PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

OEA/Ser.G CP/CISC-313/07 15 February 2007 Original: English

COMMITTEE ON INTER-AMERICAN SUMMITS MANAGEMENT AND CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION IN OAS ACTIVITIES

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 de Estudios Fronterizos y de Promoción de los Derechos Humanos, A.C. (CEFPRODHAC)]

ANALYSIS OF THE ELEMENTS RELATED TO THE APPLICATION BY CENTRO DE ESTUDIOS FRONTERIZOS Y DE PROMOCIÓN DE LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS, A.C. (CEFPRODHAC) TO PARTICIPATE IN OAS ACTIVITIES

This document was prepared by the Summits of the Americas Secretariat to provide Member States of the Organization of American States (OAS) with information on the civil society organization (CSO) *Centro de Estudios Fronterizos y de Promoción de los Derechos Humanos, A.C.* (CEFPRODHAC).

The information contained in this report responds 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 *CEFPRODHAC* in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

1. Background

CEFPRODHAC is a non-profit association founded on September 17, 1999 in Ciudad Reynosa, Tamaulipas, Mexico with the objective of protecting and promoting human rights within the border regions of Mexico. Its mission includes monitoring and investigation of environmental conditions, drug trafficking, migration, and cases of human rights violations through its Center for Documentation and Investigation (CDI).

CEFPRODHAC carries out its mission through delivering seminars to migrants and public authorities, holding consultations with public authorities, providing humanitarian services to vulnerable persons, carrying out investigations, and producing video. Other CEFPRODHAC programs include a migrant assistance project, the Center for Documentation and Investigation (CDI), human rights monitoring services, children's filmmaking project, and maintenance of an extensive website that serves to disseminate information on programs and archive research.

CEFPRODHAC receives its funding from a range of private and public organizations, including the Sierra Club, the Fundación Rostros y Voces, and the state governments of Reynosa and Tamaulipas. CEFPRODHAC also received funding from the Inter-American Civil Society Partnership Initiative, sponsored by Open Society Institute and implemented by the OAS Summits of the Americas Secretariat.

CEFPRODHAC submitted its application on August 18, 2006.

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

Name of the Organization: Centro de Estudios Fronterizos y de Promoción de los

Derechos Humanos, A.C. (CEFPRODHAC)

Address: Zaragoza 581, Altos

Zona Centro

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Telephone: (52-8) 922 4922

Fax: (52-8) 922-2441

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

Website: www.derechoshumanosenmexico.org

President: Arturo Solis Gómez

Date established: September 17, 1999

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

The main objective of *CEFPRODHAC* is to promote and protect human rights in the border region of northeastern Mexico. In fulfilling its mission, its activities are related to those of the OAS in the following areas:

- Bring attention to violations of human rights and trafficking in persons in the border region of Mexico and educate migrants and citizens regarding their human rights and issues related to trafficking in persons;
- Promote well-designed public policy that protects human rights;
- Provide humanitarian assistance to vulnerable individuals and families, in medical, social, legal, and psychological forms;
- Educate residents of northern Mexico on salient environmental issues, such as integrated water resources, environmental contamination, and reforestation;
- Research issues of public interest, such as the environment, labor conditions, migration, drug trafficking, and public security.

4. <u>CSO contributions that could be of interest to the OAS</u>

The following activities of *CEFPRODHAC* as they relate to the promotion and protection of human rights, fighting the crime of trafficking in persons, and promoting sustainable development of the natural environment may be of interest to the OAS:

- Chronicle cases of trafficking in persons and human rights violations through attention to victims, prison visits, newspaper monitoring, and physical presence in the communities of northern Mexico:
- Participate in national and international for regarding the promotion and protection of the human rights of migrants;
- Document the human rights situation and disseminate the information to public authorities, other civil society organizations, and the general public through the Internet;
- Develop an awareness-building campaign to instruct students on environmental issues, including dissemination of relevant literature;
- Carry out instructive seminars on migration issues with migrants' shelters and relevant public authorities and build consciousness among the community;
- Develop activities that combat violence against migrants.

5. <u>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</u>

In promoting human rights and environmental protection, the activities of *CEFPRODHAC* correspond with many goals of the OAS. In particular, it can assist the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization in the following ways:

- Support the Inter-American human rights system and the work of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) by disseminating information and fostering dialogue regarding human rights and international human rights law;
- Collaborate with the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Section of the OAS Department for the Prevention of Threats against Public Security to fight trafficking in persons by strengthening legal, judicial, and administrative systems and establishing a national coordination mechanism to prevent and combat the crime of trafficking in persons and to protect victims;
- Provide information, policy recommendations, case studies, and regional experiences regarding trafficking in persons to OAS Authorities, the OAS Permanent Council, and related entities, especially the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Section;
- Disseminate environmental investigations through cooperation with the OAS Department for Sustainable Develoment, in particular its work on integrated water resources management and sustainable forestry, and work to implement the mandates emanating from the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development;

• Disseminate the Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants Including Migrant Workers and Their Families and develop actions to assist its implementation.

6. <u>Documents submitted by the CSO to the OAS</u>

- Letter addressed to OAS Secretary General dated August 18, 2006
- Constitution dated September 17, 1990
- Statutes dated September 17, 1990
- Annual Report dated 2005
- Institutional Mission Statement
- Financial Statement 2005 (audited by C.P. Yaneth Gonzalez Delgado)