

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)]

*[Council for a Community of Democracies]*

## ANALYSIS OF ELEMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION BY COUNCIL FOR A COMMUNITY OF DEMOCRACIES IN THE FRAMEWORK OF REGISTRATION BY CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS 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 *Council for a Community of Democracies*.

The information contained in this report is in response to resolution CP/RES. 759 (1217/99) "Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities." This document includes a summary and list of supporting documentation submitted by *Council for a Community of Democracies* in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

### 1. **Background**

Formerly known as *New Century Initiative, Inc.*, the *Council for a Community of Democracies (CCD)* is a non-governmental organization established in Washington, D.C. on March 10, 2000. Based on the June 2000 Warsaw Community of Democracies Ministerial Conference, the mission of *CCD* is to advance cooperation between democratic governments and civil society to foster democratic governance and best practices around the world.

*CCD* provides support to the implementation and follow-up of the activities of the Community of Democracies (*CD*), a 120-member inter-governmental body with the mission to strengthen democratic values and norms on a global scale. *CCD* serves as the Secretariat for the non-governmental International Steering Committee (*ISC*), which is the independent civil society component of the Community of Democracies composed of 25 civil society organizations and democracy advocates committed to democracy and human rights from the Americas, Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe and the Middle East/North Africa.

In its capacity as Secretariat of the *ISC*, the *Council for a Community of Democracies* represents the views of civil society to governments within the *CD* framework and works to construct civil society support networks, offering recommendations and ideas to the Working Groups of the *CD* for its projects and initiatives. In addition, *CCD* organizes regional roundtables and conferences, including the Santiago Roundtable on Democracy in the Americas, for civil society leaders to share ideas on how to strengthen democracy worldwide.

*CCD* has implemented several initiatives to foster collaboration between democratic governments and civil society which include: advocacy efforts in promoting the U.N Democracy Fund and the U.N Democracy Caucus; assisting in the promotion and founding of the International Centre for Democratic Transition in Budapest, Hungary; organizing democracy education conferences; and the publication of *A Diplomat's Handbook for Democracy Development Support*, which presents various case studies, tools and resources diplomats may use to support civil society in promoting and strengthening democratic governance and the rule of law.

The *CCD* finances its activities through grants and donations by The Smith Richardson Foundation, United Nations Democracy Fund, The Russell Family Foundation, The John Whitehead Foundation, The Henry Luce Foundation, The Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the United States Agency

for International Development (USAID), the U.S Department of State's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, and the Embassies of Germany and Italy accredited to the United States. *CCD* also receives funds from its board members and associates.

The *Council for a Community of Democracies* submitted its application to register in the OAS on July 21, 2009.

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

Name: Council for a Community of Democracies

Address: 1801 F Street NW, Suite 308  
Washington, DC 20006  
USA

Telephone: (202) 789-9771

Fax: (202) 789-9764

Website: [www.ccd21.org](http://www.ccd21.org)

E-mail: [info@ccd21.org](mailto:info@ccd21.org)

President: Robert R. LaGamma

Date established: March 10, 2000

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

The *Council for a Community of Democracies* supports the work of the CD to foster a democratic culture and works to promote government and civil society cooperation in order to strengthen democratic principles. The primary areas of activity and contributions of *CCD* that could be of interest to the OAS include:

- Increasing civil society participation in the decision-making process of regional cooperation policies by promoting citizen participation in the Community of Democracies to propose initiatives, identify challenges to democracy, and present recommendations to enable and protect civil society, address poverty, development, gender equality and women's rights, and human rights, among others issues;
- Strengthening networks of civil society organizations through the organization of forums and regional roundtable meetings that facilitate the exchange of ideas among participants on strategies to foster democratic values and gender equality, among others; and

- Implementing initiatives and programs to strengthen government institutional capacity to cooperate with civil society to cultivate a democratic culture, such as its democracy education initiative that brings together educators, multilateral organizations, and representatives from civil society and governments in international conferences, in which the participants develop recommendations for a Global Strategic Plan on democracy education.

#### **4. Identification of OAS work areas**

The *Council for a Community of Democracies* offers to collaborate with the OAS in the following areas:

- Promote the Inter-American Democratic Charter;
- Offer recommendations to the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) to promote gender equality, participation of women in the economic, political, social, and cultural development, and the eradication of violence against women;
- Present recommendations to the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (CISC) of the Permanent Council and collaborate with the Department of International Affairs (DIA) of the Secretariat for External Relations (SER) to strengthen the involvement of CSOs and other social actors in the OAS and its political bodies;
- Contribute input and participate in ministerial meetings of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), its Inter-American Committees, and other related ministerial meetings of the Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI), in accordance with the Inter-American Strategy for the Promotion of Public Participation in Decision-Making for Sustainable Development (ISP);
- Cooperate with the Department of Effective Public Management (DEPM) of the Secretariat for Political Affairs (SPA) to achieve its mission to support Member States in their efforts to foster dialogue and citizen participation, with an emphasis on democracy as the principal guarantor of peace, security and development; and
- Provide support to the Department of Human Development, Education and Culture (DHDEC) of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) in promoting the goals of the Inter-American Program on Education for Democratic Values and Principles.

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

- Letter addressed to the Secretary General of the OAS, dated July 21, 2009
- Articles of incorporation
- By-Laws
- Mission statement
- Annual Report (2001- 2009)

- Financial Statements: 2009 (Audited by Bert Smith & Co.) and 2007 (Audited by Joseph J. Schmelzle, CPA)
- Report: The Pocantico Conference on Implementing the Global Strategic Plan for Democracy Education (2008)
- Report: The Santiago Round table on Democracy in the Americas (2007)
- Report: The Pocantico Conference on Democracy Education in the Middle East and Muslim Africa (2005)
- Report: The Pocantico Conference on Democracy Education (2003)
- A Diplomat's Handbook for Democracy Development Support (English and Spanish)