

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

(AMERICAN INDIAN LAW ALLIANCE)

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION CONCERNING  
THE AMERICAN INDIAN LAW ALLIANCE

This document was prepared by the Secretariat for the Summit Process to provide information on the American Indian Law Alliance.

It contains the basic data and a list of supporting documentation submitted by this civil society organization (CSO) pursuant to the Guidelines for Participation by Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities.

1. Background:

The American Indian Law Alliance was founded in 1989 in New York to meet the needs for survival of American Indians.

The American Indian Law Alliance is an independent nongovernmental organization dedicated to the protection of the legal rights of American Indians through programs of legal services, education, culture, the environment, and any matter pertaining to the survival of American Indians.

This organization has received grants and contributions from the Bay Foundation, Public Welfare Foundation, Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program, New York Community Trust, Anglican Observer to the United Nations, National Council of Native American Ministries, the World Bank, and others.

The American Indian Law Alliance has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

It submitted its application on August 18, 2003.

2. Name, address, and date of establishment:

Name:	American Indian Law Alliance
Address:	611 Broadway, Suite 632 New York, NY 10012 U.S.A.
Telephone:	212 477 9100
Fax:	212 477 0004
Web site:	<a href="mailto:aila@ailanyc.org">aila@ailanyc.org</a>
E-mail	<a href="http://www.ailanyc.org">www.ailanyc.org</a>
President:	Tonya Gonnella Frichner
Date established:	1989

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

The American Indian Law Alliance's objective is to promote respect for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, specifically the legal rights of American Indians. It also seeks to respond positively to the fight against poverty, racial discrimination, and unemployment.

Its primary areas of activity are to:

- Contribute to developing a dialogue among the American Indian peoples, the international Indian community, civil society organizations, and governments.
- Make the international community aware of the needs of the hemisphere's Indian peoples.
- Provide information on the indigenous population to facilitate its participation and ability to respond to its needs.

4. CSO contributions that could be of interest to the OAS:

The American Indian Law Alliance endeavors to protect Indians' legal rights and to promote programs in the areas of law, education, culture, and the environment that are responsive to the needs of the Indian community.

The American Indian Law Alliance seeks to promote greater involvement of the Indian population in society through appropriate access to education, health care, and vocational training in order to improve their standard of living, and considers that its contributions could be aimed toward:

- Exchange of information among Indian leaders or representatives and the various organizations that work for Indian peoples' rights.
- Design and execution of education programs in the legal framework for the Indian community in order to equip it for participation in society.
- Strengthening of cooperative relations with nongovernmental organizations and international organizations that seek to promote and protect Indian peoples' rights.

5. OAS work areas to which the CSO can provide support:

The American Indian Law Alliance pledges to support OAS activities involving Indian peoples, to contribute to the promotion and defense of their rights, as follows:

- Contribute to the work of the OAS and its member states on the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Support the work of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to promote and protect Indian peoples' rights.
- Endorse the activities undertaken by the OAS in the field of education to increase the participation of Indian peoples or communities in society.
- Cooperate with the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) and with regional, international, and nongovernmental organizations to

promote and develop activities for the improvement of American Indians' living standards in the areas of health, education, culture, and legal services.

6. Documents submitted by the CSO:

- Letter addressed to the Secretary General
- Statutes
- Certificate of Incorporation
- Annual report for 2002
- Financial statement for 2002, certified by Savastano, Haufman & Co.