

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)]

[Asociación para el Estudio y Promoción de la Seguridad en Democracia (SEDEM)]

ANALYSIS OF FACTORS RELATING TO THE APPLICATION BY
ASOCIACIÓN PARA EL ESTUDIO Y PROMOCIÓN DE LA SEGURIDAD EN DEMOCRACIA
(SEDEM) 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 (CSO) *Asociación para el Estudio y Promoción de la Seguridad en Democracia* [Association for the Study and Promotion of Security in Democracy] (SEDEM).

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.” This document includes a summary and a list of documentation presented by *Asociación para el Estudio y Promoción de la Seguridad en Democracia* in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

1. Background

Asociación para el Estudio y Promoción de la Seguridad en Democracia (SEDEM) is a nonprofit organization established on January 14, 2000, Guatemala City, Guatemala to promote security and human rights with greater transparency and citizen participation in governmental entities.

SEDEM executes projects to strengthen governmental and nongovernmental mechanisms for monitoring the security services and human rights in Guatemala, such as “Support for the Democratization of a Security System That Respects Human Rights and Is Subject to Internal and External Control Mechanisms” and its “Triennial Plan,” implemented from 2009 to 2011 in Quetzaltenango and Huehuetenango Departments, San Cristóbal Verapaz municipality, and Guatemala City.

The aims of these projects were to: (1) strengthen specialized networks for monitoring and oversight of the national security services; (2) impact the design of public policy and legislation in the areas of security and justice; and (3) promote public debate on national security, with emphasis on the rights of indigenous peoples and women.

Regarding the first aim, in 2010 and 2011 *SEDEM* organized three sessions of the Course on Democratic Security, as well as two meetings that provided training for 20 indigenous leaders on monitoring the security services in their communities. The graduates of these courses have developed and presented proposals on development and security to public authorities with the aim of strengthening policies in these areas at the community and national levels. *SEDEM* has also held workshops to verify the presence of women and indigenous peoples in the National Civil Police, and equity in the services provided to these groups.

Regarding the second aim—to impact the design of legislation, in 2011, *SEDEM* developed and implemented the campaign “I Fight for Life and Justice” and participated in national and international conferences with other civil society organizations to promote justice, security, and the fight against impunity. It has also held meetings with deputies, political parties, and representatives

of departmental agencies to engage in dialogue on the security situation and present proposals for the implementation of security plans and the Regulations to the Framework Law on the National Security System. It is also a member of Convergence for Human Rights, a coalition of six civil society organizations whose mission is to promote human rights and combat impunity in Guatemala.

As regards the third objective—to promote public debate on national security, with emphasis on the rights of indigenous peoples and women, *SEDEM* has a radio theatre program through which it produces episodes to promote debate on topics such as sexual and gender-based violence, armed violence and insecurity, the dilemma of human rights and security in democracy, and the budget for public security institutions, among others. Since 2003, it has also worked with the United States organization National Security Archive to obtain, declassify, and digitize over 700,000 images of secret information related to Guatemala and promote unrestricted access to declassified information through the Office of the Attorney General for Human Rights [Procuraduría de Derechos Humanos].

In the framework of the OAS, *SEDEM* participated in the Special Meetings of the Permanent Council with Civil Society Organizations, Other Actors, and Users of the Inter-American Human Rights System, held on December 7, 2012, and in the forty-first regular session of the General Assembly, in San Salvador, El Salvador; and replied to a questionnaire and participated in a hearing of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) in 2011 on the situation of human rights defenders in the Americas.

SEDEM carries out its activities through projects financed by the Government of the Netherlands, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO), Kerk in Actie, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, the Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL), DanChurchAid, and the Lutheran World Federation.

SEDEM submitted its request for registration with the OAS on December 14, 2012.

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

Name: *Asociación para el Estudio y Promoción de la Seguridad en Democracia (SEDEM)*

Address: 5ª Calle 1-49, Zona 01
Guatemala City, Guatemala

Telephone: + (502) 2220-4998 / 2251-0730

Fax: + (502) 2232-4055

Website: www.sedem.org.gt

E-mail address: info@sedem.org.gt

Executive Director: Iduvina Estalinova Hernández Batres

Date established: January 14, 2000

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

SEDEM executes projects to promote citizen participation in formulating, monitoring, and implementing public policies and plans on security and human rights. The main activities and contributions of the organization that could be of interest to the OAS include:

- Building civil society capacities to impact public policies through training for and networking among civil society organizations to monitor and offer recommendations for following up on policies related to security, human rights, and justice to public entities tasked with these areas;
- Raising awareness of the human rights of women and indigenous peoples through research on equal access to public services, and implementing media campaigns; and
- Promoting transparency through programs designed to increase access to public information on government actions in the security and human rights areas.

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

SEDEM considers that it could lend support to the work of the OAS by:

- Participating in Meetings of Ministers Responsible for Public Security in the Americas (MISPA) and offering proposals to the Committee on Hemispheric Security (CSH) of the Permanent Council on implementing the Commitment to Public Security in the Americas, adopted at MISPA I, in 2008, and the Consensus of Santo Domingo on Public Security, adopted at MISPA II;
- Sharing information with and disseminating the work of the Rapporteurship on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Rapporteurship on the Rights of Women of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR);
- Supporting the work of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) to promote gender rights and disseminate the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, “Convention of Belém do Pará”;
- Contributing recommendations to the Mechanism for Follow-Up on Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC), in cooperation with the Department of Legal Cooperation of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs; and
- Offering recommendations to the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (CISC) of the Permanent Council on best practices of building capacities of civil society in the process of designing and monitoring public policies.

5. Documents submitted by the CSO to the OAS

- Letter to the OAS Secretary General, dated December 14, 2012
- Articles of incorporation
- By-laws
- Mission statement
- 2011 Narrative Report on the 2009-2011 Triennial Plan (January to December 2011)
- 2011 Narrative Report on the project “Support for the Democratization of a Security System that Respects Human Rights and Is Subject to Internal and External Control Mechanisms”
- Financial statements for 2011 (prepared by Pablo Humberto Navichoc García, CPA)