## PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

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### COMMITTEE ON INTER-AMERICAN SUMMITS MANAGEMENT AND CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION IN OAS ACTIVITIES

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

[Alianza Regional por la Libre Expresión e Información]

# REVIEW OF THE REQUEST BY ALIANZA REGIONAL POR LA LIBRE EXPRESIÓN E INFORMACIÓN [REGIONAL ALLIANCE FOR FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND INFORMATION] TO REGISTER WITH THE OAS

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 *Alianza Regional por la Libre Expresión e Información*.

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 *Alianza Regional por la Libre Expresión e Información* in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

#### 1. Background

Alianza Regional por la Libre Expresión e Información was constituted in Montevideo, Uruguay, on October 11, 2013. It comprises 24 civil society organizations in 19 Latin American countries and is dedicated to promoting and defending freedom of expression and access to public information in the Americas.

Alianza Regional por la Libre Expresión e Información seeks to build capacity and expertise among its member organizations with a view to improving conditions for access to information and freedom of expression in the region. In addition, it seeks to facilitate the member organizations' participation in regional and international scenarios through cooperation and exchanges of experience and knowledge.

Alianza Regional por la Libre Expresión e Información works in four spheres: horizontal cooperation; branches of government; international and regional bodies; and with other areas, actors, networks, and journalists. Its work in these spheres takes the form of strategic litigation; training and technical assistance; communication for outreach; lobbying and meetings with key players; applied research; and institution building.

Notable activities carried out by *Alianza Regional por la Libre Expresión e Información* in 2014 include the publication of reports and holding of workshops in a number of countries in the region on topics relating to information control and access to public information, and freedom of expression.

Alianza Regional por la Libre Expresión e Información finances its projects and activities with contributions from its members, and from the Government of the City of Buenos Aires, Centro de Estudios en Libertad de Expresión y Acceso a la Información (CELE), Freedom House, and Uruguay Transparente.

Alianza Regional por la Libre Expresión e Información applied for registration with the OAS on October 30, 2014.

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

Name of Organization: Alianza Regional por la Libre Expresión e Información

Address: Av. 18 de Julio 1431/601

Montevideo, Uruguay CP 11200

Telephone: (+598) 2901 1646

E-mail address: correo@alianzaregional.net

Website: http://www.alianzaregional.net/

President: Moisés Wenceslao Sánchez Riquelme

Date established: May 22, 2013

#### 3. Primary areas of activity and contributions that could be of interest to the OAS

The main areas of activity and contributions of *Alianza Regional por la Libre Expresión e Información* that may be of interest to the OAS include:

- Participation in defense of freedom of expression and access to public information at forums and other events on the topic in the Americas;
- Facilitating the attendance and participation of its members at regional and international forums; as well as encouraging cooperation and the exchange of experience and knowledge among its member organizations on the subject of freedom of expression and access to information;
- Ongoing dissemination and outreach work based on applied research reports on matters relating to freedom of expression and access to information; and
- Monitoring of the process of strengthening the inter-American human rights system and the Open Government Alliance agenda.

### 4. <u>Identification of potential areas of collaboration with the OAS</u>

Alianza Regional por la Libre Expresión e Información could collaborate with the work of the OAS in the following areas:

• Helping to follow-up on resolution AG/RES. 2811 (XLIII-O/13), "Access to Public Information and Protection of Personal Data," regarding the importance of access to public information as a pre-requisite for democracy in the Americas;

- Lending support to the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression in its efforts to boost freedom of expression and access to public information through reports, publications, research, and training workshops in this field for journalists, government officials, and civil society;
- Supporting programs of the Department for Effective Public Management (DEPM)
  of the Secretariat for Political Affairs (SPA) aimed at promoting mechanisms for
  transparency and accountability in OAS member states; and
- Participating in the hemispheric debates and activities of the OAS with civil society
  and remitting recommendations to OAS member states that could serve as inputs for
  events such as the OAS General Assembly, meetings of the Permanent Council and
  its committees, sessions of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and
  so on.

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

- Letter to the Secretary General, November 26, 2012
- Official name, contact data, address, list of executives and representatives
- Articles of Incorporation and Statute
- Institutional mission statement
- Financial statements for 2014
- Sources of financing
- Annual activities report 2012, 2013, and 2014
- E-mail correspondence with the OAS since 2010