruption in the Hemisphere.
- Support the activities of the Department of International Affairs of the Secretariat for External Relations for the purpose of promoting and facilitating civil society participation in the OAS and in the Summits of the Americas Process of the Summits of the Americas Secretariat.

6. Documents submitted by the CSO to the OAS

- Letter addressed to the Secretary General of the OAS, dated January 23, 2007.
- Charter and Statutes.
- Rules of Procedure of *Semillas para la Democracia*
- Financial statements and sources of financing statement of *Semillas para la Democracia* for 2006 and 2007, audited by Verónica Martínez, Public Accountant, (RUC N° 2876272-0).