

PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
COMMITTEE ON INTER-AMERICAN SUMMITS MANAGEMENT
AND CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION
IN OAS ACTIVITIES

OEA/Ser.G
CP/CISC-442/09
15 July 2009
Original: Spanish

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 Servicios Educativos Rurales (SER)]

ANALYSIS OF FACTORS RELATED TO THE APPLICATION BY
ASOCIACIÓN SERVICIOS EDUCATIVOS RURALES (SER)
TO PARTICIPATE IN OAS ACTIVITIES

This document was prepared by the Department of International Affairs / Secretariat for External Relations to provide the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) with information on the civil society organization (CSO) *Asociación Servicios Educativos Rurales*.

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 *Asociación Servicios Educativos Rurales*, in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

1. Background

Asociación Servicios Educativos Rurales (SER) is non-profit organization founded in 1980, in Lima, Peru, to promote the democratic institutional system and the strengthening of citizen participation. *SER* provides support in building the capacity of local players to intervene in public decision-making and development planning and management.

SER establishes strategic alliances with different societal players and organizations, such as leaders of civil society organizations and farming communities; leaders of *rondas campesinas* [peasant patrols]; health team leaders; school teachers and parents; leaders of women's organizations; journalists, officers, and officials of local radio stations; and religious organizations, among others.

SER promotes dialogue and consensus-building among local players, encouraging rapprochement between the state and society, public access to information, development planning and management, building the capacities of individuals and expanding their rights, and promoting transparency in resource management.

SER has received financing from different organizations, including the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Oxfam UK, the Open Society Institute (OSI), Medicus Mundi, the Basque government, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), DIAKONIA, a Swedish ecumenical development organization, and the European Union.

Asociación Servicios Educativos Rurales submitted its application to the OAS on June 30, 2008.

2. Name, address, and date of establishment

Name: Asociación Servicios Educativos Rurales

Address: Jr. Mayta Capac No. 1329, Jesus María, Lima 11, Peru

Telephone: (511) 4727950 / 4727937

Fax: (511) 4716138
E-mail address: postmast@ser.org.pe
Website: www.ser.org.pe
Director: Javier Emilio Torres Seoane
Date of incorporation: April 20, 1980

3. Primary area of activity of the CSO and its relationship to OAS activities

SER promotes the strengthening of the democratic institutional system and of citizenship in Peru's poorest areas. To that end, it carries out the following activities:

- Promotion of dialogue and consensus-building among local players, encouraging rapprochement between the state and society, access to information, development planning and management, building the capacities of individuals and expanding their rights, and promoting transparency in resource management;
- Promotion of the strengthening of democracy through legal mechanisms for community and civil society participation in areas of human rights protection;
- Development of education and community participation programs on social development and employment-related matters, and promotion of human rights;
- Promotion of citizen consensus-building programs for indigenous communities by promoting forums for consultation and dialogue.

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

SER provides support to civil society on citizen participation-related matters and issues. *SER*'s contributions to the OAS focus on:

- Contributing to the consolidation of regional government in its leadership role of territorial development processes, with contributions from civil society;
- Dissemination of the fulfillment of the human rights obligations of states, especially indigenous communities, participating in the implementation of public policy by establishing cooperation relations with indigenous peoples and related organizations abroad;
- Promotion of the protection of human rights by promoting national, regional, and international protection mechanisms through radio program dissemination campaigns;

- Building the capacities of local players to intervene in public decision-making and development planning and management.

5. Identification of OAS work areas

SER considers that it can contribute to OAS efforts in the following areas:

- Working to promote and protect the principles of the OAS Inter-American Democratic Charter, institutional development, and the strengthening of citizen participation mechanisms, in conjunction with the Secretariat for Political Affairs (SAP);
- Providing support for the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) in promoting and protecting human rights, with emphasis on indigenous groups;
- Participating in the Summits of the Americas process by participating in activities carried out by the Summits of the Americas Secretariat, in conjunction with the Department of International Affairs of the Secretariat for External Relations (SRE);
- Contributing to OAS efforts to promote integral development, especially in implementing social and cultural development programs, in collaboration with the Department of Education and Culture of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI).

6. Documents submitted by the CSO to the OAS

- Letter addressed to the Secretary General of the OAS, dated June 30, 2008
- Incorporation documents of October 1980
- Articles of incorporation
- 2008/2007 annual report
- Financial statements for 2007 (audited by Cristina Rojas, CPA 19945)