

# INTERNATIONAL VISITOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

## WOMEN LEADERS: AGENTS OF SOCIAL CHANGE

*These visitors are invited to the United States under the auspices of the Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program. Their program is arranged by World Learning.*

**Program Contacts:** Mr. Anthony Zaun and Ms. Mercedes (Mechi) Kommerstad, World Learning, 1015 Fifteenth Street, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20005; Telephone (202) 4648518 or (202) 4645231; Tollfree (800) 8580292; Fax – (202) 408-5397; Email [anthony.zaun@worldlearning.org](mailto:anthony.zaun@worldlearning.org) or [mercedes.kommerstad@worldlearning.org](mailto:mercedes.kommerstad@worldlearning.org)

**Department of State Program Contacts:** Ms. Marta Etienne and Ms. Alicia Pelton, Office of International Visitors; Telephone (202) 632-3299 or (202) 632-9394; Fax - (202) 632-9191; Email – [EtienneMM@state.gov](mailto:EtienneMM@state.gov) or [peltonaa@state.gov](mailto:peltonaa@state.gov)

**Accompanied By:** Ms. Sylvia COATES, Interpreter; Ms. Inge KIRKLAND, Administrative Interpreter; Ms. Kimberly LANE, Interpreter; Ms. Jennifer SOTO, Administrative Interpreter

**March 7 25, 2016**

---

### PROFESSIONAL OBJECTIVES

The Department of State has outlined the following specific objectives for the project:

- Gain an understanding of the contributions of women to the social and economic advancement of communities and society at large through their leadership in gender, youth, family, and broader social issues;
- Review the role of women leaders in public service, civil society, politics, government, community organizations, and the private sector in promoting policies, initiatives, and programs that address social concerns and community needs;
- Showcase women-led efforts that have generated positive change in education, health care, child care, nutrition, public safety, the environment, and other areas that contribute to the wellbeing of men, women, children, and families; and
- Examine trends in leadership training, public-private partnerships, social entrepreneurship, corporate initiatives, and other mechanisms through which women are empowered and encouraged promote and effect social change.

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

- Chile**                                   **Ms. Yenifer SANDOVAL ALEGRIA**  
Director for the Magallanes Region, National Institute of Youth (INJUV)
- Cuba**                                     **Ms. Maylen PEREZ COCA**  
Coordinator for Women, Young Active Cuban Youth (JACU)
- Ecuador**                               **Ms. Maria ALVARADO CARRION, Ph.D**  
VicePrefect, Provincial Government of Azuay
- Mrs. Martha ROSERO NAVARRETE**  
Vice Mayor, Santo Domingo, Municipality of Santo Domingo
- Honduras**                               **Ms. Susan HERNANDEZ SALINAS**  
Secretary, Botija Crafts Project, San Marcos de Colon
- Mrs. Daysi MARADIAGA CHAVARRIA**  
Technical Assistant, Youth, Population, and Health Unit, Student Services Office, Ministry of Education
- Mexico**                                   **Ms. Vania AVILA GARCIA**  
ViceCoordinator of Women’s Issues for Mexico's Fourth National Electoral District
- Ms. Elvira LOPEZ PEREZ**  
Director, Sports and Youth Programs, City of Nuevo Laredo
- Nicaragua**                               **Ms. Julia MARTINEZ VELAZQUEZ**  
Program Coordinator, Environmental Education, Paso Pacifico
- Paraguay**                               **Ms. Lourdes AGUERO**  
Program Coordinator, Women Affairs, Fundacion Paraguaya
- Spain**                                     **Ms. Yasmin ALI MOHAMMED OMAR ALI**  
CEO and Founder, Masturah Salon
- Venezuela**                               **Ms. Olga CORDOBA RANGEL**  
Coordinator, Assemblies of Citizens, Municipality of Miranda, Falcon State (Regional Organization Structure of Vente Venezuela)
- Ms. Mildjos GIL CASTILLO**  
Community Liaison, Civil Association Camuri Grande, Vargas

state

**Ms. Delia RIVAS CASTILLO**

Legal Advisor and Centers Supervisor, Foundation Nueva Mujer  
Margarita, Nueva Esparta state

## BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

### **Chile**

- Name:* **Ms. Yenifer SANDOVAL ALEGRIA**
- Present Position:* Director for the Magallanes Region, National Institute of Youth (INJUV)
- Concurrent Position:* Commissioner, National Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CNA)
- Previous Positions:* Regional Director, National Institute of Youth (INJUV), Magallanes Region, Punta Arenas, Chile, 2014 - Present  
Commissioner, National Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CNA), Ministry of Education, Chile, 2011 – Present
- Education/Training:* School of Law, University of Magallanes, Punta Arenas, Chile, 2013
- Address:* Pasaje Jose Kramarenko 0896  
Poblacion Monsenor Boric  
Punta Arenas, Magallanes  
Chile  
Telephone: 569 51590460  
Email: ysandoval@gmail.com
- Language:* Spanish (primary)
- U. S. Travel:* No previous U.S. travel
- Professional Background:* During her college years Ms. Yenifer Sandoval was a very active student leader and served as the president of the university's student council in 2009 and regional coordinator of the Chilean Confederation of Student Councils (CONFECH) between 2008 and 2010. In 2009, Ms. Sandoval was appointed to the Council of Civil Society of the Regional Government of Magallanes where her involvement in the reform of public transportation in Punta Arenas led to the creation of a subsidized transportation system. In 2013 she was elected by to a second term as the commissioner representing youth interests on the National Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CNA), the national body that accredits universities in Chile. In May 2014, President Bachelet appointed Ms. Sandoval as director of the National Institute of Youth (INJUV) of the Magallanes Region.

## **Cuba**

*Name:* **Ms. Maylen PEREZ COCA**

*Present Position:* Coordinator for Women, Young Active Cuban Youth (JACU)

*Education/Training:* Student, Medicine, Facultad de Medicina de Trinidad, In progress

*Address:* Pedro Zerquera edif. 1 apartamento 12 e/ Manuel Fajardo y  
Concordia  
Trinidad, Sancti Spiritus  
Cuba

*Language:* Spanish (primary)

*U. S. Travel:* No previous U.S. travel

*Other Travel:* Mexico

*Professional Background:* Ms. Maylen Perez Coca is the leading Coordinator for Women with the non-governmental organization, Young Active Cuban Youth (Spanish translation: Juventud Activa Cuba Unida - JACU). She has been in leadership roles with JACU since 2014. She is responsible for recruiting, organizing, and empowering women and youth in the local community. Ms. Perez Coca has carried out educational workshops for women that address domestic violence, early pregnancy prevention, good hygiene practices, community volunteerism, youth political involvement, and youth education. As a current medical student, she has also organized a number of community-based public health activities aimed at preventing the spread of disease and basic health awareness.

## **Ecuador**

*Name:* **Ms. Maria ALVARADO CARRION, Ph.D**

*Present Position:* VicePrefect, Provincial Government of Azuay

*Previous Positions:* Town Councilwoman, Municipality of Cuenca, 2009 - 2013  
Political Chief, Government of Azuay, May 2008 Mar 2009  
General Students Director, University of Azuay, 2003 2008  
Assembly Member, National Assembly, 2007 2008

*Education/Training:* Juris Doctor, University of Azuay, 2007

*Memberships:* Movimiento Participa, Democracia Radical, 2015  
Red de Mujeres Prefectas y Viceprefectas del Ecuador, 2014  
Cabildo por las Mujeres de Cuenca, 2010

*Publications:* Yasuni, who failed you?, Coyuntura Magazine No. 16 University of Cuenca, April 2014  
The Concept of Sexuality in the Ecuadorian Criminal Law, Thesis, June 2006

*Address:* Calicuchima 1-73 y Quisquis  
Cuenca, Azuay  
Ecuador  
Telephone: 593-9-8293-3476  
Email: [chechialvarado@gmail.com](mailto:chechialvarado@gmail.com)

*Language:* Spanish (primary)

*U. S. Travel:* No previous U.S. travel

*Other Travel:* Bolivia, Chile, El Salvador, Spain.

*Professional Background:* Ms. Maria Cecilia Alvarado is the Vice Prefect of Azuay, the equivalent of a Lieutenant Governor of a U.S. State.

