

# Panel 1

## **Janet Ballantyne**

*Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean*

*U.S. Agency for International Development*

Janet Ballantyne is currently Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). She is a Career Minister in the Senior Foreign Service, with 30 years of USAID experience. She has been Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator in three USAID Central Bureaus: Bureau for Policy and Program Coordination (1995-1996); Center for Economic Growth in the Global Bureau (1994-1995); and Bureau for Asia and the Middle East (2001-2003). She was Counselor to the Agency from 2001-2002, during which time she also served as Acting Deputy Administrator and, on occasion, as Acting USAID Administrator. She served as USAID Mission Director in Nicaragua (1990-1994), Russia (1996-2001), and the Central Asia Republics (2008- 2009). She also served as Deputy Director for USAID missions in Morocco and Nepal. She holds numerous awards from USAID, including three Presidential-rank awards, and has been honored by several foreign governments for her work on development issues.

From 2002-2007, she left USAID and was selected to be the Group Vice President for International Development at Abt Associates. She managed an international portfolio of over \$100 million in the areas of health, health financing, and economic growth and restructuring.

From 1999-2001 she was a professor of National Strategic Policy Studies at the National War College. She was decorated with a Department of Defense medal for Distinguished Civilian Service. She has continued her academic involvement through giving guest lectures at a variety of colleges and universities, and currently is in her sixth year as Adjunct Professor of International Affairs at Syracuse University (Washington campus).

She speaks fluent Spanish and is qualified in French and Russian.

Ms. Ballantyne holds a BA from Cornell University; an MPA from Syracuse University, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs; and a Ph.D. in International Development from Cornell University's School of Management.

**Joseph Cassidy**

*Director, Multilateral and Global Affairs Office  
Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor  
Department of State*

Joseph Cassidy has been a Foreign Service Officer since 1989. He has served overseas in Guyana, Kenya, Bosnia (while seconded to the OSCE), Namibia, at the U.S. Mission to the UN in Geneva, and most recently in Iraq. Domestically, he has worked in the Executive Secretariat, as Special Assistant to the Under Secretary for Political Affairs, as well as in the Bureau of African Affairs and the Bureau of Intelligence and Research. The focus of his career has been human rights and humanitarian assistance. He is the recipient of numerous Superior and Meritorious Honor Awards. He holds a B.A. in History from Wesleyan University and an Masters of Public Policy from Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School. He is married to Elizabeth Kandravy Cassidy, a human rights lawyer now working for the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom.

**Kevin Whitaker**

*Director for Andean Affairs  
Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor  
Department of State*

Kevin Whitaker has been director for Andean affairs in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs since July 2008. He is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service.

Mr. Whitaker has served in the United Kingdom, Jamaica, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Venezuela, where he was Deputy Chief of Mission, 2005-2007. In addition, he previously served in a number of positions at the Department of State, including as Deputy Executive Secretary (2007-08).

A resident of Virginia, Mr. Whitaker is a graduate of the University of Virginia. He is married to Elizabeth Whitaker, a former member of the Senior Foreign Service, and they have a son, Daniel.

## Panel 2

### **Dinah L. Shelton**

*Professor International Law*

*George Washington University*

Professor Shelton joined the Law School faculty in 2004. Before her appointment, she was professor of international law and director of the doctoral program in international human rights law at the University of Notre Dame Law School from 1996-2004. She previously taught at Santa Clara University and was a visiting lecturer at the University of California, Davis, Stanford University, University of California, Berkeley, the University of Paris, and the University of Strasbourg, France. From 1987 to 1989, she was the director of the Office of Staff Attorneys at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Professor Shelton is the author or editor of three prize-winning books: *Protecting Human Rights in the Americas* (winner of the 1982 Inter-American Bar Association Book Prize and co-authored with Thomas Buergenthal); *Remedies in International Human Rights Law* (awarded the 2000 Certificate of Merit, American Society of International Law); and the three volume *Encyclopedia of Genocide and Crimes against Humanity* (awarded a "Best Research" book award by the New York Public Library). She also has authored many articles and books on international law, human rights law, and international environmental law. She is a member of the board of editors of the *American Journal of International Law* and is a vice-president of the American Society of International Law.

