

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

[Unión Latinoamericana de Ciegos (ULAC)]

ANALYSIS OF THE REQUEST BY *LA UNIÓN LATINOAMERICANA DE CIEGOS (ULAC)*
TO BE REGISTERED 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 *Unión Latinoamericana de Ciegos*.

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 *Unión Latinoamericana de Ciegos (ULAC)* in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

1. Background

Unión Latinoamericana de Ciegos (ULAC) is an international nonprofit nongovernmental organization that represents the interests of blind and partially sighted persons in Latin America. It was founded on November 15, 1985, in Mar del Plata, Argentina, and has established its institutional domicile in Montevideo, Uruguay, where it was granted recognition as an international organization by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay.

ULAC was created on the initiative of the Latin American Council for the Welfare of the Blind (CPPC) and the Latin American Organization of the Blind (OLAP).

ULAC works to improve quality of life for blind and partially sighted persons in the Latin American region through promotion of their rights, training, information, and advisory services to individuals, governments, and other stakeholders on the inclusion of visually impaired people in society.

ULAC’s main areas of work are to ensure and protect the rights of the blind and partially sighted by advocating for policies, programs, projects, and initiatives; harnessing technologies; providing advisory services, and strengthening its member organizations, all with a view to improving the quality of life of visually impaired persons in Latin America.

ULAC has been participating actively in OAS and United Nations meetings and played a proactive role in the entire process that culminated in the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works by Visually Impaired Persons and Persons with Print Disabilities (2013). It also participated in a variety of regional and international forums where it represented visually impaired persons in Latin America in order to seek the inclusion of those groups' needs in the plans, policies, and programs that governments are drawing up for the next 15 years.

ULAC obtains financing for its activities from organizations such as *Fundación ONCE para la Solidaridad con las Personas Ciegas de América Latina*, Open Society Foundation, and the World Blind Union, as well as through membership quotas and in-kind contributions from local organizations.

ULAC applied for registration with the OAS on December 15, 2015.

2. Name, address, and date of establishment

Name of the Organization: *Unión Latinoamericana de Ciegos (ULAC)*
Address: Mercedes 1327 C.P. 11100, Montevideo, Uruguay
Telephone: (+598) 2901 9797 int. 22
Fax: (+598) 2901 9797 int. 21
E-mail address: ulac@ulacdigital.org
Website: www.ulacdigital.org
President: Volmir Raimondi
Date of establishment: November 15, 1985

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

The main areas of activity and contributions of ULAC that may be of interest to the OAS include:

- Social integration of persons with disabilities in the countries of the Americas;
- Guarantee and observance of the human rights of visually impaired persons enshrined in inter-American and international instruments;
- Implementation of programs, plans, and actions for ensuring the inclusion and full participation in all aspects of society by persons with disabilities; and
- Implementation of social, political, economic, cultural, and development programs that foster equality and promote effective measures for ensuring access by persons with any form of disability to rehabilitation services and programs.

4. Identification of potential areas of collaboration with the OAS

ULAC could collaborate with the OAS in the following areas:

- Collaborate with the Department of Human Development, Education, and Employment through recommendations and best practices on inclusive education and employability of blind and partially sighted persons, presenting the perspective of that sector of the population.

- Contribute to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the Committee to Follow up on the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities, and the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, which are entities to which it could provide information; offer recommendations based on experience and representation of the sector; collaborate in monitoring commitments adopted by states in relation to persons with disabilities, particularly visual impairment; and provide technical support with respect to braille and other reading and writing devices used by this group;
- Furnish advisory services to the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation and the Department for Effective Public Management in order to provide blind and partially sighted persons with tools to exercise their right to vote in an autonomous manner and ensure the right to public information without access restrictions;
- Collaborate with the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN) and the Department of Economic and Social Development of the OAS, with a view to incorporating the specific needs of these sectors in initiatives that target these groups as well as mainstreaming disability awareness;
- Help advance the objectives of the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (CIADDIS) and the Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (PAD) of the Department of Social Development and Employment (DDSE), by providing technical and professional support, distributing reports, and drafting substantive discussion papers to advise on the issue, always with a view to implementing programs and projects to mainstream disability awareness so as to include vulnerable groups; and
- Participate in hemispheric discussions and OAS activities with civil society and submit recommendations to OAS member states to serve as inputs at events such as the OAS General Assembly, meetings of the Permanent Council and its committees, and IACHR sessions, among others.

5. Documents submitted by the CSO to the OAS

- Letter to the Secretary General, December 15, 2014
- Official name, contact information, address, list of directors and representatives
- Articles of incorporation and bylaws
- Mission statement
- Financial statements for 2013
- Sources of financing
- Annual Activities Report 2013