

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 THE PARTICIPATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS
IN OAS ACTIVITIES [CP/RES. 759 (1217/99)]

[Venezuelan Institute for Social and Political Studies (INVESP)]

ANALYSIS OF FACTORS RELATED TO THE APPLICATION BY THE VENEZUELAN INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL AND POLITICAL STUDIES 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 *Venezuelan Institute for Social and Political Studies* (INVESP).

The information contained in this report is in response to resolution CP/RES. 759, "Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities." This document includes a summary and list of documentation presented by the Venezuelan Institute for Social and Political Studies (INVESP) in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

1. **Background**

The *Venezuelan Institute for Social and Policy Studies* (INVESP) is a non-profit civil society organization established in 1986 in Caracas, Venezuela, to promote and conduct scientific research in international relations and the social sciences in general.

The mission of *INVESP* is to contribute to policy formulation and implementation at the national and international levels. It fulfils this through programs, projects, publications, and research on a variety of social, economic, and political issues in Latin America and the Caribbean, without any political, ideological, or religious affiliation.

INVESP has participated in various OAS activities, including the thirty-eighth regular session of the OAS General Assembly in Medellín, Colombia, in 2008; the South America Sub-regional Forum for Civil Society in Lima, Peru, in February 2009; and the Hemispheric Forum for Civil Society to Prepare for the Fifth Summit of the Americas and the thirty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly, in Washington, D.C., in March 2009. It also collaborates with other civil society organizations, among them *Participa* Corporation, Active Democracy Network, Partners of the Americas, and Synergy.

INVESP finances its activities through income from various projects, seminars, and training, consultancy, and advisory services it provides, as well as from foundations, government agencies, and other similar civil society organizations.

INVESP submitted its application for registration with the OAS on December 28, 2008.

2. Name, address, and date of incorporation

Name of Organization:	Venezuelan Institute for Social and Political Studies (INVESP)
Address:	Qta. Marielvi, Avenida Gil Fortoul, Santa Mónica, Caracas Venezuela
Telephone/Fax:	+58212 661-96-06
E-Mail:	invesp@cantv.net
Web Page:	www.invesp.org
Executive Director:	Francine Jácome
Date of incorporation:	November 18, 1986

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

The work of *INVESP* relates to OAS activities in:

- Promoting scientific research in political, social, and economic affairs as well as other issues geared towards scientific pluralism and academic freedom for its researchers;
- Influencing the formulation of government policies at the national and international levels through the dissemination of information and research on a variety of issues and by producing analysis and specific proposals.
- Facilitating democratic participation by social and political actors in terms of the inter-American agenda.

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

INVESP conducts research programs and projects geared towards scientific pluralism and academic freedom to help in the formulation and implementation of policies at the national and international levels. *INVESP* can contribute to the OAS in the following areas:

- Conducting various programs for research in international relations and socio-political studies;
- Organizing high-level seminars and workshops to discuss national and international issues;
- Publishing studies conducted by its researchers, multi- and single-author books that compile results and conclusions on various projects;
- Developing training programs and advisory and consulting services related to the topics of research conducted; and

- Publishing on its website up-to-date information on OAS activities, especially activities that provide opportunities for participation by civil society organizations.

5. Identification of OAS work areas

The Venezuelan Institute for Social and Political Studies is proposing to collaborate with the OAS in the following areas:

- Promoting the principles of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, especially the articles relating to the promotion of democratic culture and civil society participation in the OAS;
- Contributing to the efforts of the Department of State Modernization and Governance of the Secretariat for Political Affairs to conduct research and follow-up on institutional reforms, with a view to improving the conditions of democratic governance and to properly address the demands of the citizenry;
- Supporting efforts by the Department of International Affairs of the Secretariat of External Relations to strengthen mechanisms for public participation, by publishing relevant information on its website;
- Promoting the work of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development in terms of its human resource and institutional training programs and in developing mechanisms for citizen participation in decision-making on government policies;
- Participating in the Summits of the Americas process and submitting its recommendations on initiatives of the Summit of the Americas Secretariat; and
- Contributing to the work of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG) in implementing and following up on Summits of the Americas mandates.

6. Documents submitted by the CSO to the OAS

- Letter to the Secretary General of the OAS, dated December 28, 2008
- Mission statement
- Incorporation papers, November 18, 1986
- Statutes
- 2007 and 2008 financial statements (audited by Delly T. López, C.P.)
- 2008 Report