## **Ecuador**

*Name:* **Mrs. Martha ROSERO NAVARRETE**

*Present Position:* Vice Mayor, Santo Domingo, Municipality of Santo Domingo

*Previous Positions:* Provincial Director, Office of Vital Records of Santo Domingo de los Tsachilas, 2012 2013  
Provincial Director, Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion, Santo Domingo de los Tsachilas, 2009 - 2012  
Childhood Program Manager, Christian Youth Association (YMCA), 2009 2009  
Town Coordinator, Provincial Electoral Council of Pichincha, 2006 2007

*Education/Training:* Engineer, Agriculture and Livestock, Universidad Tecnologica Equinoccial, 2005  
Specialist, Governance, Transparency and Citizen Participation, CELADEL Uruguay, 2013

*Publications:* Ten Testimonies, Ten Lives, Book About Violence Against Women, 2015

*Address:* Ciudadela El Magisterio  
Calle 20 Casa 9  
Via Chone Km. 2 1/2  
Santo Domingo, Santo Domingo de los Tsachilas  
Ecuador  
Telephone: 593-9-8060-0686  
Email: latinaeco@hotmail.com

*Language:* Spanish (primary)

*U. S. Travel:* Miami

*Professional Background:* Ms. Martha Rosero is the Vice Mayor of Santo Domingo and President of the Council for the Protection of Rights and part of the Women's Movement of Santo Domingo (Movimiento Cantonal de Mujeres), one of the largest and most dynamic cities in Ecuador.

## **Honduras**

*Name:* **Ms. Susan HERNANDEZ SALINAS**

*Present Position:* Secretary, Botija Crafts Project, San Marcos de Colon

*Previous Position:* Assistant, Women's Municipal Office, San Marcos de Colon

*Education/Training:* High School diploma, Business Administration, Instituto Departamental Lempira, 2012  
Combating Human Trafficking, Human Rights Commissioner's Office, 2015  
Health Training Facilitator, Nazario Soriano Health Center, 2014  
Business Organization and Administration, EMPRENDESUR, 2013  
Development of Municipal Strategic Plan, FORCUENCAS, 2011  
Entrepreneurship for Vulnerable Groups, CIPE Consultants, 2011

*Memberships:* Municipal Women's Network, San Marcos de Colon, 8 years.

*Address:* Oficina Municipal de la Mujer  
Alcaldía de San Marcos de Colon  
San Marcos De Colon, Choluteca  
Honduras  
Telephone: 504-8983-6408  
Email: conmendoza11@hotmail.com

*Language:* Spanish (primary)

*U. S. Travel:* No previous U.S. travel

*Other Travel:* Guatemala, Nicaragua

*Professional Background:* Ms. Susan Johanna Hernández is a leader in the municipality of San Marcos de Colon who works with the local municipal women's network. She is a member of the board of the 'La Botija Crafts', a community-based organization that promotes entrepreneurship. Ms. Hernández is an advocate of women and youth entering the workforce through the creation of small businesses. Her social commitment and volunteer work has enabled Ms. Hernández to engage in activities for health prevention and promotion activities such as sexual and reproductive health, domestic violence and HIV-AIDS prevention. Her volunteer work is mostly related with low-income women.



## **Honduras**

*Name:* **Mrs. Daysi MARADIAGA CHAVARRIA**

*Present Position:* Technical Assistant, Youth, Population, and Health Unit, Student Services Office, Ministry of Education

*Previous Position:* Technical Assistant; Planning, Assessment and Management Unit, Ministry of Education, 20062009  
Head of the Development Unit, NonTeachers Human Resources Management Office, Ministry of Education, 20042005

*Education/Training:* Post graduate studies, Education Management, online course with the National University for Distance Learning of Spain, 2006  
BS, Psychology, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Honduras, 1996

*Address:* Colonia Villa Suyapa (Olimpica)  
Sector, Bloque 2, Casa 1530  
Tegucigalpa, Mdc, Francisco Morazan  
Honduras  
Telephone: 504-9962-7667  
Email: mdaysikarina@ymail.com

