

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)]

[CASA of Maryland (CASA)]

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Date established: February 28, 1985

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

CASA's main objective is to promote and protect the rights of the Latin American community through the provision of education, employment, health, legal, and social services. CASA programs and activities seek to alleviate poverty, human trafficking, and the violation women's and immigrant's rights. CASA carries out activities that are related to those of the OAS in the following areas:

- Direct attention toward and disseminate information on the rights of immigrants, with a special focus on immigrant women, workers, and tenants;
- Support initiatives that seek to improve the social and economic living standards of immigrants and promote the design and implementation of public policies that guarantee respect for the rights of immigrants;
- Facilitate educational efforts to ensure the full and equal participation of immigrants in society, improve their access to resources and information, and inform them of their legal and human rights;
- Promote and support initiatives and policies that fight all forms of discrimination and intolerance, especially due to gender, ethnicity, race, and citizenship status;
- Encourage the creation of equitable employment opportunities among immigrants and support the rights of these workers; and
- Strengthen and support the design and implementation of policies and initiatives that seek to fight human rights violations and trafficking in persons.

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

CASA designs and implements programs and initiatives that support its goal of promoting the rights of immigrants through three departments: Direct Services Department, Education and

Leadership Department, and Community Organizing and Action Department. In this sense, the activities carried out by *CASA* that can contribute to the OAS include the following:

- Provide career development and job-placement services to immigrants in order to improve their employability and enable access to decent, well-paid jobs;
- Promote equitable access to health care and information for immigrants by delivering public health initiatives including HIV/AIDS prevention, screening, and treatment services, and community health education on cancer, diabetes, and tobacco use prevention;
- Provide employment rights services through education and legal representation to immigrant workers who have experienced employment abuses such as non-payment of wages, unlawful wage deductions, health and safety violations, and discrimination;
- Promote financial independence and improved living standards among immigrants through delivering training and education in literacy and the English language, and citizenship;
- Strengthen civil society by delivering training in organizing, self-advocacy and leadership skills development, fostering engagement with policy-makers, and developing strategic alliances in order to engage in public policy debates;
- Coordinate and carry out advocacy initiatives in promoting the rights of immigrant workers, tenants, and women and develop partnerships and networks among other civil society organizations to carry out these initiatives; and
- Research and write reports on immigrant issues and legislation, such as employment, access to health services, and policy.

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

CASA offers to collaborate with the OAS on specific programs to strengthen and defend the rights of immigrants. The following areas have been identified as those in which *CASA* can cooperate with the OAS:

- Support the work of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to promote and protect the rights of immigrants and to implement mechanisms that combat human trafficking;
- Facilitate individual access to hemispheric mechanisms for the protection of human rights, including the rights of women, children, and immigrant workers and their families;
- Disseminate information and promote follow up on OAS resolutions, mandates, and conventions that refer to the protection of immigrant rights and the fight against trafficking in persons, in particular, the American Convention on Human Rights;

- Support the efforts of the Joint Working Group of the Permanent Council and CEPCIDI on the Draft Social Charter of the Americas by disseminating information and promoting the eventual implementation of the Charter and its Plan of Action;
- Participate in special meetings, contribute experiences, and disseminate information on the Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights of Migrants, Including Migrant Workers and their Families;
- Contribute reports and information on immigrant rights violations to the Working Group to Prepare the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Discrimination and all Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) of the Permanent Council;
- Contribute experiences and participate in activities related to trafficking in persons through the Trafficking in Persons Section of the Department of International threats to Public Security of the Assistant Secretary for Multidimensional Security;
- Support the work of the Summits of the Americas Secretariat and participate in its various activities to foster communication and sharing of experience among civil society organizations; and
- Promote and disseminate the work of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) and contribute to programs and activities that address the needs of immigrant women.

6. Documents submitted by the CSO

- Letter addressed to the Secretary General dated August 26, 2005
- Articles of Incorporation
- Statutes
- 2004 Annual Report
- Financial report for 2004 (audited by Walker & Company, LLP)
- 2004 Income and Expense statement
- Names of Board of Directors