

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)]

[*Centro Latinoamericano de Estudios y Cooperación para el Desarrollo (Latin American
Development Research and Cooperation Center) (CENLAT)*]

ANALYSIS OF THE ELEMENTS RELATED TO THE APPLICATION BY
CENTRO LATINOAMERICANO DE ESTUDIOS Y COOPERACIÓN PARA EL DESARROLLO
(LATIN AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH AND COOPERATION CENTER)
(CENLAT)]
TO PARTICIPATE IN OAS ACTIVITIES

This document was prepared by the Summits Secretariat to provide member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) with information on the civil society organization (CSO) *Centro Latinoamericano de Estudios y Cooperación para el Desarrollo (CENLAT)*.

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 CENLAT in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

1. Background

CENLAT is an international nonprofit organization that brings together Latin American civil society organizations to carry out development plans, academic exchanges, and institutional cooperation to strengthen peace, eradicate poverty, and build democracy in the region, with a focus on inclusiveness. CENLAT was established in 1989 under the name *Asociación Latinoamericana y del Caribe para la Integración (ALACI)* (Latin American and Caribbean Association for Integration). It changed its name to *Centro Latinoamericano de Estudios y Cooperación para el Desarrollo (CENLAT)* in 2005. CENLAT's headquarters is in Lima, Peru.

CENLAT's main mission is to promote cooperative efforts toward the economic and social development of under privileged sectors, with special attention to children and young people. CENLAT is an academic and democratic forum that promotes inclusion of all ideologies through objective study of the political, economic, and social problems affecting the region.

CENLAT devises and executes academic and informational activities in the form of conferences, roundtable discussions, and seminars. CENLAT has a team of professionals in law and social sciences whose aim is to organize national and regional seminars for discussion and the sharing of knowledge and experience in the field of law and its repercussions in society. CENLAT also cooperates with various network of the region and other nongovernmental organizations to implement projects and programs.

CENLAT's activities are financed through voluntary contributions of its members and through sponsorship by universities and the private sector.

CENLAT submitted its application to the OAS on September 21, 2005.

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

Name: *Centro Latinoamericano de Estudios y Cooperación para el Desarrollo (CENLAT)*
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Lima 1, Peru
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E-mail address: sedecentral@cenlatino.org
Website: www.cenlatino.org
Director General: Diego A. Palomino Cotrina
Date established: August 2005

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

CENLAT promotes representative democracy and progress in the region and believes that its areas of endeavor are related to OAS activities in the following ways:

- Conducts studies and research on Latin American and international topics and publicizes the findings.
- Supports human resource development through education and training.
- Promotes social development, focusing on issues of health, fighting crime, and fighting drug abuse.
- Cooperates in environmental protection efforts to preserve, protect, and conserve natural resources.
- Fosters recognition and renewed appreciation of the region's multicultural identity.
- Promotes gender equality and economic rights through training and technical assistance programs.
- Strengthens the capacity of civil society organizations to develop civic participation and promote civic commitment.

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

CENLAT works at the international level to carry out democracy programs in the areas of human rights, electoral processes, legal assistance, and educational development. Therefore it believes its activities could advance the efforts of the OAS as follows:

- Promoting greater understanding of democratic values, influencing civil rights and duties through a training and technical assistance program for civil society organizations and professional organizations.
- Strengthening the capacity of nongovernmental organizations, providing assistance with legislative development and technical support in the respective countries.
- Conducting programs to promote government accountability concerning respect for human rights and to promote reforms to strengthen democratic governance by increasing public participation.
- Designing regional, national, and local programs aimed at forming networks of associations to support local governments and communities in measures to enhance their social and economic well-being.
- Encouraging professors, students, and graduates to engage in research and teaching on Latin American topics.
- Helping to establish a documentation center and a service providing up-to-date information on regional topics.
- Encouraging cooperation through academic exchange agreements for the updating of information and the execution of projects with experts from the region and from Europe.
- Concluding interagency agreements with universities, research centers, and private, governmental, and international organizations to promote the sharing of information, ideas, and specialized consulting services.

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

CENLAT believes it can advance the efforts of the OAS to promote representative democracy and progress in the region, with a focus on inclusiveness, by:

- Publicizing and promoting the Inter-American Democratic Charter, especially in its defense of democracy and its measures to increase levels of human development.
- Working with the Secretariat for Political Affairs (SPA) on its efforts to strengthen democracy, good governance, civil society participation, and crisis prevention.

- Publicizing and promoting the efforts of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) to foster regional development and eliminate extreme poverty and supporting the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) in its specific initiatives to that end.
- Supporting and publicizing the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Integral Development (2006-2009), adopted at the thirty-sixth regular session of the OAS General Assembly, in its measures to reduce poverty and inequity and to bring about equal opportunity, by promoting human capacities and institution-building.
- Conducting studies, conferences, and similar initiatives to promote the capacity of civil society organizations to participate in OAS activities.
- Working with the Department of Education, Culture, Science, and Technology (DECST) to increase human capital and scientific and technologies capabilities in the OAS member states.
- Supporting and participating in the Summits of the Americas process through activities of the Summits Secretariat.

6. Documents submitted by the CSO to the OAS

- Letter addressed to the Secretary General of the OAS, dated September 21, 2005
- Agreement between CENLAT and InterConnection for interagency cooperation and representation in Latin America
- Registration record
- Bylaws
- Annual report for 2005
- Letter from Senator Andres Townsend Ezcurra, Secretary General of the Latin American Parliament, May 10, 1989
- Letter from Rafael Hernández Colón, former Governor of Puerto Rico, dated May 22, 1991
- Letter from Miguel A. Hernández Agosto, former President of the Senate of Puerto Rico, dated April 17, 1991
- Statements by the Conferences of the Latin American and Caribbean Association for Integration (ALACI)
- Certificates from the Justice Studies Center
- Article from the newspaper *Sea Latino*, issued May 20, 2005
- Article from *Ebbtide News*, issued May 20, 2005
- CENLAT notices in *Sea Latino* and *Latino Newspaper Siete Días*