

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)]

[Instituto de Derechos Humanos Santo Domingo (IDHSD)]

ANALYSIS OF FACTORS RELATED TO THE APPLICATION BY  
*INSTITUTO DE DERECHOS HUMANOS SANTO DOMINGO (IDHSD)*  
TO PARTICIPATE IN OAS ACTIVITIES

This document was prepared by the Summits of the Americas Secretariat to provide information to member states of the Organization of American States on the civil society organization *Instituto de Derechos Humanos Santo Domingo* (Human Rights Institute of Santo Domingo – *IDHSD*).

The information contained in this report is in response to resolution CP/RES. 759 (1217/99), “Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities.” This document contains a summary and a list of supporting documentation presented by the *IDHSD* in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

1. Background

*IDHSD* is a nongovernmental organization founded in 1999 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. It is principally devoted to the promotion and protection of human rights, human rights education, citizen security, the rule of law and democratic institutions, and children’s rights.

Its main functions include generating institution-building programs and education in human rights, democracy, and security. It also seeks to promote knowledge of human rights issues and of the mechanisms that exist to protect those rights.

The *IDHSD* receives funds through programs and projects developed with the support of the World Bank, the European Union, the United States embassy, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the military’s Institute of Human Rights and the Human Dignity Institute of the National Police.

The *IDHSD* goes about its work in collaboration with several institutions active in promoting human rights.

*IDHSD* submitted its application to the OAS on March 24, 2006

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

Name:	<u>[Instituto de Derechos Humanos Santo Domingo (IDHSD)]</u>
Address:	Ave. 27 de Febrero No. 583, Suite 306 Los Restauradores, Santo Domingo, D.N. Dominican Republic
Telephone:	809-531-8181
Fax:	809-531-3332
E-mail address:	webmaster@idhsd.org

vpolanco@idhsd.org

Website: <http://www.idhsd.org>

President: Vielka M. Polanco Morales

Date established: November 8, 1999

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

The *IDHSD* strives to defend and promote human rights by:

- Generating educational programs to promote human rights principles, values, and standards in the formal education system and in informal participatory and preventive education circles.
- Organizing actions to promote human rights protection mechanisms in both government institutions and civil society by fostering the development of a legal framework for them.
- Preparing programs to train community leaders with a view to disseminating the meaning of human rights and achieving leaders who are well versed in their official duties and their relationship to society.

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

The *IDHSD* can contribute to the work of the OAS, especially in areas devoted to the promotion and strengthening of human rights by educating Dominican society, by:

- Conducting training workshops to inform community leaders about protecting human rights and dealing with related issues.
- Organizing academic competitions in the fields of human rights, promotion of democracy, political rights, and public participation as a contribution to training in human rights issues.
- Preparing research and extension projects aimed at conducting diagnostic assessments in the following fields: human rights education, public safety, children's rights, and the rights of migrants.
- Strengthening ties among national institutions engaged in promoting and furthering human rights.
- Following up on the commitments entered into by the Dominican Republic when it signed the Inter-American Convention on Human Rights.
- Carrying out activities and meeting with leaders in various fields to prevent

violations and keep track of complaints.

5. Identification of the OAS work areas in which the CSO proposes to support ongoing activities or to make recommendations on the best way to achieve OAS objectives

*IDHSD* considers that it can contribute to OAS efforts in the areas of promotion and protection of human rights, human rights education, citizen safety, the rule of law and democratic institutions, and children's rights, by:

- Publicizing the work of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights as key forums for protecting human rights.
- Promoting legal actions to bring human rights violation cases before the appropriate organs, such as the IACHR.
- Publicizing and supporting the work of the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN) with respect to protection of the rights of the child.
- Monitoring and supporting the work of the Secretariat for Political Affairs to promote democracy and the prevention and settlement of conflicts, through its various workshops, programs, and activities aimed mainly at training Dominican community leaders.
- Monitoring and publicizing compliance with the obligations incurred by OAS member states under the American Convention on Human Rights and the Additional Protocol in the Area of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights.

6. Documents submitted by the CSO to the OAS

- Letter addressed to the Secretary General of the OAS, dated March 24, 2006
- Charter, dated November 8, 1999
- Statutes, dated November 17, 1999
- Annual Report, 2005
- Institutional mission statement
- Financial statements, 2005