

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

[Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Montaña, Tlachinollan]

ANALYSIS OF FACTORS RELATING TO THE APPLICATION BY
THE *CENTRO DE DERECHOS HUMANOS DE LA MONTAÑA, TLACHINOLLAN*
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 *Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Montaña, Tlachinollan* (Human Rights Center of the Mountain, Tlachinollan).

The information contained in this report is provided pursuant to resolution CP/RES. 759 (1217/99), "Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities," and includes a summary and a list of data and documentation presented by the *Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Montaña, Tlachinollan* in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

1. Background

The *Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Montaña, Tlachinollan* is a civil society organization established on February 25, 1993, in Huamuxtitlán, Guerrero, Mexico, under the name *Tlachinollan Grupo de Apoyo a los Pueblos Indios de la Montaña* [Tlachinollan Support Group for the Indian Peoples of the Mountain]. Its mission is to promote defense of the human rights of indigenous peoples, especially the Nahua, Na savi, Me'phaa, Ñomdaa, and Mestizos of the Costa-Montaña region of Guerrero.

The *Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Montaña, Tlachinollan* carries out its programs in 600 communities and 19 municipalities, 11 of which are below the poverty line. They focus on territorial issues, economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights, and migration, with the aim of promoting and ensuring observance of human rights according to international standards.

The *Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Montaña, Tlachinollan* provides cost-free advisory services, assistance, and psychological rehabilitation to persons whose human rights have been violated. It also visits communities to understand and observe what policies should be proposed in order to strengthen the capacity of local human rights defenders through educational programs aimed at raising public awareness of human rights.

The *Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Montaña, Tlachinollan* has a database of human rights complaints and violations. From June 2009 to May 2011, it conducted 2,367 advisory activities and handled 425 human rights complaints. It also works in conflict mediation, especially in agrarian or territorial disputes. During the same period, it facilitated over 300 agreements among the parties.

The *Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Montaña, Tlachinollan* works with other civil society organizations to influence government policy on human rights. Examples are the campaigns "Stop La Parota," "Shielding the Guilty," and "Stop Weapons Smuggling." It issues press releases and status reports on the human rights of indigenous peoples and women and on legal proceedings in human rights and land rights cases.

The *Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Montaña, Tlachinollan* has participated in various hearings before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) dealing with complaints regarding the criminalization of human rights defenders, the human rights of indigenous farm workers, the right of consultation and participation in matters of public interest, and national mechanisms for protecting human rights defenders.

It has also provided information during visits by IACHR rapporteurs, including visits by the human rights defenders rapporteurship in April 2011, the rapporteurship on migrant workers and their families in July 2011, and the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression in October 2009.

The *Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Montaña, Tlachinollan* has carried out its activities under projects financed by the Government of Canada, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, *Misión México*, the German Catholic Bishops' Organisation for Development Cooperation (MISEREOR), the Tinker Foundation, *Manos Unidas*, CMC – Canada, the MacArthur Foundation, the Inter-American Foundation, the John Merck Fund, the Ford Foundation, Appleton, *Fundación Mundial*, and others.

The OAS General Secretariat received the application from the *Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Montaña, Tlachinollan* on August 4, 2011.

2. Name, address, and date of establishment

Name of organization:	<i>Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Montaña, Tlachinollan</i>
Address:	Mina No. 77, Colonia Centro, Tlapa de Comonfort CP. 41304 Guerrero, Mexico
Telephone:	(+52) 757 476 1220
Fax:	(+52) 757 476 1200
E-mail:	cdhm@tlachinollan.org
Website:	www.tlachinollan.org
Director:	Abel Jesús Barrera Hernández
Date of establishment:	February 25, 1993

3. Primary areas of activity and contributions that could be of interest to the OAS

The *Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Montaña, Tlachinollan* works to promote, advance, and defend the human rights of indigenous peoples and other vulnerable groups of the mountain region of Guerrero, Mexico. The primary areas of activity that could be of interest to the OAS include:

- Providing free legal advisory services to indigenous peoples to strengthen the defense of their human rights, and assisting victims of human rights violations;
- Building the capacity of human rights defenders through visits to the communities and by preparing educational publications on the rights of indigenous peoples and women, on agrarian and land conflicts, on regulatory systems, and on indigenous autonomy; and
- Influencing government policies related to the defense of human rights by issuing reports on the situation of human rights in Mexico, and by issuing communiqués, complaints, and bulletins to government bodies at the municipal, state, and federal levels.

4. Identification of potential areas of collaboration with the OAS

The *Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Montaña, Tlachinollan* proposes to work with the OAS in the following areas:

- Publicizing the activities of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to promote and protect human rights and contributing to the work of its rapporteurships on the rights of indigenous peoples, the rights of women, and migrant workers and their families;
- Presenting recommendations to the Working Group to Prepare the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) through the Department of International Law (DIL) of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs;
- Working with the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) to monitor implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (the Convention of Belém do Pará); and
- Providing information to the Special Committee on Migration Issues (CEAM) of the Permanent Council and supporting the work of the Migration and Development Program (MIDE) on the situation of migrant workers in Guerrero, Mexico, in coordination with the Department of Social Development and Employment (DSDE) of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI).

5. Documents submitted by the CSO to the OAS

- Letter to the OAS Secretary General, received on August 4, 2011
- Articles of incorporation
- Statutes
- Mission statement

- Activity report, 2009-2011
- Financial statements, 2009-2010 (audited by Arturo Sam Pérez, C.P.C., SPC Accountants and Attorneys, S.C.)