

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)]

*[Instituto Centroamericano para los Estudios de la Democracia Social (Central American Institute
for Social Democracy) (DEMOS)]*

ANALYSIS OF THE APPLICATION BY THE *INSTITUTO CENTROAMERICANO
PARA LOS ESTUDIOS DE LA DEMOCRACIA SOCIAL* (DEMOS)
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 *Instituto Centroamericano para los Estudios de la Democracia Social* (DEMOS).

The information contained herein is in response 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 *Instituto Centroamericano para los Estudios de la Democracia Social* (DEMOS) in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

1. Background

The *Instituto Centroamericano para los Estudios de la Democracia Social* (DEMOS) was established on September 11, 2006 in Guatemala City, Guatemala, to foster the human development of vulnerable groups and the empowerment of youth, women's and indigenous peoples' organizations through advocacy directed at public policies regarding the protection and promotion of their rights and the prevention of violence.

DEMOS runs youth, indigenous peoples' and gender-related programs in more than 50 municipalities in Guatemala, focusing on a) promotion of a form of citizenship, b) the advancement of human rights, and c) democratic security and justice.

DEMOS runs courses, forums, and workshops on local government, citizen participation, the rights of indigenous peoples, and conflict resolution with a view to strengthening democracy and the leadership and impact of youth on decision-making processes. In 2012, in conjunction with *Fundación Propaz* and the Research and Political Management Institute of the Rafael Landivar University, it conducted the Forging Democracy Youth Leadership Program (PLJCD) aimed at boosting young people's leadership skills. As part of that Program, it conducted a Diploma course in Political Citizenship, attended by 649 young people (347 men and 302 women) from 21 municipalities in Guatemala; and a Forum on Freedom of Expression coordinated jointly with the Youth Office of the Municipality of Santiago Atitlán.

Furthermore, through the Communication and Citizen Participation Program, *DEMOS* fosters youth participation in municipal media. That Program includes training courses in the production of radio and television programs and theater pieces. In 2012, the Program included organization of the Seventh National Theater Exhibit entitled "The Culture of Peace," and it trained more than 450 youths from 44 Guatemalan municipalities in human rights, peace, theater, acting, and body language.

Demos coordinates the National Convergence for Political Reform (CONAREP) initiative, the purpose of which is to formulate proposals in connection with the Electoral and

Political Parties Law. It comprises eight Guatemalan civil society organizations. In 2012, it helped publicize the electoral reform process in the departments of Alta Verapaz, Chiquimula, Quiché, Huehuetenango, and Sololá; and it made presentations to the Special Committee on Electoral Affairs of the Guatemalan Congress.

DEMOS encourages the formulation of municipal plans to prevent juvenile violence by promoting citizen participation in the departments of Chiquimula, Chimaltenango, Escuintla, Huehuetenango, Izabal, Jalapa, Jutiapa, Sacatepéquez, Santa Rosa, Sololá, and Zacapa.

In 2009, *DEMOS*—together with the National Registry of Guatemala (RENAP)—helped the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN) to implement the "Program for the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Children and Adolescents in the Inter-American System" in Guatemala.

DEMOS conducts its activities through projects financed by the Swedish Embassy, the Dutch Embassy, the Swedish International Cooperation for Development Agency (SIDA), the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the National Registry of Guatemala (RENAP), the San Egidio Guatemala Community, the Soros Foundation, and the International Youth Foundation.

DEMOS's application was received by the OAS General Secretariat on April 24, 2013.

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

Name: [Instituto Centroamericano para los Estudios de la Democracia Social
[Central American Institute for Social Democracy](DEMOS)]

Address: 17 Avenida 19-37, Zona 10
Guatemala City, Guatemala

Telephone: + (502) 2367-1859

E-mail address: guatemalademos@gmail.com

Website: www.guatemalademos.org

Executive Director: Anabella Rivera

Date established: Monday, September 11, 2006

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

DEMOS promotes the integral development of youth, women, and the indigenous, and violence prevention. The main areas of activity and contributions of the CSO that may be of interest to the OAS include:

- Promoting human development for young people through national workshops, training programs, and campaigns to strengthen training for youth leaders and prevent juvenile violence;
- Fostering citizen participation in the design of public policies through collaboration with other civil society organizations for monitoring and influencing public policies relating to human rights and electoral processes; and
- Promoting and defending the human rights of young people, women, and indigenous persons in vulnerable circumstances.

4. OAS work areas to which the CSO can provide support

DEMOS proposes to support the OAS in the following areas:

- Providing recommendations to the Working Group to Prepare the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP), in cooperation with the Department of International Law (DIL) of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs (SLA);
- Furnishing information to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), especially its rapporteurship on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, regarding the human rights situation and the indigenous peoples in Guatemala;
- Cooperating with the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) on topics relating to the strengthening of women's participation in social, cultural, political, and economic affairs;
- Supporting the work of the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN) in promoting the participation of children and adolescents in the process of public policy-making;
- Sharing best practices and information with the Department of Public Security of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security on successful programs to prevent violence among youths; and
- Contributing to the programs of the Department of Human Development, Education, and Employment of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) aimed at promoting employment and education for young people, especially the Inter-American Program on Education for Democratic Values and Practices.

5. Documents submitted by the CSO to the OAS

- Letter to the OAS Secretary General
- Articles of Incorporation
- Statutes
- Mission statement
- Activity report for 2012
- Financial statements for 2012 (signed by José Racancoj, Certified Public Accountant)