FIFTY-FIRST REGULAR SESSION OEA/Ser.P

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 Item 17 on the agenda

DRAFT RESOLUTION

INCREASING AND STRENGTHENING THE PARTICIPATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL ACTORS IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES AND IN THE SUMMITS OF THE AMERICAS PROCESS

(Agreed upon by the Permanent Council at its virtual regular meeting held on November 3, 2021,
and referred to the Plenary of the General Assembly for consideration)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECOGNIZING the importance of participation by civil society organizations and other social actors in strengthening democracy, integral development, promotion and protection of human rights, and multidimensional security in all member states and that their participation in the activities of the Organization of American States (OAS) and in the Summits of the Americas process should take place in a context of close collaboration among the political and institutional bodies of the Organization and in compliance with the provisions of the Charter of the Organization of American States and resolution CP/RES. 759 (1217/99), “Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities”;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT resolutions AG/RES. 1915 (XXXIII-O/03), AG/RES. 2901 (XLVII-O/17), AG/RES. 2902 (XLVII-O/17), AG/RES. 2920 (XLVIII-O/18), AG/RES. 2924 (XLVIII-O/18), AG/RES. 2933 (XLIX-O/19), AG/RES. 2949 (L-O/20), CP/RES. 759 (1217/99), CP/RES. 864 (1413/04), and all prior resolutions adopted on this subject;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT General Secretariat Directive OSG-629/16 of November 22nd, 2016, which establishes that the participation and cooperation of civil society in the activities of the Organization must be carried out in strict coordination with the Civil Society Relations Section of the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity;

TAKING NOTE that since the date of the conclusion of the fiftieth regular session of the OAS General Assembly, October 21, 2020, thirty civil society organizations have been approved by the Permanent Council to enter the OAS register, bringing the total to six hundred thirty-six civil society organizations registered in the OAS; and,

TAKING NOTE ALSO of the holding of the “Special meeting on the participation of civil society organizations in preparation for the fifty-first regular session of the OAS General Assembly”, on September 28, 2021,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the commitment and will of the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) to continue: (a) supporting and promoting the registration of civil society organizations and other social actors in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Organization; (b) strengthening and implementing effective forums and mechanisms to generate concrete national and multilateral measures and efforts to enable civil society organizations and other social actors, including women’s organizations (, to participate in OAS activities and the Summits of the Americas process; and (c) participating in the “Dialogue of representatives of civil society organizations and other actors with the heads of delegation, the Secretary General, and the Assistant Secretary General” in the framework of the regular sessions of the General Assembly and the Summits of the Americas process, including that of the Ninth Summit, which the United States will host in 2022**.**
2. To instruct the Permanent Council, the Inter-American Council for Integral Development, and the General Secretariat to continue facilitating the implementation of strategies, forums, and mechanisms for promoting, increasing, and strengthening participation by civil society organizations and other social actors, such as women’s organizations, in the Summits of the Americas and OAS activities.
3. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue to invite indigenous peoples and communities of African descent in member states, or their representatives, to participate in the “Dialogue of representatives of civil society organizations and other actors with the heads of delegation, the Secretary General, and the Assistant Secretary General” in the framework of regular sessions of the OAS General Assembly, in order to enable those representatives to present recommendations and proposed initiatives related to the theme of the General Assembly session.
4. To instruct the General Secretariat to continue, when so requested, to support member states in their efforts to increase and strengthen the institutional capacity of their governments to receive, integrate, and incorporate input and suggestions from civil society and other social actors.
5. To encourage all member states, permanent observers, and other donors, as defined in Article 74 of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat of the OAS and in other rules and regulations of the Organization, to consider contributing to the Specific Fund to Support the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities and in the Summits of the Americas Process, created by resolution CP/RES. 864 (1413/04), in order to sustain and promote the effective participation of civil society organizations and other social actors in OAS activities, in accordance with the goals set by the General Assembly and by the Heads of State and Government in the Summits of the Americas process, including the Dialogue of Heads of Delegation, the Secretary General, and representatives of civil society organizations.
6. To instruct the General Secretariat to identify the human resources needed to implement the mandates entrusted by the member states with respect to the Relations with Civil Society Section of the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity, and in particular, so that it can effectively coordinate efforts to promote, increase and strengthen participation of civil society in OAS activities conducted by all areas of the Organization.

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