Professor Shelton serves on the boards of many human rights and environmental organizations. In 2006, she was awarded the prestigious Elizabeth Haub Prize in Environmental Law, and has served as a legal consultant to the United Nations Environment Programme, UNITAR, World Health Organization, European Union, Council of Europe, and Organization of American States. In 2009, she became the first woman nominated by the United States to become a member of the Inter-American Human Rights Commission, established by the Organization of American States to promote and protect human rights in the Western Hemisphere. She was elected to a four-year term in June, 2009.

### **Dario J. Mejia**

*Member of the Indigenous and Intercultural Education Council*

*National Indigenous Organization Colombia (ONIC)*

Dario Mejía Montalvo is a member of the Zenú indigenous group. He is part of the High Government Council of the National Indigenous Organization of Colombia (ONIC) where he is responsible for the Indigenous and Intercultural Education Council. He is also a representative of Colombian indigenous groups before the Secretariat of the Permanent

Consultative Table with the Colombian government and the Consultative Council of Indigenous Groups at the Andean Community (CAN).

### **Feliciano Santos**

*Representing the Ngöbe community, Panama*

*Movimiento para la Defensa del Territorio y Ecosistema del Archipelago de Bocas del Toro (MODETAB)*

Feliciano Santos is a Ngobe environmental activist from the Province of Bocas del Toro in Western Panama, and one of the original founders of the movement for the defense of ecosystems and territories of the Archipelago of Boca del Toro - Movimiento para la Defensa del Territorio y Ecosistema del Archipelago de Bocas del Toro (MODETEAB) since 2007. His organization provides legal advice and serves as a support network for poor residents of these tropical islands affected by illegal evictions by land speculators and tourism developers. They have successfully blocked a number of illegal evictions in Western Panama, and have recently convened the World Bank Inspection Panel over the Panama Land Administration Program (PRONAT).

### **Estanislao Bejarano**

*Representing the Ngöbe community, Panama*

Estanislao Bejarano is a Ngobe leader from the Province of Bocas del Toro in Western Panama, and one of the original founders of the movement for the defense of the indigenous territories of the Changuinola River. He has been active in public protests and organizing grassroots communities in the Upper Changuinola River affected by the Chan 140 and Chan 220 hydroelectric projects. He participated in the petition to UNESCO to declare La Amistad International Park as a World Heritage Site in Danger, and also represented the communities of the Changuinola River in a special hearing of the Latin American Water Tribunal in Guatemala in 2008.

### **Daisy Zapata Fasabi**

*Vice President*

*Asociación Interétnica de Desarrollo de la Selva Peruana (AIDESEP)*

Daisy Zapata is currently serving as the Acting President of AIDESEP is the country's Amazon-wide indigenous umbrella federation that has existed since 1985 and represents 1350 indigenous communities. She hails from the Atalaya province in Peru's central Amazon jungle and belongs to the Yine indigenous group which has only 3,000 members. Ms. Zapata has been a recognized indigenous leader since 1992, when she was elected as President of the Regional Indigenous Organization of Atalaya (OIRA). She then served as the President of the Regional Organization of AIDESEP in Ucayali (ORAU) starting in 2006, and was ultimately elected as the Vicepresident of AIDESEP in their triennial Congress in December of 2008.

During her term with AIDSEP, Ms. Zapata has traveled extensively within Peru, visiting indigenous communities and local base federations. She has also represented the federation at an international level, having traveled to Geneva, Switzerland to dialogue with the Expert Mechanism of the UN Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; France to offer public presentations; the United States to present during hearings held at the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights in November of 2009; and last week in Cochabamba, Bolivia at the recent climate summit.

In essence Ms. Zapata has assumed the role of AIDSEP's leader and public face since June 2009, when President Alberto Pizango was exiled in Nicaragua under threat of arrest for ostensibly being the intellectual author of the violent confrontation in Bagua.