



TERMS OF REFERENCE

CONSULTANCY SERVICE FOR THE DESIGN OF A STRATEGY TO STRENGTHEN THE PARTICIPATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL ACTORS IN THE FOLLOW-UP AND IMPLEMENTATION PHASE OF THE VIII SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

Type of Contract: Product Based Consultant

Organizational Unit: Summits of the Americas Secretariat

Estimated Start Date: January 15th, 2019

Duration: 1.5 months

Remuneration: Commensurate with experience and education

Deadline for Applications: December 14th, 2018

1. BACKGROUND

Within the framework of its institutional objectives, the Organization of American States (OAS) has paid special attention to the contributions that civil society organizations and social actors can make to the activities of its organs, agencies and entities. The participation of civil society is addressed in the Democratic Charter of the OAS, in its Article 6, which states that "The participation of citizens in decisions regarding their own development is a right and a responsibility. It is also a necessary condition for the full and effective exercise of democracy. Promoting and fomenting diverse forms of participation that strengthens democracy. In addition, article 26 mentions that *"The OAS will continue to develop programs and activities aimed at promoting democratic principles and practices and strengthening the democratic culture in the Hemisphere, considering that democracy is a system of life founded on the freedom and the economic, social and cultural improvement of the peoples. The OAS will maintain consultations and ongoing cooperation with the Member States, taking into account the contributions of civil society organizations that work in these areas."*

Within the scope of the Summit of the Americas Process, the promotion of the participation of civil society and other social actors, including youth, indigenous peoples, academia, workers and the private sector, both in the preparation and in the follow-up process as well as in the implementation of the Summit, represents a permanent concern. Their contributions have enriched the deliberations of the States both in the construction of the hemispheric agenda and in the follow-up of its implementation. The role of this sector has been recognized since the beginning of the Summit Process. The Declaration of the First Summit of the Americas in 1994, like its Plan of Action, emphasizes the importance of civil society organizations in their deepening and permanence of democratic institutions. Likewise, at the Extraordinary Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Bolivia in December 1996, the contributions of civil society in the preparation of the Plan of Action of Santa Cruz de la Sierra were counted. At the

Second Summit of the Americas, held in 1998, the OAS mention in its Plan of Action that it could serve as a forum for the exchange of experiences and information on civil society organizations and entrusted the OAS with the promotion of adequate programs to encourage greater participation of civil society in public affairs.

More recently, at the VIII Summit of the Americas, held in Lima, Peru in April 2018, the Heads of State and Government recognized the preponderant role of civil society and social actors in the follow-up phase to the implementation of the mandates agreed and called for *"Continue strengthening national anti-corruption systems or measures and improve the conditions for the effective participation of civil society, social organizations, academia, private sector, citizens and other social actors in the follow-up of government management, including the establishment of prevention mechanisms, channels for reporting possible acts of corruption, as well as facilitating the work of citizen observatories or other mechanisms of social control, encouraging the adoption of electronic participation mechanisms."* (Commitment of Lima, Peru, 2018).

The strengthening of the participation of civil society organizations and social actors has represented and represents a permanent commitment for the Summits Secretariat. Recently, within the framework of the VIII Summit of the Americas, the Summits of the Americas Secretariat of the OAS, in its capacity as Technical Secretariat and institutional memory of the Summit of the Americas Process, has promoted and carried out, through a broad consultative process, in coordination with the host country of the Summit and other pertinent areas of the OAS, spaces for participation, exchanges and consultation for civil society and social actors, during the preparation stage of the Summit as in the stage immediately prior to it. This is so that the reflections and recommendations of this sector on the theme of the Summit and its thematic axes can contribute to the dialogue of the Heads of State and Government.

2. OBJECTIVE

Elaborate a strategy to strengthen the participation and incidence of civil society and social actors in the follow-up to the implementation of the mandates derived from the Lima Commitment "Democratic Governance against Corruption".

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1 Review the scope of participation of civil society and social actors in the Summits of the Americas Process and formulate a strategy to strengthen its capacity to influence the anti-corruption agenda.
- 3.2 To advance a regional mapping to identify civil society organizations and social actors with greater experience and relevance in the area of prevention and fight against corruption and identify possible alliances with the organizations registered in the Summit of the Americas Process.
- 3.3 Identify areas of articulation with the mandates of the institutions from the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG) and its Action Plan in support of the implementation of Summit mandates.

4. EXPECTED OUTPUT

Design of a strategy aimed at civil society and social actors that allows an active and inclusive participation of said sector in the monitoring and implementation phase of the commitments emanating from the VIII Summit of the Americas.

5. REQUIREMENTS

- Advanced university degree in social science, public policy, international relations, public administration or other related field.
- At least 5 years of relevant experience in the areas of citizen engagement, civil society and other social actors, anti-corruption, open government, accountability, public sector reform, international and/or multilateral organizations.
- Experience or knowledge of OAS mandates and priorities as related to the Summits of the Americas and the Inter-American System or willingness to learn.
- Full proficiency in English and Spanish.

Application:

- A letter of interest detailing requisite qualifications and interest in the consultancy.
- An updated resume.
- Academic and/or employment references.
- Please send the completed application (cover letter, resume, and references) via email to SUMMIT-info@oas.org by December 14th, 2018.
- Candidates may be invited to an interview.