

# Panel 1

## **Don Steinberg**

*Deputy Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development*

Deputy Administrator Donald Steinberg previously served as Deputy President for Policy at the International Crisis Group (ICG).

During three decades with the US diplomatic service, he served as Ambassador to Angola, Director of the State Department's Joint Policy Council, Special Representative of the President for Humanitarian Demining, Special Haiti Coordinator, Deputy White House Press Secretary and NSC Senior Director for Africa.

Other diplomatic postings include South Africa, Mauritius, Malaysia, Brazil and Central African Republic. His awards include the Presidential Meritorious Honor Award and the Frasure Award for International Peace.

He holds master's degrees in journalism from Columbia University and political economy from University of Toronto, and a bachelor's degree from Reed College.

## **Rina Amiri**

*Senior Advisor on Afghanistan, Office of the Special Representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan, U.S. Department of State*

Rina Amiri currently serves as the senior advisor on Afghanistan for the Office of the Special Representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan. Rina has been intricately involved in peace efforts in Afghanistan. From 2002 to 2006, she worked with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and served as a member of the Special Representative of the Secretary General's team responsible for the implementation of the Bonn Peace Accords. Prior to 2002, Rina worked closely with Afghan political leaders in Rome toward finding a political settlement to the Afghanistan war. As a senior research associate at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School, she worked with activists from conflict-ridden countries, highlighting the role of local leaders in formulating a bottom-up approach to peacebuilding. Before joining SRAP, Rina served as the director of the Soros Foundation's Afghanistan and Regional Policy Initiative. She has provided analysis on Afghanistan and the region at major institutions, including the United Nations, Harvard University, the U.S. Institute of Peace, the State Department, the Council of Foreign Affairs as well as news publications, television, and radio programs, including, CNN, *The New York Times* and *The Boston Globe*.

## Panel 2

### **Joanne Sandler**

*Deputy Director, UN Women*

Ms. Sandler is the Deputy Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). She has worked with international organizations and women's groups worldwide for the past 27 years, with a focus on organizational development, strategic planning and economic justice. She has also served on the Board of Directors of a number of international and domestic organizations, including Breakthrough, Association for Women's Rights in Development, Gender at Work, and Women Make Movies. Ms. Sandler guides UNIFEM's efforts to implement rights-based, results-based programmes in support of women's empowerment and rights in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean and Central and Eastern Europe, and the Commonwealth of Independent States. Prior to her work with UNIFEM, Ms. Sandler worked as a consultant to international and U.S.-focused women's rights organizations, including many UN organizations, the Ms. Foundation for Women, the Global Fund for Women, the National Council for Research on Women, the International Planned Parenthood Federation-Western Hemisphere, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. She also worked, for 11 years, for the International Women's Tribune Centre, concentrating on special projects and producing training manuals and workshops related to marketing, economic development and economic justice, and fundraising for women's organizations.

## Panel 3

### **David Cortright**

*Director of Policy Studies*

*Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame*

David Cortright is the Director of Policy Studies at the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame and Chair of the Board of the Fourth Freedom Forum in Goshen, Indiana.

Cortright is the author or editor of seventeen books, including most recently *Ending Obama's War: Responsible Military Withdrawal from Afghanistan* (Paradigm Press, 2011). Other recent works include *Towards Nuclear Zero* with Raimo Väyrynen (International Institute for Strategic Studies, Adelphi #410, 2010); *Peace: A History of Movements and Ideas* (Cambridge University Press, 2008); and *Uniting Against Terror: Cooperative Nonmilitary Responses to the Global Terrorist Threat* (MIT Press, 2007), co-edited with George A. Lopez. Cortright has written widely on nonviolent social change, nuclear disarmament, and the use of multilateral sanctions and incentives as tools of international peacemaking. He has provided research services to agencies of the United

Nations and the foreign ministries of Canada, Sweden, Finland, Switzerland, Japan, Germany, Denmark and The Netherlands.

Cortright has a long history of public advocacy for disarmament and the prevention of war. From 1978 to 1988 Cortright was executive director of SANE, the Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy, which under his leadership grew from 4,000 to 150,000 members and became the largest disarmament organization in the United States. In November 2002 Cortright helped to create Win Without War, a coalition of national organizations opposing the invasion and occupation of Iraq.

### **The Honorable Marzia Basel**

*Founder and Director, Afghan Women's Judges Association*

Marzia Basel is founder and Director of the Afghanistan Progressive Law Organization and the Afghan Women's Judges Association. She has extensive training and experience in international relations, women in development, and law. She holds a bachelor's in law and political science from Kabul University and a master's in international law and comparative studies from George Washington University.

She was employed as a judge in both civil and criminal courts in Kabul and served in the Supreme Court Legal Aid Department and the Kabul Public Security Court. During the period of Taliban rule (1996-2001), Basel ran a private, home-based school for women where she designed programming and taught English. After the fall of the Taliban, she was active in state reconstruction, serving on the Kabul Public Security Court, acting as a representative for the establishment of the Independent Afghan Judicial Commission, and acting as an officer for the Emergency Loya Jirga Commission. She was integral to women's mobilization in reconstruction, working for the Director of UNIFEM Afghanistan as a Gender Justice Officer and serving on the Afghan Constitution Commission in a unit supporting women in the election process.

She also served for UNICEF Afghanistan as Juvenile Justice Project Officer. Since 2006, she has been working as National Advisor to the German government's Assistant for Afghanistan GTZ, now the GIZ Rule of Law Project. After the suspension of the Afghan Women Judges Association by the Afghan Supreme Court she founded the Afghanistan Progressive Law Organization and has served as its director since 2009. She is also a volunteer member of the Afghan Independent Bar Association Women's Committee, and a volunteer member of the advisory committee for the Afghan Women's Ministry.