

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

*[Red Paraguaya de Afrodescendientes]*

## ANALYSIS OF FACTORS RELATING TO THE APPLICATION BY *RED PARAGUAYA DE AFRODESCENDIENTES* 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 *Red Paraguaya de Afrodescendientes* [Paraguayan Afro-Descendant Network].

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 *Red Paraguaya de Afrodescendientes* in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

### 1. **Background**

*Red Paraguaya de Afrodescendientes* is a nonprofit organization established on January 17, 2008 in Fernando de la Mora, Paraguay, comprising the communities of Kamba Cúa, Kokua Kamba, and Emboscada. Its mission is to promote the human rights and recognition of Afro-descendants in Paraguay.

To accomplish this mission, *Red Paraguaya de Afrodescendientes* has collaborated with several government entities in Paraguay on studies on the situation of Afro-descendants in that country and to increase opportunities for them. To that end, it signed a cooperation agreement with the Ministry of Education and Culture, Continuing Education Division, for an adult literacy project focusing on the history of Afro-descendants.

In conjunction with the Human Rights Coordinator of Paraguay and the Paraguayan chapter of the Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defense of Women's Rights (CLADEM), the organization produced a report on Paraguayan government fulfillment of the mandates of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. It also participated in a regional seminar organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), entitled "Women of African descent and Latin American culture: Identity and Development," held in Montevideo, Uruguay, in 2009.

As part of the International Year for People of African Descent, *Red Paraguaya de Afrodescendientes* did an interview with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on the history and current status of the Afro-descendant community of Paraguay. This was published in January 2011, in issue no. 43 of the UNFPA Newsletter *Joparé Paraguay*. In March 2011, it participated in African Roots, an event coordinated by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the Brazilian Embassy in Asunción, Paraguay, to showcase African culture, art, and dance in Paraguay.

*Red Paraguaya de Afrodescendientes* finances its activities through contributions from the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UNWOMEN) and projects undertaken in cooperation with UNICEF Paraguay, the Ministry of Education and Culture, the National Secretariat for Children and Adolescents and the National Secretariat for Culture of the

Office of the President of the Republic, and the Secretariat for Afro-Descendant Affairs of the Municipality of Paraguari.

*Red Paraguaya de Afrodescendientes* submitted its application to the OAS on May 23, 2011.

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

Name of Organization: Red Paraguaya de Afrodescendientes

Address: 1er callejón c/cruzada de la Amistad – Planta Alta de la Escuela San Baltasar, Fernando de la Mora  
Paraguay

Fax: (595) 21 65 22 71

E-mail address: redpyafro@hotmail.com

Legal representative: José C. Medina

Date established: Thursday, January 17, 2008

**3. Primary areas of activities and contributions that could be of interest to the OAS**

*Red Paraguaya de Afrodescendientes* works to promote the visibility and recognition of people of African descent in Paraguay. The primary area of activity of the organization that could be of interest is the promotion of human rights and social inclusion of Afro-descendants through research on their role in the history of Paraguay and their current situation, as well as influence on public policies to combat racial discrimination.

**4. Identification of potential areas of collaboration with the OAS**

*Red Paraguaya de Afrodescendientes* proposes to collaborate with the OAS in the following areas:

- Participating in meetings and making recommendations to the Working Group to Prepare a Draft Inter-American Convention against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance, of the OAS Permanent Council's Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) ;
- Collaborating with the Department of International Law of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs (SLA) in the design and implementation of the "Project to incorporate the issue of people of African descent into the policies and programs of the OAS; and

- Sharing information with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) Rapporteurship on the Rights of Afro-descendants and Against Racial Discrimination regarding the situation of Afro-Paraguayan communities.

5. **Documents submitted by the CSO to the OAS**

- Letter to the OAS Secretary General, dated Monday, May 23, 2011
- Articles of incorporation
- Statutes
- Institutional mission statement
- Activities report for 2010-2011
- Copy of 2010 Valued Add Tax form