

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)]

(AMERICA'S DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION)

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION CONCERNING AMERICA'S DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

This document was prepared by the Secretariat for the Summit Process to provide information on America's Development Foundation.

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

1. Background

America's Development Foundation was founded in the United States in 1980 to assist the international development of democracy. It is an independent, nongovernmental and nonpolitical organization, which conducts its activities based on the belief that a strong civil society, comprising a diversity of autonomous economic, political, social, and cultural institutions, provides the indispensable foundation of a sustainable democracy.

America's Development Foundation (ADF) has experience working in thirty countries in Eastern and Central Europe, the Middle East, Central America, the Caribbean, and Africa, assisting nongovernmental and other civil society organizations dedicated to forging, protecting, and promoting the democratic values of their countries, especially in the fields of civic education, institution building, community mobilization, support for electoral processes, the promotion of human rights, legal assistance for local communities, upholding of the rule of law, local democratic governance, and refugee reintegration.

ADF is a registered private voluntary organization with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Its programs and initiatives are supported with funds from USAID, private foundations, and other organizations.

America's Development Foundation submitted its application to the OAS on August 11, 2003.

2. Name, address, and date of establishment

Name:	America's Development Foundation
Address:	101 N. Union Street Suite 200 Alexandria, VA 22314
Telephone:	703 836 2717
Fax:	703 836 3379

E-mail address: www.adfusa.org
E-mail: mmiller@adf.org.yu
Date established: 1980
President: Michael D. Miller
Director of Programs: Ian Houston

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

America's Development Foundation aims to promote and protect the international development of democracy, especially through programs in civic education, community mobilization and development, electoral processes, human rights, legal defense and assistance, local democratic governance, and the reintegration of refugees into society. It focuses on:

- Developing programs for civic education, promotion of social commitment, and participation in political processes.
- Strengthening the capacity of civil society organizations, helping them to develop legal frameworks for the development of citizen participation, and supporting efforts by civil society organizations to bolster democratic practices in their countries.
- Fostering the growth of democratic practices in states in the process of becoming democracies, especially at the local level.
- Providing technical assistance in the different spheres of civic activities, through analyses and reports assessing the capacity and functions of participation by nongovernmental entities.

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

America's Development Foundation is involved in conducting international democratic programs in the areas of electoral processes, human rights, legal assistance, and the reintegration of refugees and displaced persons. It therefore considers that its activities could contribute to the work done by the OAS in the following fields:

- Development of training programs and provision of technical assistance to civil society organizations, teachers' associations, parents and teachers associations, and government institutions in order to foster better understanding of democratic values and processes, including civil rights and responsibilities.
- Capacity-building in civil society organizations, by providing assistance with the development of legislation to support democratic practices in their countries.
- Implementing programs to make governments accountable and to ensure observance of human rights, the rule of law, and promotion of reforms aimed at strengthening democratic governance, via increased public participation.

- Designing regional, national, and local programs aimed at forming networks of associations to support local governments and communities in respect of measures to enhance their social and economic well being.

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

America's Development Foundation undertakes to support the various OAS work areas dedicated to strengthening democracy, in order to contribute to the promotion and defense of human rights, the participation of civil society, and transparency in practices and policies for good governance.

ADF would cooperate with the OAS in the following areas:

- Exchanging information with the different local and international organizations in order to provide follow-up to practices aimed at strengthening and promoting democratic governance, especially the work of the Unit for the Promotion of Democracy (UPD).
- Cooperating with the hemispheric bodies dedicated to promoting and protecting human rights: the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.
- Developing training programs designed to bolster the institutional capacity of civic organizations and thereby strengthen the exercise of democracy.

6. Documents submitted by the ADF

- Letter addressed to the Secretary General
- By-laws, 1980
- Certificate of Incorporation, 1980
- Financial statements for 2002 and 2001, audited by Watkins, Meegan, Drury & Company, LLC.