

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)]

[Focus on the Family]

ANALYSIS OF THE ELEMENTS RELATED TO THE PARTICIPATION OF THE FOCUS ON THE FAMILY IN THE REGISTRATION PROCESS OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN OAS ACTIVITIES

This document was prepared by the Summits of the Americas Secretariat to provide Member States with information on *Focus on the Family* pursuant to resolution CP/RES. 759 (1217/99), “Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities”. The document contains the basic data and a list of supporting documentation presented by the *Focus on the Family*, in accordance with the aforementioned guidelines.

1. Background

Focus on the Family, established in 1992 in the state of California, USA, is a not-for-profit, organization that aims to promote a non-denominational Christian view of the family and family practices through education and advocacy.

Focus on the Family promotes a Christian perspective on family values, commits to strengthen the rights of the family, supports the rule of law to uphold these rights, and promotes the teaching of family-related topics that include social welfare, human rights, social policy, sexual abstinence and the prevention of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, law and order, family matters, education, youth, citizen participation, governance, and religious rights. It also seeks to influence the formulation and the implementation of local and national public policies that promote and protect this view of the family. *Focus on the Family* also seeks to educate civil society to encourage Christians to become involved in and committed to matters of public policy and to develop an awareness of their civic duties.

This CSO carries out projects in 165 countries throughout the world and in 30 different languages, focusing on radio and television broadcasting, researching and developing school curricula and research reports, distributing printed materials, such as magazines and books, organizing and sponsoring various conferences and seminars, and sponsoring ministry and outreach trips for youths to Latin America. It has also been involved in fundraising for aid/relief efforts.

Focus on the Family receives the majority of its funding through contributions from individuals, business and foundations, and from the sale of publications and audio-visual materials. The public may become members of *Focus on the Family* through the payment of small membership dues.

Focus on the Family's main office is located in the state of Colorado, USA. It also has associate offices located in 17 countries. In the Americas, *Focus on the Family* has offices in Costa Rica and Canada. Resources are made widely available in the Spanish, English, Portuguese, and French languages, among others.

It submitted its application in April, 2005.

2. Name, address, and date of establishment

Name: Focus on the Family

Address: Focus on the Family International
8605 Explorer Drive
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80920
United States of America

Telephone: 719-548-5833

Fax: 719-531-3383

Website: www.family.org

E-mail: mantly@fotf.org

Director: Yuri Mantilla

Date established: 1992

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

Focus on the Family's principal aim is the promotion, defense and preservation of family values centered in Christian teachings. *Focus on the Family* activities that are related to the activities of the OAS include the following:

- Promote and defend human rights, particularly with regard to protecting those rights related to religion and the family;
- Encourage citizen participation in matters of public policy;
- Support and encourage respect for the rule of law among civil society;
- Develop and implement programs that fight HIV/AIDS and other sexually-transmitted diseases; and
- Work in favor of legislation that protects human rights and the rights of the family.

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

Focus on the Family's programs and campaigns focus on family topics including: parenting, marriage, adolescent problems, children's character building, autism, education, abstinence and the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, human rights, freedom of religion, citizen participation, and social development topics.

Focus on the Family's objectives are pursued through the publication of books and the distribution of audio and video recordings, and through the production and distribution of a number of magazines that address every age group from 5 and up. It also offers seminars, conferences, and college courses at the *Focus on the Family Institute* on a range of family-related topics. *Focus on the Family* radio broadcasts people globally in 165 countries, and its television programming aired in 12 countries in 10 languages. Research is currently underway to develop drug prevention curriculum for parents to be implemented in various countries of the Hemisphere.

As an organization that undertakes activities to promote the rights of the family, the following *Focus on the Family* activities could be of interest to the OAS:

- Organize courses, workshops, seminars, and conferences to promote human rights and more specifically family rights;
- Promote dialogue among civil society and various levels of Government regarding family issues, religion, and moral issues;
- Conduct education campaigns and research and implement programs and curricula to prevent the transmission of HIV/AIDS and other sexually-transmitted diseases;
- Disseminate information on family matters and rights, child and youth issues, civic participation and the rule of law, human rights, moral issues, and religious freedom;
- Produce curricula and prepare courses to be used to promote human rights and freedom of religion in schools and among civil society; and
- Carry-out research into child, youth and family issues in the Americas.

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

Focus on the Family works on programs that inform, equip, and mobilize certain segments of civil society to support the rule of law through the promotion of family and moral values. The following areas have been identified as those in which this CSO can cooperate with the OAS:

- Participate at preparatory meetings for the Summits of the Americas dealing with issues of human rights, family matters, child and youth issues, and religious freedom;
- Disseminate information on OAS activities related to family matters and human rights through its regularly distributed print publications, webpage, and television and radio broadcasting;
- Cooperate with the Program for the Integral Promotion of Children's Rights (PRODER) of the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN) in contributing experience in the areas of preventing and dealing with drug abuse, fostering strong families, and building strong values among children and their families;

- Implement the Child and Family Inter-American Information Program (PIINFA) of the IIN by disseminating data on children and families in the Americas;
- Contribute with other CSOs in the seminars, conferences, congresses, and meetings that focus on Family and Rights supported by the IIN;
- Encourage dialogue that promotes the rights of families within the framework of the Summits of the Americas;
- Contribute to the Virtual Dialogue among Civil Society Organizations established by the Office of Education, Science and Technology (OEST) in the planning of educational policies and strategies that strengthen democratic governance, involve families, and lead to the development of values among children; and
- Participate in the drug abuse prevention programs of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), by providing assistance in developing and implementing programs and disseminating information regarding drug abuse, especially among children, youths and families.

6. Documents submitted by the CSO

- Letter addressed to the Secretary General (undated)
- Combined Annual Report for 2004
- Annual Report for 2003
- Financial Statements for 2003, 2004 (audited by Capin Crouse, LLP)
- Bylaws
- Notarized Articles of Incorporation