

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY

Grant Agreement No. 2003-548.0
between

Grantor: National Endowment for Democracy
1101 15th Street, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20005

Grantee: Súmate, A.C.
Centro Empresarial Los Palos Grandes, piso 7
Av. Andrés Bello, Los Palos Grandes, Chacao
Estado Miranda
Caracas, Venezuela

1. AUTHORITY

This Grant is awarded in accordance with the authority contained in P.L. 98-164, as amended (hereafter referred to as the "Act") and Grant No. S-LMAQM-03-GR-001 between the United States Department of State and the National Endowment for Democracy (hereafter referred to as "the Endowment").

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Grant is to enable the Grantee to carry out the project objectives shown in Attachment A, Program Description, which are consistent with the purposes stated in Section 502(b) of the Act.

3. GRANT AMOUNT AND BUDGET

The amount obligated under this Grant is \$53,400, which is to be expended according to the Grant Budget shown in Attachment B.

The Grantee shall not use funds designated for Program Costs to pay Administrative Costs, nor vice versa, without prior written approval of the Endowment. The Grantee shall also obtain written approval from the Endowment prior to making an expenditure which would increase costs in a major budget category within either the Program or Administrative Costs budget by more than 15 percent or \$5,000 (whichever amount is larger) above the amount budgeted for that category. Adjustments among budget categories shall not result in an increase in the total amount of the Grant. The Endowment will not fund costs in excess of the Grant amount shown above.

4. GRANT PERIOD

The effective date of this Grant is September 12, 2003.
The expiration date of this Grant is September 30, 2004.

All expenditures from Grant funds must be either for authorized activities that take place or for authorized obligations that are incurred during this Grant Period, unless otherwise stated in the Grant. Expenditures for costs incurred prior to the effective date or after the expiration date will be disallowed. Payments made after the expiration date for expenses incurred within the Grant Period are allowable.

If the Grant Period is insufficient for satisfactory completion of the project objectives, the Agreement may be amended to extend the period. The Grantee must request the extension in writing prior to the current expiration date, explaining the circumstances which warrant the extension. Requests for amendments may

not be considered if the Grantee has not submitted all reports currently due as scheduled in Grant Paragraph 5.

5. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The Grantee must submit to the Endowment periodic Narrative and Financial reports. The Final Periodic Report shall include an Evaluation Report. The content of these reports is described in Attachment C, Grant Provisions 9 and 10. The reporting schedule for this Grant is as follows:

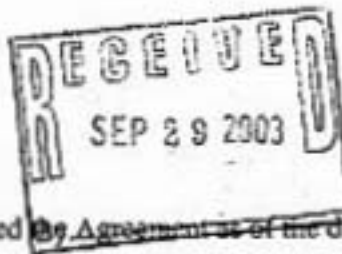
<u>Period Report Covers</u>	<u>Report is Due</u>
September 12 - December 31, 2003	January 31, 2004
January 1 - March 31, 2004	April 30, 2004
April 1 - June 30, 2004	July 31, 2004
July 1 - September 30, 2004, Final Periodic Report (including Evaluation Report)	October 31, 2004

6. DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, INELIGIBILITY, AND VOLUNTARY EXCLUSION

In accepting this Grant, the Grantee certifies that neither it nor its principals is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this agreement by any U.S. Government department or agency.

7. RESPONSIBILITIES AND GRANT PROVISIONS

- A. The Grantee is responsible for planning, organizing, and administering the program to carry out the project objectives stated in Attachment A, Program Description, in accordance with the terms of this Agreement as described above and in Attachment A, Program Description; Attachment B, Grant Budget; Attachment C, Grant Provisions; and in Appendixes A-G. Each of the foregoing is fully incorporated in this Agreement and made a part hereof as if set out in the full text of the Agreement itself.
- B. If Attachment A, Program Description, provides for the Grantee to implement the project objectives through one or more designated subrecipient(s), the Grantee is responsible for ensuring that the subrecipient(s) comply with all provisions of the Agreement that apply to subrecipients as outlined in Grant Provision 4, "Subagreements;" and as shown in Appendix G, "Model Subagreement."
- C. Should this Grant Agreement be translated to a language other than English for signature, the English language version will govern in the event of differences between the two versions. Any inconsistency in this Agreement will be resolved by giving precedence in the following order:
 1. The Agreement, including Attachments A, B, and C
 2. Appendix A
 3. Appendixes B, C, and D



The parties to this Agreement have executed ~~By Agreement~~ of the dates indicated below.

