

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)]

[Committee of Relief and Cooperation for the Advancement of Haiti (CORCAH)]

ANALYSIS OF THE ELEMENTS RELATED TO THE APPLICATION BY
COMMITTEE OF RELIEF AND COOPERATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF HAITI (CORCAH)
TO PARTICIPATE IN OAS ACTIVITIES

This document was prepared by the Summits of the Americas Secretariat to provide Member States of the Organization of American States (OAS) with information on the civil society organization (CSO) *Committee of Relief and Cooperation for the Advancement of Haiti (CORCAH)*.

The information contained in this report responds 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 *CORCAH* in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

1. Background

CORCAH is a non-profit association founded on November 24, 1986 in Brooklyn, New York, USA with the objective of working to foster partnerships, promote sustainable economic growth, and find solutions to poverty in Haiti.

CORCAH undertakes community-based projects in diverse areas such as education, sustainable development, health care, and economic development. It stresses its capacity to share knowledge, skills, and technology among communities. *CORCAH* works on increasing community involvement in school activities.

CORCAH participates in civil society dialogue meetings with international organizations such as the UN, OAS, IADB, and the World Bank.

CORCAH has yet to disclose sources of its financing; it is an all-volunteer organization, without any paid staff.

CORCAH submitted its application on June 1, 2005.

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

Name: *Committee of Relief and Cooperation for the Advancement of Haiti (CORCAH)*

Address: CORCAH Inc.
PO Box 100797
Brooklyn, New York 11210 USA

Telephone: 908-380-4597

Fax: 732-283-4187

E-mail address: vanel.beuns@comcast.net

Website: www.haiticorcah.org

CEO: Vanel Beuns

Date established: November 24, 1986

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

The main objective of *CORCAH* is to support the economic and social development in Haiti. Its activities are related to those of the OAS in the following areas:

- Promote school and health care clinic construction;
- Bring awareness to benefits of microcredit lending programs;
- Suggest water resource management (drinking water, sanitation) projects;
- Support health care programs;
- Promote sustainable forestry;
- Suggest ways civil society organizations can network.

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

CORCAH brings attention to problems Haiti is facing and attempts to marshal resources to face these problems. In this regard, the following activities that this organization carries out may be of interest to the OAS:

- Inform OAS departments on the social and economic situation of Haitian communities;
- Participate in and publicize OAS-sponsored dialogue sessions with CSOs, such as the General Assembly and Civil Society roundtable discussions;
- Collaborate with the Educational Portal of the Americas to publicize the Portal's services, such as Fellowships and Distance Learning Courses, to inform Haitians of educational opportunities;
- Demonstrate how OAS departments can improve school management techniques and enhance the quality of school administration.

5. 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

Given *CORCAH's* partnerships with a broad range of organizations in Haiti, it stands capable of using these linkages to further OAS projects and initiatives. In particular, it can assist the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization in the following ways:

- Collaborate with the Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) to disseminate the mandates of Ministerial Meetings and the 1996 Declaration of Santa Cruz, with particular reference to civil society participation in sustainable development;
- Cooperate with Water Resources Management specialists in the DSD of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) to analyze water resource issues in Haiti and develop methods to improve Haitian Water Resource Management;
- Build relationships with the Renewable Energy Initiative of the Americas (REIA), based in the DSD, to develop strategies for utility modernization in Haiti;
- Support the Inter-American Committee on Social Development (CIDES) of the Department of Education, Culture, Science, and Technology (DECST) of SEDI to design social development and anti-poverty programs;
- Support the Summits of the Americas Secretariat to follow-up on the implementation of Summit mandates, especially those of the Fourth Summit of the Americas: "Creating Jobs to Confront Poverty and Strengthen Democratic Governance";
- Contribute to the "Responses to the challenge of improving the quality of recruitment and selection, initial formation, professional development and evaluation of teachers in the countries of the hemisphere" project led by the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD).

6. Documents submitted by the CSO to the OAS

- Letter addressed to the Secretary General (June 1, 2005)
- 2005-2006 Budget
- Charter/Constitution
- Statutes/By-laws
- Institutional mission statement
- Letter regarding challenges to record-keeping
- Certificate of Incorporation from State of New York