*Language:* Spanish (primary)

*U. S. Travel:* Previous U.S. travel

*Other Travel:* Colombia, Spain

*Professional Background:* Ms. Daysi Karina Maradiaga is a Technical Assistant in the Youth, Population, and Health Unit of the Student Services Office at the Ministry of Education, where she has created strategic alliances with institutions working on prevention of HIV, STDs, with emphasis in gender, life skills, curricular matters, and law and rights of children and youth in Honduras. Over the past two years she has overseen the implementation of the Healthy Youth Project that PASMO implements with technical and financial support from USAID. She has represented the Ministry of Education internationally and domestically at events. She is also a member of the Technical Committee of Adolescents in Honduras, the Committee for the Implementation of the Multi-sector Plan for the Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancies led by the Office of the First Lady, and the Coalition of Sexual and Reproductive Rights.

## **Mexico**

- Name:* **Ms. Vania AVILA GARCIA**
- Present Position:* ViceCoordinator of Women's Issues for Mexico's Fourth National Electoral District
- Concurrent Positions:* Secretary of International Affairs, National Coordinating Board, Citizens' Movement Party  
Executive Deputy Secretary General, Permanent Conference of Political Parties of Latin America and the Caribbean  
Professor of comparative political systems, National Autonomous University of Mexico
- Previous Positions:* Secretary of Training and Political Education, Citizens' Movement Party, 2011 - 2013  
Secretary of International Affairs, Convergence Party, National Executive Committee, 2007 - 2011  
Advisor, Foreign Relations Commission, federal Chamber of Deputies, 2009 - 2010  
President, Foundation for Social Democracy in the Americas, 2005 - 2007
- Education/Training:* Diploma of Advanced Studies, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain, 2003  
Master's degree on International Relations, National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), 1998  
Bachelor's degree, International Relations, National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), 1994
- Address:* Louisiana # 113, esq. Nueva York  
Colonia Napoles  
Mexico, D.f., 03810  
Mexico  
Telephone: 011-52155-2727-8482  
Email: vaniarox@hotmail.com
- Languages:* Spanish (primary), English
- U. S. Travel:* Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, Orlando, Philadelphia
- Other Travel:* Caribbean, Central and South America, Europe.
- Professional Background:* Ms. Vania Avila is member of Mexico's center-left Citizens' Movement (MC) party and a leader on women's issues. She is working at the national level to prepare female candidates for

Mexico's upcoming midterm elections and is helping direct gender-focused programming within a regional organization of Latin American political parties. Ms. Avila has also served for six years as her party's principal liaison with foreign partners and teaches comparative politics at the National Autonomous University of Mexico. —and aspires to represent her emerging political party in elected office; she currently is a candidate for a deputy position in the local legislature of Mexico's Federal District.

## **Mexico**

*Name:* **Ms. Elvira LOPEZ PEREZ**

*Present Position:* Director, Sports and Youth Programs, City of Nuevo Laredo

*Concurrent Positions:* Professor, Business Administration, Technological Institute of Nuevo Laredo  
Assistant, Office of Student Services, Technological Institute of Nuevo Laredo

*Previous Positions:* Head, Office of Sports Promotion, Technological Institute of Nuevo Laredo, 2009 – 2010  
Athletics Developer, Technological Institute of Nuevo Laredo, 2008 – 2009

*Education/Training:* Master's Degree, Business Administration, Specialization in Strategic Management, Autonomous University of Tamaulipas (UTA), 2010  
Bachelor's degree, Administration, Major in Human Resources, Technological Institute of Nuevo Laredo, 2007.

*Memberships:* U.S. Consulate Women's Forum.

*Address:* Chimalpopoca s/n  
Unidad Deportiva Benito Juarez  
Colonia Viveros  
Nuevo Laredo, 88000  
Mexico  
Telephone: 011-521867-100-0519  
Email: elviralopez.tec@gmail.com

*Language:* Spanish (primary)

*U. S. Travel:* No previous U.S. travel

*Professional Background:* Ms. Elvira Lopez Perez is the Director for Sports and Youth Programs for the City of Nuevo Laredo. She manages sports programs that directly focus on youth, aiming to use sports as an alternative for young people, particular to youth in Nuevo Laredo's most desperate and vulnerable communities, which have seen little municipal support and have suffered from the crime and transnational criminal organization activity in the region. In her programs, Ms. Lopez has also promoted adaptive sports and other athletic activities for wheelchair-bound handicapped individuals.