FOR THE GRANTEE

FOR THE
NATIONAL ENDOWMENT
FOR DEMOCRACY

SIGNATURE

MARIA CORINA MACHADO

TYPED NAME

Cari Gershman

TREASURER

TITLE

President

SEP. 25, 2003

DATE

SEP 29 2003

ATTACHMENT A
PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
ELECTIONS EDUCATION
Venezuela

Grantee: *Simate*, A.C.
Dates of Project: September 12, 2003 - September 30, 2004
Amount Approved: \$53,400

I. BACKGROUND:

Once known for its consensus-based politics and respect for democratic liberties, Venezuela has become dangerously polarized. Elected in 1998 and again in 2000 under a new constitution, President Hugo Chávez tapped into a growing popular sense of frustration and anger against Venezuela's political class, promising a revolution that would sweep out the "squalid" oligarchy. Once in office, Chávez's revolutionary rhetoric, public disregard for democratic processes and institutions and vitriolic attacks on his opponents, escalated political and social tensions and hardened the opposition. The escalation of tensions and the growing risk of broad social and political conflict, prompted the assistance of the international community. With the help of the UN Development Program, the Carter Center and a coalition of outside countries, the OAS General Secretary, César Gaviria, negotiated an agreement between the opposition and the government. In the agreement, both sides endorsed a constitutional provision to hold a popular referendum on the president's mandate. According to the constitution, Venezuelan citizens can petition the government to request a referendum on any elected official's mandate half way into his or her term. The agreement also established August 19th as the official half-way point of Chávez's presidency, thus setting a date around which the opposition could organize to democratically test popular support for a change of government.

Despite the initial proclamations of support and optimism surrounding the internationally produced compromise, the realization of the referendum is far from certain. Disagreements between the opposition and the pro-government blocs in congress have inhibited the legislature's selection of an electoral council to oversee a referendum process. President Chávez has also loudly claimed that he does not think a referendum process can be held this year, and that any future referendum should test a number of elected officials and not just the president. The uncertainty has threatened to re-polarize the country, leading many observers to worry about what would happen should a referendum not be held or, if held, the results were not accepted as credible by one or both sides.

With Endowment support, the Venezuelan group *Simate* will conduct a nationwide elections education campaign related to the referendum. With the assistance of other election-related groups in the region, *Simate* will train voters throughout Venezuela on the voting process and encourage participation in the referendum voting process.

II. PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

- Develop a national network of independent, non-partisan volunteers prepared to work on elections and the referendum;
- Strengthen non-governmental organizations to work on various aspects of the referendum process; and
- Promote popular support for referenda.

III. PROJECT ACTIVITIES:

Simate will use Endowment support to develop links with other organizations in the region that work on elections, develop referendum-related materials and consolidate its national network of volunteers.

Development of Training Materials:

Simate will contact leading regional organizations that have supported and conducted electoral education campaigns to gather and review their materials. It will also invite representatives from these organizations to come to Venezuela to assist *Simate* in designing, adapting and using these materials for the referendum (any international travel would be paid from non-Grant funds). For this process, *Simate* will develop contacts with *Transparencia* in Peru, *Alianza Cívica* in Mexico, *Participa* in Chile, *Ética y Transparencia* in Nicaragua, and *Poder Ciudadano* in Argentina. To ensure that the materials produced are objective and effective, *Simate* will form an advisory committee that will be made up of regional organizations and leading Venezuelans from different sectors. The advisory committee will comprise leading experts in civic education and elections and will be divided into specific themes. The committee will include:

- **Community Organization and Training:** Juan Carlos Guinand; Ana Maria Applewhite; Luis Enrique Palacios;
- **Management:** Amalia Hurtado;
- **Civic Education:** Israel Jaspe (*Escuela de Vecinos*); Caterina Valero (*Liderazgo y Visión*); Anabel Pérez (*Liderazgo y Visión*);
- **Electoral Issues:** Miriam Kornblith; and
- **Political Issues:** Oscar Vallés.

With their advice and assistance, *Simate* will develop two types of educational packets, one for trainers and the other for participants. The packets will include information on the organization and mission of *Simate*, the constitutional basis for a referendum, electoral laws and procedures, how to monitor and check voter registration rolls, and how to observe elections (or in this case, a referendum). *Simate* will collaborate with the Consejo Nacional Electoral (CNE) -- once it is established -- in the development of its voter education materials.

