

PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
COMMITTEE ON INTER-AMERICAN SUMMITS MANAGEMENT
AND CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION
IN OAS ACTIVITIES

OEA/Ser.G
CP/CISC-338/07
22 August 2007
Original: Spanish

PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 6 OF THE GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION BY CIVIL
SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN OAS ACTIVITIES [CP/RES. 759 (1217/99)]

Due Process of Law Foundation (DPLF)

APPLICATION BY *DUE PROCESS OF LAW FOUNDATION* 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)]

This document was prepared by the Summits Secretariat to provide information to the OAS Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (CISC) on the civil society organization *Due Process of Law Foundation (DPLF)*. The information contained herein is in response to resolution CP/RES. 759 (1217/99), "Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities," and includes a list of documentation presented by the *DPLF* in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

1. Background

The *Due Process of Law Foundation (DPLF)* a nonprofit civil society organization founded in Washington, D.C., in March 1996. *DPLF's* principal mission is to promote the reform and modernization of national justice systems in the Western Hemisphere as a means of bolstering the rule of law in each country in the region. This organization has a Board of Directors comprising experts and persons concerned with promoting the rule of law in the Americas.

The *DPLF's* activities focus on three core areas: Accountability and transparency, access to justice, and transnational justice. It addresses issues such as human rights, the bolstering of judicial institutions, and assistance for anti-corruption mechanisms, with particular emphasis on gender equality and women's rights in the Hemisphere.

Most of the *DPLF's* funding comes from private organizations such as The Parthenon Trust, Open Society Institute (OSI), and General Services Foundation. Other *DPLF*-executed projects have been financed by its own fundraising activities and by the Government of the United States of America.

THE *DPLF* submitted its application on December 21, 2006.

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

Name: *Due Process of Law Foundation (DPLF)*

Address of Head Office: 1779 Massachussets Ave., N.W.
Suite 510A
Washington, D.C. 20036

Telephone number: (202) 462-7701

Fax: (202) 462-7703

E-mail address: info@dplf.org

Web address: www.dplf.org

President: Douglass Cassel

Executive Director: Eduardo A. Bertoni

Date of establishment: March 13, 1996

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

The principal objective of the *Due Process of Law Foundation (DPLF)* is to contribute to efforts to combat corruption, to strengthen national justice systems in the Hemisphere, and to promote equitable access to justice. In this work, the DPLF's activities relate to those of the OAS in the following areas:

- Stimulating public debate regarding the independence and transparency of the judiciary;
- Providing information about existing human rights guarantees;
- Offering appropriate technical assistance for training government officials in the judiciary;
- Planning research activities to strengthen the legal capacity of civil society organizations in close cooperation with other nongovernmental organizations;
- Strengthening official oversight and accountability mechanisms for countries in the region, with the support of various institutions;
- Holding seminars and workshops as part of a gender equality initiative;
- Conducting comparative research studies on the status of women deprived of their liberty.

4. Contributions by DPLF that could be of interest to the OAS

The *Due Process of Law Foundation (DPLF)* is executing several justice system-related projects that could be of interest to the OAS, including the following:

- Preparing publications that compare and analyze experiences in the region as a basis for improving judicial reform mechanisms;
- Fostering liaison with regional, national, and international nongovernmental organizations concerned with due process of law;
- Promoting ways and means for strengthening democratic institutions;
- Facilitating studies of the causes hampering access to justice and finding solutions;
- Supporting efforts to promote gender equality in the Hemisphere.

5. Identification of the OAS work areas in which the CSO undertakes to support ongoing activities or to make recommendations on the best way to achieve OAS objectives

In promoting justice, gender equality, and transparency in the region, *DPLF* activities are consistent with the stated objectives of the OAS regarding monitoring mechanisms and citizen participation. Specifically, the *DPLF* can contribute by:

- Publicizing and disseminating the activities of the inter-American system, especially the decisions of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the findings of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR);
- Supporting the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) by providing research findings and knowledge in the area of gender equality, violence against women, and women's human rights;
- Contributing to follow-up on mandates arising out of the Meetings of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers and Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA);
- Monitoring implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and publicizing its Follow-up Mechanism (MESICIC);
- Providing knowledge and information to the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA) and supporting citizen participation and judicial reform initiatives;
- Supporting the work of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) of the Permanent Council on administration of justice and international law by providing reports and research;
- Sharing its experience and knowledge in the activities and forums organized for civil society in the Summits of the Americas framework.

6. Documents submitted to the OAS

- Letter to the OAS Secretary General, dated December 11, 2006)
- Articles of incorporation (March 13, 1996)
- Statutes
- Annual report for 2005
- Institutional mission statement
- Financial statements corresponding to 2005 (audited by certified public accountant Eugene S. Sheskin).