## **Nicaragua**

*Name:* **Ms. Julia MARTINEZ VELAZQUEZ**

*Present Position:* Program Coordinator, Environmental Education, Paso Pacifico

*Previous Positions:* Technical facilitator, Conservation, Environmental Education and Community Development, Paso Pacifico, 2006.  
Independent consultant, Environmental indicators, 2005

*Education/Training:* Bachelor's degree, Biology, National Autonomous University of Nicaragua Managua (UNAN Managua), 2001

*Address:* Colonia 10 de Junio  
Casa A71  
Managua  
Nicaragua  
Telephone: 505-8869-1584  
Fax: 505-2279-8423  
Email: [julie@pasopacifico.org](mailto:julie@pasopacifico.org)

*Languages:* Spanish (primary), English

*U. S. Travel:* No previous U.S travel.

*Other Travel:* Japan

*Professional Background:* Ms. Velazquez is the Program Coordinator for Environmental Education at Paso Pacifico. She works in a nature reserve that includes sea turtle protection, reforestation, and scientific monitoring among its activities. She also coordinates an environmental education program called the Junior Rangers Program, where she has helped teach over 400 students how to protect and preserve the environment and natural resources.

## **Paraguay**

*Name:* **Ms. Lourdes AGUERO**

*Present Position:* Program Coordinator, Women Affairs, Fundacion Paraguaya

*Previous Positions:* INTERDEMIN SACI

*Education/Training:* Agronomical Engineering with emphasis in Rural Economy, UNA

*Address:* Manuel Blinder 5589 c/Tte Espinoza  
Asuncion  
Paraguay  
Telephone: 595-21-609-277  
Email: ljaguero@fundacionparaguaya.org.py

*Language:* Spanish (primary)

*U. S. Travel:* No previous U.S. travel

*Other Travel:* Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Peru

*Professional Background:* Ms. Agüero is an agricultural engineer who specializes in Rural Economics. She has been working at Fundacion Paraguaya (FP) for the over five years as Program Coordinator for various women's community banking programs. She is also Special Project Manager, with oversight responsibilities for the USAID: "IKATU: Improving Micro-enterprises beyond Minimalist Microfinance" as well as numerous other programs that benefit women entrepreneurs and business development.

## **Spain**

*Name:* **Ms. Yasmin ALI MOHAMMED OMAR ALI**

*Present Position:* CEO and Founder, Masturah Salon

*Concurrent Position:* Advisor for Middle East, ENTREPS (Entrepreneurship organization), 2014 – 2016

*Present Position:* Collaborator, Cordoba Channel International, 2014  
Restaurant Manager, Kebab Faraon, 2003 - 2013  
Manager, MYDI Silver and Jewelry, 2010 - 2012  
Director, Department of Egypt, Tour operator "Grecia Vision", 2006 – 2010

*Education/Training:* Official Certificate, Tour Operator Agent, CD Tour, 2000  
Official Handling Certificate, Tour Operators, Abacco, 1999

*Address:* Calle Benjamin Palencia N 15  
Madrid, Madrid 28038  
Spain  
Telephone: 692020239  
Email: masturah\_muslimsalón@hotmail.com

*Languages:* Arabic (primary), Spanish

*U. S. Travel:* No previous U.S. travel

*Professional Background:* Ms. Yasmin Ali opened the first hair salon in Spain specifically for Muslim women, two years ago. Since then, she has been a vocal leader for Muslim women and entrepreneurship. Last fall, she participated in a panel discussion held at Casa America in celebration of Global Entrepreneurship Week - a global State Department Initiative. Ms. Ali currently is the owner and founder of Masturah salon - the only salon in Spain specifically designed for Muslim women.