Simate will develop a general public information campaign on various aspects of the referendum process. *Simate* will create spots and fliers to educate citizens on voter registration and on the

referendum. In the campaign concerning the electoral registration, *Símate* will use other funds to develop radio and t.v. spots and printed fliers encouraging voters to visit their local elections office to confirm that they are registered. The campaign will also disseminate the results of a planned renewal of the registration lists. The other media campaign will seek to educate citizens on the constitutional clause providing for the right to a referendum. The informational campaign will inform Venezuelans of their right to request a transparent, fair referendum process.

Training:

Once the materials are completed, *Símate* will distribute them to the members of its organization throughout the country. To ensure national coverage of the training and reduce the cost, training will be conducted through state coordinators in each of Venezuela's 24 states, including the federal district. *Símate* will train 24 state coordinators in Caracas, who will then return to their states to repeat the training. Representatives from *Símate*'s headquarters will travel to each of the states to attend sessions to ensure quality control. Through this process, *Símate* will also establish municipal coordinators, for a total of 330 across the country. The workshops will train at least 25,000 people from local organizations in how to disseminate information on the referendum, the legal and constitutional basis for the referendum, how to conduct a get-out-the vote campaign for the general community, how to monitor the electoral process.

IV. EVALUATION PLAN:

Símate will report on the total number of training workshops conducted and the level of participation in each. *Símate* will measure the impact of the project by tracking and reporting on the number of members that join the organization nationwide and that participate in encouraging citizens to check the voter registry and participate in a referendum.

V. ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND:

Formed in January 2002, *Símate* is a national association of citizens and professionals dedicated to promoting a peaceful democratic solution to the political crisis in Venezuela. A nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, in February 2003 *Símate* led a national petition drive to collect the signatures to request a national recall referendum for President Chávez. Working in collaboration with other nongovernmental organizations, *Símate* collected over 27 million signatures in one day. The effort also served to consolidate *Símate*'s national network of members and it now counts over 100,000 volunteers throughout the country. *Símate* is governed by a board of directors that includes: Alejandro Plaz Castillo and Maria Corina Machado, the president and vice president respectively. The project will be managed by Luis Enrique Palacios, Roberto Abdul-Hadi, Ricardo Sánchez, and Carla Puma de Palacios.

ATTACHMENT B
GRANT BUDGET

PROGRAM COSTS

Travel and Per Diem			
48 RTs w/in Venezuela	\$4,800		
Per diem, 2 x 24 days	<u>2,400</u>		
		\$7,200	
Contractual Services			
State coordinators, 24	5,760		
Project manager, 12 months	10,000		
Technical advisor, 12 months	<u>9,000</u>		
		24,760	
Other Direct Costs			
Training workshops, 24			
Refreshments	1,440		
Multimedia training kits, 480 (includes video and CD)	<u>20,000</u>		
		<u>21,440</u>	
TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS			\$53,400
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS			0
GRAND TOTAL			<u>\$53,400</u>

Chris Sabatini

From: Maria Corina Machado [mcmachado@sumate.org]
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2003 11:38 AM
To: Chris Sabatini; René Yamin
Cc: 'Candi Herrera-Navarro'
Subject: Reunión Súmate

Estimado Sr.Sabatini,

Me complace dirigirme a usted con el fin de darle seguimiento a nuestra conversación de Washington. Como es de su conocimiento, la reciente firma del Acuerdo entre el gobierno y la oposición venezolana, con el aval de la comunidad internacional, ha ratificado la agenda electoral y el calendario del próximo proceso.

En Súmate consideramos que la organización de los ciudadanos para contribuir a la transparencia del proceso electoral es fundamental y que los plazos para acometer esta tarea son ajustados. De allí la urgencia de obtener apoyo técnico y lograr aprovechar experiencias de otros países vecinos.

En nuestra reunión en Washington usted nos manifestó su interés en visitar de nuevo Venezuela durante el mes de Junio, para evaluar la evolución del proceso y las capacidades de las organizaciones que están participando en él. Para nosotros resultaría una magnífica oportunidad para intercambiar experiencias y presentarle a diversos miembros del equipo.

Por este motivo, quisiéramos conocer la factibilidad de esta visita y cómo podríamos apoyarle en la misma,

Reciba un cordial saludo,

Maria Corina Machado

Corresponsalía de Venezuela
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E-mail: ipysvencuela@yahoo.com

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