

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

*[Tendiendo Puentes, A.C.]*

## ANALYSIS OF FACTORS RELATING TO THE APPLICATION BY *TENDIENDO PUENTES, 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 *Tendiendo Puentes, A.C.*

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 *Tendiendo Puentes* in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

### **1. Background**

*Tendiendo Puentes, A.C.* is a non-profit organization established on March 26, 2003 in Nezahualcóyotl, Mexico, with a mission to contribute to social well-being and strengthen citizen participation through civic programs, campaigns, and competitions to encourage public participation in a number of political processes, in electoral observation missions, and in developing projects and initiatives to boost and monitor public access to justice.

*Tendiendo Puentes, A.C.* conducts forums, model elections and competitions to encourage civil society and, in particular, young people to take part in political processes such as institutional (university or college) and governmental elections. *Tendiendo Puentes, A.C.* held the "Participation of Civil Society Organizations in the Electoral Process" National Forum, and others such as "The Path to Federal Electoral Reform: A Civil Society Perspective" and "Federal Electoral Reform for Transparency and Legality." It has also organized and assisted with competitions to promote citizen participation since 2006. They included the "Young Look" photographic competitions organized with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and "Connected in Democracy."

*Tendiendo Puentes, A.C.* also participates in electoral observation missions aimed at ensuring the transparency and proper running of institutional, local, and national electoral processes. They included the election of the Governor of Mexico State in 2005, elections for deputies and city council elections in 2006, local elections in Yucatán, Zacatecas, Baja California and Guerrero in 2008, the Federal electoral process in 17 states in Mexico in 2009, under the aegis of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the local elections in Yucatán, Zacatecas, Veracruz, Hidalgo, and Puebla in 2010, and the 2011 local elections in Mexico State. *Tendiendo Puentes, A.C.* conducts those electoral observation missions in cooperation with other civil society organizations and with its network of volunteers.

*Tendiendo Puentes, A.C.* implements projects and holds meetings to promote and disseminate access to justice and to educate the public regarding it. In cooperation with the Social Development Institute (INDESOL), it held the International Seminar on Essential Justice Issues and Best Citizen Practices in America, which was attended by specialists, academics, and government authorities from eight countries in the region. It also belongs to the Citizens' Justice Observatory, the Federal Judiciary's Advisory Council for Implementing the Criminal System in Mexico, and the Organizing Committee for the Seminar on Implementing Article 29 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons

with Disabilities, all of which seek to investigate, monitor, and disseminate the outcomes of government actions to strengthen access to justice and generate proposals for forging a security and justice strategy in the State.

*Tendiendo Puentes, A.C.* has worked with projects financed by the Michoacán Office of the Secretariat of Social Development (SEDESOL), the National Fund for Strengthening and Modernizing the Delivery of Justice, the National Social Development Institute (INDESOL), the United Nations Population Fund, Cuartoscuro S.A., and *Un Kilo de Ayuda A.C.*, among others.

*Tendiendo Puentes, A.C.* submitted its application to the OAS on October 12, 2011.

## **2. Name, address, and date of establishment**

Name of Organization: *Tendiendo Puentes, A.C.*

Address: Calle 10 No. 58, Colonia El Porvenir  
CP. 57430, Nezahualcóyotl, Mexico State  
Mexico

Telephone: 01 (55) 2456 1533 / 01 (55) 24561534

E-mail address: direccion@tendiendopuentes.org.mx  
Informaciontpu@yahoo.com.mx

Website: www.tendiendopuentes.org.mx

President: José Serrano Arenas

Date established: March 26, 2003

## **3. Primary areas of activities and contributions that could be of interest to the OAS**

*Tendiendo Puentes, A.C.* promotes the development of a democratic culture and citizen participation in Mexico. The primary areas of activity and contributions of the organization that might be of interest to the OAS include:

- Strengthening democratic institutions and transparency in elections by holding forums and seminars designed to encourage dialogue on legislative and electoral systems in Mexico and participation in electoral observation missions at the local, state, and federal levels.
- Enhancing citizen participation and fostering democratic values among young people and the general public through campaigns and competitions aimed at generating awareness regarding the right to vote and transparency in electoral processes; and
- Promoting and disseminating access to justice by coordinating seminars and programs for monitoring the implementation of actions in this sphere by the national entities responsible for them, in cooperation with other civil society organizations.

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

*Tendiendo Puentes, A.C.* would like to collaborate with the OAS in the following areas:

- Disseminating the principles of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, especially with respect to the promotion of free and fair electoral processes;
- Sharing experiences and best practices for improving the organization and administration of electoral processes and systems in Mexico with the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO) of the Secretariat for Political Affairs (SPA), within the framework of the Inter-American Network of Electoral Information and Practices (RIPE);
- Submitting recommendations for strengthening citizen participation to the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (CISC) of the Permanent Council, in support of the Department of International Affairs (DAI) and the Secretariat for External Relations (SER); and
- Contributing with recommendations on public policies for strengthening justice and access to it to the Meetings of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA), through the Department of Legal Cooperation of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs (SLA).

**5. Documents submitted by the CSO to the OAS**

- Letter to the OAS Secretary General, dated October 12, 2011
- Articles of incorporation
- Statutes
- Institutional mission statement
- Report on activities in 1996-2011
- Financial Statements for 2010 (audited by María Lucía García Mejía, C.P.A.)