## Venezuela

*Name:* **Ms. Olga CORDOBA RANGEL**

*Present Position:* Coordinator, Assemblies of Citizens, Municipality of Miranda, Falcon State (Regional Organization Structure of Vente Venezuela)

*Concurrent Positions:* Selfemployed Lawyer, Civil, Administrative, and Commercial law Volunteer, Falcon Grows for People, a nonprofit foundation to develop communities and children with activities, forums, and workshops.

*Previous Positions:* Youth Subsecretary, COPEI, Lara State 2002 2004  
Municipal Committee member, Municipality of Miranda, 2009  
SubRegional Secretariat, COPEI, Falcon State 2010 2011  
Coordinator, Women's Team of UNITY in our state for Presidential Campaigns, Governors and Mayors, December 2013

*Education/Training:* Bachelor's degree, Educational and Vocational Education, Coro, Falcon, Venezuela  
Lawyer, Barquisimeto, Lara, Venezuela, 2013

*Address:* Urb. Santa Rosa, Av. Santa Rosa  
C/c callejon Ampies. Casa No. 3  
Frente al Hospital  
Coro, Falcon  
Venezuela  
Telephone: 58-414-688-4095  
Email: gaby\_c18@hotmail.com

*Language:* Spanish (primary)

*U. S. Travel:* No previous U.S. travel

*Other Travel:* Argentina

*Professional Background:* Ms. Cordoba Rangel is a community activist in her home state of Falcon and the coordinator for the Assemblies of Citizens in the Municipality of Miranda. She is also a lawyer focusing in Civil, Administrative and Commercial issues.



## Venezuela

- Name:* **Ms. Mildjos GIL CASTILLO**
- Present Position:* Community Liaison, Civil Association Camuri Grande, Vargas state.
- Concurrent Positions:* Assistant Liaison, Civil Association Camuri Grande, Vargas state, 2012 - 2013  
Tribunal Assistant, Archiver, and Court Clerk, Judicial Power, Maiquetia, Vargas State, 2008 - 2010
- Previous Position:* Health Area Coordinator, Civil Association Camuri Grande, Vargas state
- Education/Training:* Law degree, Bolivarian University of Venezuela (UBV), Venezuela, 2014.
- Address:* Carretera Nacional Naiguata Los Caracas  
Centro Comunitario Camuri Grande  
Sector Las Gradillas  
Camuri Grande, Vargas  
Venezuela  
Telephone: 58-424-230-4227  
Email: mildjosgil\_@hotmail.com
- Language:* Spanish (primary)
- U. S. Travel:* No previous U.S. travel
- Professional Background:* Ms. Mildjos Gil is a Community Liaison for Asociacion Civil/Centro Comunitario Camuri Grande. She is in charge of coordinating the health area of this center, while also innovating, on a daily basis, ways to provide additional health services to improve the health of underprivileged women. Through her role as a community leader, Ms. Mildjos has increased the number of residents that use the services provided by the community center.

## Venezuela

*Name:* **Ms. Delia RIVAS CASTILLO**

*Present Position:* Legal Advisor and Center Supervisor, Foundation Nueva Mujer Margarita, Nueva Esparta state

*Concurrent Position:* Independent Lawyer

*Previous Position:* Junior Associate, Gabriel Perozo's firm, Porlamar, Nueva Esparta.

*Education/Training:* Law degree, University of Margarita, UNIMAR, Nueva Esparta, Venezuela, 2008.  
Diploma, Genderbased Violence, (six months post graduate studies) University of Margarita, UNIMAR, Nueva Esparta, Venezuela, 2013.

*Address:* Fundacion Nueva Mujer  
Prefectura de Pampatar, Mun. Maneiro  
Calle Principal con Calle Polanco  
Porlamar, Nueva Esparta  
Venezuela  
Telephone: 58-414-792-0592  
Email: dmrc99@hotmail.com

*Language:* Spanish (primary)

*U. S. Travel:* Miami,

*Other Travel:* Paris

*Professional Background:* Ms. Castillo is a Legal Advisor and Supervisor for the Foundation Nueva Mujer Margarita. She is a strong advocate and trainer of marginalized women on the island of Margarita, in Nueva Esparta state. As a lawyer, she defends women in court rooms in gender cases that enter the justice system.