COMMITTEE ON MIGRATION ISSUES OEA/Ser.W

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MIGRATION GOVERNANCE AND INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL MIGRATION MECHANISMS AND PROCESSES: TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE AND HEMISPHERIC APPROACH (GCM, RCM, CAM, SACM,

QUITO PROCESS, PLATFORM R4V, GCM, MIRPS)

SPEAKER’S BIOGRAPHY

May 17, 2022

* **Cindy Mariella Portal, Vice Minister of Diaspora and Human Mobility of El Salvador, Pro Tempore Presidency of the Regional Conference on Migration (CRM):**

Ms. Cindy Portal holds a Bachelor's Degree in Communication Sciences, with a major in Organizational Communication and a Master's Degree in Strategic Human Resources Management from Universidad Dr. José Matías Delgado. She also has studies in Political Communication at George Washington University and a Master's degree in Image Consulting and Political Consulting from the Universidad Pontificia de Salamanca. She has also studied applied linguistics, geopolitics, migratory movements and global governance.

She also holds an International Postgraduate Degree in Public Policy Management from the Instituto Superior de Economía y Administración de Empresas and the Escuela Superior de Economía y Administración de Empresas of Argentina.

On behalf of the Government of El Salvador, the Vice Minister of Diaspora and Human Mobility, Cindy Mariella Portal, received the Pro Tempore Presidency (PPT) of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) for the year 2022, an instance that represents the broadest forum for consultation and advocacy on migration issues and dynamics of the 11 nations that comprise it.

* **Pedro Hernández, Deputy Director of International Migration of Chile, Pro Tempore Presidency, South American Conference on Migration (CSM):**

Mr. Pedro Hernandez is a political scientist specialized in international relations, public management, and international studies. He holds a degree in Political Science with a specialization in International Relations from the Universidad Católica Argentina, UCA, and a degree in Political and Administrative Sciences from the Universidad de Chile. He holds a Master's degree in Government and Public Management and a Master's degree in International Studies. Currently, he is Deputy Director of International Migration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile.

* **Rosa Posadas, Head of the Office of Assistance to Returned Migrants, Honduras, Pro Tempore Presidency of the Comprehensive Regional Framework for Protection and Solutions (MIRPS):**

Ms. Rosa Posadas holds a Bachelor's Law Degree from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras. Currently, she is the Head of the Office of Assistance for Returned Migrants in Honduras.

* **Ricardo Rizzo is the Head of the Division of Humanitarian Issues at Brazil´s Ministry of Foreign Affair:**

Mr. Rizzo is a member of the Brazilian National Committee for Refugees and a focal point at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for “Operação Acolhida” (“Operation welcome”, the Brazilian government multi-agency task-force established in 2018 for assisting and integrating Venezuelan migrants and refugees in Brazil). Mr. Rizzo joined the Brazilian Foreign Service as a career diplomat in 2006. He served at the Brazilian Mission to the United Nations in New York (2011-2014, following Security Council, peacekeeping and peacebuilding matters, among others) and at the Embassy of Brazil in Montevideo, Uruguay (2014-2016, following bilateral, human rights and other political files). He holds a master’s degree in political science and a PhD in social history, both from University of São Paulo.

* **Zachary Thomas, Coordinator of the Interagency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (Plataforma R4V):**

Mr. Zach Thomas has been working with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) since 2014 in several roles related to program development, management, humanitarian coordination, and liaison. Prior to his current duty station in Panama, Zach supported IOM’s emergency responses in Jordan, Iraq, Turkey, and Syria. In 2020, he joined the Office of Special Envoy for the Regional Response to the Venezuela Situation located in Panama to manage regional donor liaison, program development and monitoring & evaluation for IOM’s response. In 2022, he transferred to the role of Inter-Agency Coordinator and now co-coordinates the regional response with UNHCR on behalf of all 192 partners across the 17 countries under the umbrella of the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform (R4V).

Apart from his current role, he has had a number of experiences in Latin America, including volunteering as a U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer in El Salvador from 2008-2011 and working on his Master’s Thesis with a local Nicaraguan health NGO in 2013. Zach graduated from DePaul University in 2013 with a M.S. in International Public Service, and Denison University in 2007 with a B.A. in Environmental Studies and Economics.

* **- Maria Bances del Rey, Senior Protection Coordinator for the Americas, UNHCR:**

Ms. Maria Bances del Rey, Senior Protection Coordinator of the Regional Bureau for the Americas of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). She holds a degree in Law from the Complutense University of Madrid (Special Group) and a graduate from the University of Durham in the United Kingdom with an LLM in International European Law, Human and Refugee Rights. Since 2000, she has served in the Central African Republic, the former Yugoslavia (Serbia), Geneva, Washington, Cairo, Costa Rica and is currently based in Panama. She previously worked with the United Nations with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) in Kosovo and with UNDP in Syria, and at the end of university studies she began her international career at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg.

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