

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-383/08
16 October 2008
Original: English

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

[Disabled Peoples International Latin America Region (DPI LAR)]

ANALYSIS OF THE ELEMENTS RELATED TO THE PARTICIPATION OF THE DISABLED PEOPLES INTERNATIONAL LATIN AMERICA REGION (DPI LAR) IN THE REGISTRATION PROCESS OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN OAS ACTIVITIES

This document was prepared by the Department of International Affairs / Secretariat of External Relations to provide Member States with information on the *Disabled Peoples International Latin America Region (DPI LAR)* pursuant to resolution CP/RES. 759 (1217/99), "Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities". The document contains the basic data and a list of supporting documentation presented by the *Disabled Peoples International Latin America Region (DPI LAR)*, in accordance with the aforementioned guidelines.

1. Background

The *Disabled Peoples International (DPI)* is a non governmental organization comprised of national assemblies of disabled people, established to enhance the enjoyment of human rights by people with disabilities through full participation, equalization of opportunity, and development. The *DPI* was founded in 1981 in Winnipeg, Canada, its headquarters are in Newfoundland, Canada. The organization has 135 affiliated states with regional offices in Africa, Asia/Pacific, the Caribbean, Europe, and Latin America.

The *Disabled Peoples International Latin America Region (DPI LAR)* has its regional headquarters in Lima, Peru and it is made up of 18 states - Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay. The *DPI LAR* shares the same charter and mission as its regional counterparts worldwide but specifically works in the areas of education, health, rehabilitation, labor, and employment for the overall aim of promoting human rights, economic development, and social inclusion for disabled people in Latin America.

The *Disabled Peoples International Latin America Region (DPI LAR)* sets its own budget and coordinates among national assemblies to implement programs and/or projects dedicated to advance human rights and civic participation. Some examples include holding technical and professional development workshops aimed at incorporating disabled people to the labor force, performing investigative studies on current disabled conditions within member states, disseminating information to citizens and government, and lobbying to appropriate organizations and government institutions for the advancement of human rights of disabled people.

In relation to the OAS, the *DPI LAR* participated in the IV Summit of the Americas, Mar de Plata, Argentina in 2005 in an advisory role as a civil society representative. The organization is also affiliated with, and serves as a consultant to many international organizations, including: the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC), the International Labor Organization (ILO) and The World Bank. *Disabled Peoples International Latin America Region (DPI LAR)* receives majority of its funds from the ABILIS Foundation of Finland and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

The *Disabled Peoples' International Latin America Region (DPI LAR)* submitted its application to the OAS on July 4, 2007.

2. Name, address, and date of establishment

Headquarters

Name: *Disabled Peoples International (DPI)*

Address: 874 Topsail Road
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A1N 3J9
Canada

Telephone: 709-747-7600

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E-mail: info@dpi.org

Website: www.dpi.org

Executive Director: Mary Ennis
mary@dpi.org

Contact Person: Maria Isabel Farias

Date established: 1981

Latin America Region

Name: *Disabled Peoples International Latin America Region (DPI LAR)*

Address: 124 Calle San Marcos
Pueblo Libre
Lima, Peru

Telephone: 51-1-460-6903
51-1-719-4224

Fax: 51-1-460-6903

E-mail: rlompd00@yahoo.es
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Website: www.latinamerica.dpi.org

President: Wilfredo Jara Guzman

Contact Person: Maria Isabel Farias

Date established: 1981

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

The primary role of the *Disabled Peoples International Latin America Region (DPI LAR)* is to promote the human rights of disabled persons through full participation, equalization of opportunity, and development. Activities that *DPI LAR* implements and that are related to the activities of the OAS include the following:

- Foment, expand, and strengthen the culture of human rights and citizen participation, in all spheres of life, of disabled people throughout Latin American;
- Promote technical and professional expertise in the creation of programs to develop a labor force that would be more inclusive in allowing a thorough participation of persons with disabilities;
- Advocate, and advise pertinent government or authoritative bodies for the implementation of projects, laws, and resolutions that favor disabled people and;
- Promote studies and investigations on the current situation of disabled people within OAS Member States; as an attempt to promote advice for the encouragement of inclusive policies through the different governments.

4. CSO Contributions that could be of interest to the OAS:

The *Disabled Peoples International Latin America Region (DPI LAR)* carries out activities to promote the enhancement of human rights among vulnerable groups, with a focus on disabled people. Activities carried out by this organization that can contribute to the OAS include the following:

- Disseminate information to Foreign Affairs Ministers and other top government officials of Member States through presentations, special reports, and an updated website;
- Support, observe and participate in the proceeding of multilateral organization including the Organization of American States (OAS), and support civil society engagement and participation in these activities;
- Provide technical and professional expertise in order to create and promote strategies to support the OAS Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs in the achievement of the goals stated as part of the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (2006-2016);
- Consult and advise United Nations agencies such as the United Nations Education, Science, and Culture Organization (UNESCO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO); as well as other multilateral institutions, such as the World Bank, on matters pertaining to the advancement of human rights for disabled people.

5. OAS Work Areas to which the CSO can provide support:

The *Disabled Peoples International Latin America Region (DPI LAR)* is interested in supporting the ongoing activities of the OAS and making recommendations to contribute to the achievement of OAS objectives in its work areas. Included in these areas, are: the promotion of human rights for disabled people; the development of opportunities, both in education and labor for disabled people; and, the elaboration of public awareness campaigns in favor of people with disabilities. The following, are areas that have been identified as those in which this organization can cooperate with the OAS:

- Assist the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities, in charge of continuing the commitments undertaken by the signatories to the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities, signed in Guatemala in 1999. By acting as a consultant or by undertaking independent research, the *Disabled Peoples International Latin America Region (DPI LAR)* could contribute to the implementation of the fulfillment of the goals of the Convention along with the committee;
- Cooperating with the OAS Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, in promoting the statutes established as part of the *Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (2006-2016)*. According to this declaration, the member states commit to adopt all the necessary measures for the effective application of the Program of Action at the domestic level in order to accomplish by 2016 a substantial progress in building an inclusive society;
- Collaborating with the activities undertaken by the OAS Technical Secretary for the Disabled, established in Panama in early 2008, with the purpose of encouraging the promotion of rights and dignity of disabled people;
- Promoting channels to disseminate information to civic groups and government institutions about the current initiatives and outcomes of the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (2006-2016) and the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities;
- Assist the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), where *DPI LAR* can link up with other groups such as indigenous people and women, in order to further their cause of enhancing human rights for all;
- Cooperate with the Department of Human Development's Scholarship Program and Education Portal to establish professional and technical workshops. Through this cooperation, and/or classes for disabled people or provide fellowships for already existing programs; and
- Support the Department of International Affairs and the Summits of the Americas Secretariat in strengthening the participation of civil society in the Summits of the Americas process and in particular following up on the mandates of the Summits of the Americas and resolutions of the General Assembly that specifically deal with advancing human rights of disabled people.

6. Documentation submitted to the OAS:

- Letter addressed to the Secretary General of the OAS, June 21, 2007
- *Disabled Peoples International (DPI)*, 874 Topsail Road, Mount Pearl, Newfoundland, A1N 3J9, Canada, 1981
- Charter dated July 23, 2005
- Statues dates July 23, 2005
- Annual report for 2003-2007
- Financial statement for the year 2006 (audited by CPC Julio Cesar Mori Donayre)
- Institutional mission statement dated June 21, 2007