

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

[Asociación Venezolana de Mujeres (AVM)]

ANALYSIS OF FACTORS RELATING TO THE APPLICATION BY *ASOCIACIÓN VENEZOLANA DE MUJERES (AVM)* 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 *Asociación Venezolana de Mujeres* (Venezuelan Association of Women, AVM)

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 list of documentation presented by *Asociación Venezolana de Mujeres* in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

1. **Background**

Asociación Venezolana de Mujeres (AVM) is a nongovernmental, nonprofit organization based in Caracas, Venezuela. It was founded in 1936 with a mission to provide comprehensive support and assistance to women as the foundation of the family and Venezuelan society, through the volunteer work of its associates and employees, and through national and international partnerships. Its activities revolve around implementing programs and projects geared towards support, development, and leadership of women, promotion of their human rights, and preventing abuse of children and adolescents.

AVM works with community organizations, educational institutions, social movements, political parties, and communities. Its team includes teachers, lawyers, architects, and human rights advocates, among others.

The Association works with local, national, and international organizations and institutions such as Alliance of Pan American Round Tables of Venezuela, Coordinator of Women’s Nongovernmental Organizations, Global Foundation for Women, National Women’s Institute (INAMUJER), Women’s Development Bank (BANMUJER), Venezuelan Association for Alternative Sex Education (AVESA), Center for Social Research, Education, and Women’s Studies (CISFEM), Association of HIV-Positive Women Activists (AMAS), Federation of Private Child Care Institutions (FIPAM), Venezuelan Family Planning Association (PLAFAM), Salesian Ladies, and the Office of the Mayor of the Caracas Metropolitan Area.

Since its inception, AVM has executed projects with government and international agencies as well as nongovernmental organizations such as *Voces Vitales*, *Venezuela sin Límite*, and private sector companies Venamcham, Procter & Gamble, and *Monacal Cargill de Venezuela*.

AVM submitted its application for registration with the OAS on June 1, 2005.

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

Name: *Asociación Venezolana de Mujeres (AVM)*

Headquarters Address: Avenida Presidente Medina con Av. María Teresa Toro,
Edificio Asociación Venezolana de Mujeres. Urb. Las Acacias,
Municipio Libertador, del Distrito Capital
Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

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E-Mail: democraciamujer@cantv.net, asvemu@telcel.net.ve

Website: www.asociacionvenezolanademujeres.org

Director General: María Boccalandro de Mirabal

Date established: June 16, 1936

3. **Primary areas of activity of the CSO and their relationship to OAS activities**

The main areas of activity of *AVM* are promoting and developing a culture that is democratic, peaceful, and just. It is engaged primarily in the protection of women and children, peaceful settlement of conflicts, and preventing human rights violations, domestic violence, poverty, teenage pregnancy, and gender and race-based discrimination. Among the activities carried out by *AVM* that could be of interest to the OAS are the following:

- Contributing to the creation, training, and education of leaders and fostering citizen participation.
- Promoting and developing democratic values and institutions through support for processes for conflict resolution, information sharing, and establishment of various cooperation links among academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, and regional and international organizations.
- Promoting the rights of women, children, and adolescents, especially those at risk of abuse, by implementing training programs, developing defense and protection mechanisms, and through publications and debates on the issue.

4. **CSO contributions that could be of interest to the OAS**

AVM carries out its activities through training programs, publications, research, and participation in local and national consultation processes. The organization's contributions that could be of interest to the OAS include:

- Organizing training and education workshops and national awareness seminars on human rights and democracy issues.
- Organizing community meetings aimed at preventing domestic violence, targeted mainly to women's and youth organizations, community action groups, and local administrative boards.
- Creation of educational services such as schools and educational units to serve the children of working parents, at reduced costs, and providing academic scholarships.
- Opening free legal services for families in Venezuelan society.
- Implementation of programs for strengthening and professional development of women and seniors.

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

AVM believes that its experience and close relationship with community, local, national, and international organizations, as well as its participation in national and regional consultation processes may be useful for activities carried out by various agencies and departments of the OAS. It could therefore support the work of the OAS in the following areas:

- Assisting the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) in designing programs to educate and inform women, adolescents, and girls about the issue of domestic violence, family law, and gender identity.
- Supporting the work of the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN) through studies, research, and related experiences in the situation of Venezuelan children.
- Providing the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) with research and information to strengthen the protection and promotion of human rights in the Americas.
- Collaborating with the Department of Education, Culture, Science, and Technology of the OAS Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) to develop educational strategies and programs to promote and raise awareness about the Inter-American Democratic Charter and to promote democratic values in the member states.
- Supporting the efforts of the Department for the Promotion of Democracy of the OAS Secretariat for Political Affairs to implement mechanisms geared towards developing and strengthening democratic practices and values of young leaders of the Americas.

6. Documents submitted to the OAS

- Letter addressed to the Secretary General of the OAS, dated June 1, 2005
- Detailed and specific explanatory notes on the Financial Statements as of April 30, 2005
- Articles of incorporation of *Asociación Venezolana de Mujeres*
- Legal certification of *Asociación Venezolana de Mujeres*
- Statutes of *Asociación Venezolana de Mujeres*
- Table of projects executed by *Asociación Venezolana de Mujeres*
- Annual report that includes strategic profile, activities carried out, and activities proposed for the second year of the term
- Presentation and proposal for the program entitled “School of Women’s Leadership”