

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

[Centro de Derechos Humanos de las Mujeres (CEDEHM)]

ANALYSIS OF THE REQUEST BY
CENTRO DE DERECHOS HUMANOS DE LAS MUJERES (CEDEHM)
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 (CSO) *Centro de Derechos Humanos de las Mujeres* [Center for Women's Human Rights] (CEDEHM).

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 includes a summary and a list of documentation presented by *Centro de Derechos Humanos de las Mujeres* in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

1. Background

Centro de Derechos Humanos de las Mujeres (CEDEHM) is a civil society organization established on November 15, 2005, in Chihuahua City, Chihuahua, Mexico, to promote human rights, access to justice, and non-violence against women.

CEDEHM supports the development and implementation of training programs and workshops for victims of human rights violations and public officials, offers advice to the inter-American human rights system and the United Nations, and supports the preparation of research in these areas with the aim of impacting the design of public policy in these areas.

In 2011 and 2012, *CEDEHM* held nearly 100 workshops, where training was provided to over 500 women on human rights and the legal response to issues such as protective measures, divorce and custody, and family and sexual violence, among others. It also organized psychosocial follow-up workshops for families with members who have disappeared, and provided pro bono legal advice to 919 women victims of gender violence. *CEDEHM* has also offered courses to justice officials, the police, doctors, and other authorities of the Committee on Public Safety and the Committee on Equity, Gender, and Family in Chihuahua State to raise awareness of intervention in situations of family violence, the justice system in the area of violence against women and gender, and mainstreaming gender in the adversarial system of justice.

CEDEHM is a user of the inter-American human rights system, has sent notes to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) regarding precautionary measures granted to 37 beneficiaries, and has lodged petitions to protect victims of forced disappearance and femicide in Mexico. It also participated in IACHR hearings in March 2011 on the situation of human rights, citizen security and human rights, and the situation of human rights defenders in Latin America, as well as in hearings of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, in June 2011, to present its observations on provisional measures granted in Mexico. In the United Nations framework, it has contributed information to the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, the Committee against Torture, and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

CEDEHM carries out actions designed to impact public policy formulation and participates in the Public Prosecutor's Office, together with another 15 civil society organizations, the academic community, and the public in offering advice on mainstreaming gender in the Chihuahua State Development Plan. In 2011, it prepared an analysis of the civil code on family law to identify discriminatory articles. It also developed a draft law for the creation of a public prosecutor's office for women victims of gender-based crime, which was enacted by the Congress of the State in January 2012 by Decree 733/2012 V PE. It has also developed a database to document violations of women's human rights in the adversarial system of justice to evaluate women's access to justice and identify discriminatory elements in the system.

CEDEHM finances its activities through income received for training made available to public agencies, and from projects funded by the Embassy of Canada, the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the European Union, the National Foundation for Democracy, the Angélica Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation, the Ford Foundation, MAC, The Fund for Global Human Rights, Management Systems International, The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund, and Vital Voices.

CEDEHM submitted its request for registration with the OAS on November 18, 2012.

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

Name: *Centro de Derechos Humanos de las Mujeres (CEDEHM)*

Address: Avenida Juárez 4107-B, Colonia Centro
C.P. 31000, Chihuahua, Chihuahua
Mexico

Telephone: + 52 614 415 4152

Fax: + 52 614 235 2920

E-mail address: cedehm@prodigy.net.mx

Website: www.cedehm.org.mx

Director: Luz Esthela Castro Rodríguez

Date established: November 15, 2005

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

CEDEHM works to ensure the human rights of women and of families victimized by forced disappearances in Mexico. The main activities and contributions of the organization that could be of interest to the OAS include:

- Defending and promoting women's human rights and human rights' defenders by monitoring precautionary and provisional measures granted by the Mexican State, and providing pro bono legal services to victims of human rights violations coming before the organs of the inter-American human rights system;
- Building capacities of state agencies and the general public to recognize and address situations of human rights violations, gender and family violence, and forced disappearance by providing training on these issues; and
- Impacting public policy design by presenting proposals to the legislature regarding gender mainstreaming.

4. Identification of potential areas of collaboration with the OAS:

CEDEHM considers that it could lend support to the work of the OAS by:

- Contributing information to the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights (IACHR) and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights on precautionary and provisional measures granted and sharing information with the Rapporteurship on Women's Rights and the Rapporteurship on Human Rights Defenders in Mexico;
- Collaborating with the Inter-American Human Rights Institute (IIDH), especially in educational activities on human rights and the inter-American human rights system;
- Presenting best practices and recommendations to the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) of the Permanent Council on national measures and legislation to prevent the disappearance of persons in Mexico, pursuant to resolution AG/RES. 2717 (XLII-O/12), "Persons Who Have Disappeared and Assistance to Members of Their Families."
- Offering proposals to the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) for the promotion of gender equity in political and social matters in Mexico and providing information related to implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, "Convention of Belém do Pará"; and
- Offering recommendations to the Committee on Hemispheric Security (CSH) of the Permanent Council regarding the implementation of the Declaration on Security in the Americas, especially the articles related to women's participation in promoting peace and security and mainstreaming gender in the security decision-making process.

5. Documents submitted by the CSO to the OAS

- Letter addressed to the OAS Secretary General, dated November 18, 2012
- Articles of incorporation
- By-laws
- Mission statement
- Activity report for January 2011-May 2012
- Financial statements for 2011 (signed by Luz Esthela Castro Rodríguez, CEDEHM General Coordinator, and Alma Gómez Caballero, CEDEHM Administrative and Educational Coordinator)
- List of sources of financing in 2011 and 2012