

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)]

*[Confederación Mexicana de Organizaciones en favor de la Persona con Discapacidad Intelectual,
A.C. (CONFE)]*

ANALYSIS OF FACTORS RELATING TO THE APPLICATION BY *CONFEDERACIÓN MEXICANA DE ORGANIZACIONES EN FAVOR DE LA PERSONA CON DISCAPACIDAD INTELECTUAL, A.C.* 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 *Confederación Mexicana de Organizaciones en favor de la Persona con Discapacidad Intelectual, A.C. (CONFE)* (Mexican Confederation of Organizations for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities).

The information contained herein 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 *Confederación Mexicana de Organizaciones en favor de la Persona con Discapacidad Intelectual, A.C. (CONFE)* in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

1. Background

Confederación Mexicana de Organizaciones en favor de la Persona con Discapacidad Intelectual, A.C. (CONFE) is a not-for-profit organization established in Mexico City, Mexico, on September 19, 1978. Its mission is to protect and strengthen the rights of persons with intellectual disabilities and, to this end, it promotes more active and organized participation in the establishment of social policy to guarantee the dignity and independence of these persons and their integration into society.

CONFE comprises more than 160 organizations in Mexico. Its purpose is to enhance the quality of life of persons with disabilities and their families by providing them with guidance and training. In that connection, it provides vocational training to youths and adults with disabilities by identifying their potential and holding various workshops, for example in cooking, sewing, and gardening.

CONFE focuses its efforts on four programs, which benefit approximately 3,500 people each year:

1. Workplace Integration Agency: Follows up on the performance of persons with disabilities and provides advice to non-disabled employees on how to integrate their co-workers;
2. Information and Dissemination Center: Increases Mexican society’s awareness of this issue and fosters protection of the rights of persons with disabilities and their families;
3. Inclusive Education Program: Conducts research and provides technical support to teachers in public and private schools and to parents in order to help integrate persons with intellectual disabilities; and
4. Programs to foster maturation of the central nervous system, in particular in children under five, and arts, sports, and recreation programs designed to boost self-esteem and creativity among persons with disabilities.

Since 2009, *CONFÉ* has been working on a legislative bill designed to include persons with intellectual disabilities in Mexico's Federal Labor and Social Security Act. In addition, it is a member of the Mexico Coalition for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, along with other civil society organizations and, in collaboration with Easter Seals, Inc., they set up a partnership for support in such areas as political outreach, institution building, and the establishment of networks with other international organizations.

CONFÉ is funded through contributions from the National System for Integral Family Development (*DIF Nacional*), the Secretariat for Public Education of Mexico, *Fondo Unido I.A.P.*, and the Banorte Foundation. Its programs have also been financed with resources from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), American Institutes for Research (AIR), and the Tides Advocacy Fund and from the private sector, including, among others, *MC Consorcio de Ingeniería AMECE*, *Scotiabank Inverlat S.A. de C.V.*, IBM Mexico, Metlife Mexico, Google, and the AXO Group.

CONFÉ submitted its application to the OAS on July 30, 2010.

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

Name:	<i>Confederación Mexicana de Organizaciones en favor de la Persona con Discapacidad Intelectual, A.C. (CONFÉ)</i>
Address:	Carretera México Toluca No. 5218, Colonia El Yaqui, Delegación Cuajimalpa, México D.F., C.P. 05320 Mexico
Telephone:	+52 (55) 5292 1390 +52 (55) 5292 1392
E-mail address:	confe_confe@yahoo.com; direccion@confe.org.mx
Website:	www.confe.org.mx
Executive Director:	Abigaíl Hernández Mejía
Date established:	September 19, 1978

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

CONFÉ seeks to reduce discrimination against persons with intellectual disabilities and in to enhance their quality of life. The primary areas of activity and CSO contributions that could be of interest to the OAS include:

- Promotion and protection of the rights of persons with intellectual disabilities and their families by bringing its influence to bear on Mexican public policy, enlisting

related organizations to join, and holding seminars, meetings, and courses enabling participants to share information and experiences; and

- Enhancement of the development and mainstreaming of persons with disabilities through its vocational training, sports, arts, and recreation programs and its services in diagnosing and training persons with disabilities, their families, and educators.

4. 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

CONFE pledges to work with the OAS in the following areas:

- Collaborating by making recommendations and providing information to the Technical Secretariat for the Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (SEDISCAP) and to the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities;
- Submitting reports on the status of the rights of persons with disabilities in the region to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR); and
- Presenting documentation and information to the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) on progress made in integral and sustainable development in the region.

5. Documents submitted by the CSO to the OAS

- Letter to the OAS Secretary General, dated July 30, 2010
- Articles of Incorporation
- Statute
- Institutional Mission Statement
- Activity reports for 2008 and 2009
- Financial statements for 2010 (audited by Joel Gutiérrez Muciño, Certified Public Accountant)
- Minutes of the Regular National Assembly of March 13, 2002
- Power of Attorney dated May 25, 2005