

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  
THE PARTICIPATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN OAS ACTIVITIES  
[CP/RES. 759 (1217/99)]

(Environmental Law Institute)

## **SUMMARY OF INFORMATION CONCERNING THE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW INSTITUTE**

This document was prepared by the Secretariat for the Summit Process to provide member states with information on the *Environmental Law Institute*, pursuant to resolution CP/RES. 759 (1217/99), "Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities." It contains the basic data and a list of supporting documentation presented by the *Environmental Law Institute*, in accordance with the aforementioned guidelines.

### **1. Background**

The *Environmental Law Institute* (ELI) was established in Washington, D.C., United States of America, in 1969. Its objective is to promote sustainable development and to strengthen democracy in the Americas through research, training, and education.

It submitted its application on January 28, 2003.

### **2. Name, address, and date of establishment**

Name:	Environmental Law Institute (ELI)
Address:	1616 P Street NW, Suite 200 Washington, D.C. 20036
Telephone:	(202) 9393800 (202) 9393868 (fax)
E-mail address:	<a href="http://www.eli.org">www.eli.org</a>
President:	J. William Futrell
Liaison Officer for the OAS:	Susan Bass, Director of the ELI Inter-American Program
Date established:	1969

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

The purpose of the *Environmental Law Institute* is to protect the environment by enhancing laws and policies related to that area. The Institute also investigates environmental problems, educates professionals and citizens about these topics, and encourages them to find solutions thereto.

ELI's work is focused on:

- Conducting and funding investigations into matters concerning conservation and use of the environment as well as enforcement of environmental laws.
- Establishing and maintaining an information center on environmental laws, including: statute law and regulations of the United States, other countries, and other political jurisdictions; cases and decisions of courts and other judicial or quasi-judicial bodies; memoranda, treaties, comments, and other similar writings by members of the legal profession.
- Publishing and disseminating materials emanating from the aforementioned activities.
- Conducting training and educational activities, including courses, classes, lectures, panels, and workshops.
- Promoting civil society participation to make sustainable development an operating principle.

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

The *Environmental Law Institute* has been collaborating in different ways with the OAS on the consolidation of democracy, environmental protection, and promotion of sustainable development. Included among them are:

- Assistance to the Summit of the Americas in Miami, at which it worked actively to have the topic of public participation included on the agenda.
- Cooperation with the Unit for Sustainable Development and Environment in obtaining a Summit mandate for developing the Inter-American Strategy for Public Participation (ISP). ELI has also contributed to the Strategy's development by participating in several meetings on the subject and working with the technical consultative committee.

Moreover, the Institute has carried out the following activities:

- Development of a research project to examine mechanisms for public participation in evaluating the environmental impact of regulations on mines in Peru, Chile, Mexico, the United States, and Canada.
- Promotion of the development of a regional framework in Latin America to promote pollution prevention.
- Participation in the Consultative Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe during the drafting and implementation in 1998 of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, which entered into force in 2001.

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

The *Environmental Law Institute* will collaborate with the Unit for Sustainable Development and Environment. As noted earlier, ELI has supported the Unit's agenda, designed to promote public participation both at the OAS and through the Summit of the Americas process.

Likewise, ELI hopes to provide the Organization with a resource for such environmental issues as natural resource management and pollution control.

**6. Documents submitted by the CSO**

- Letter addressed to the Secretary General
- Annual report for 2001
- Certificate of Incorporation and Statutes
- Institutional mission statement
- 2001 Financial Report