**Guatemala: A Post-Elections Assessment and
Future Challenges**

**Friday, September 16, 2011**

**9:00 am – 12:00 pm**

 **Speakers’ Bios**

**Edgar Gutiérrez** is apolitical analyst from Guatemala having served as both Minister of Foreign Relations and Secretary of Strategic Analysis for the Presidency. Gutiérrezcoordinated “Recuperación de la Memoria Histórica” (“Recovering Historical Memory”), an inititiative of the Catholic Church to document the effects of the 36 years of political violence in Guatemala. Currently, he is the director of Fundacion DESC as well as an international consultant and advisor of political strategies in different countries of the region. His latest publication is: “Guatemala: Hábitat del Narcotráfico” (“Guatemala: Habitat for Drug Trafficking”), Miami, 2010.

**Edmundo Urrutia** is director of the Central American Graduate Program in Social Science at the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO) in Guatemala. From 2006-2007 he served as Ambassador of Guatemala to the United States. Prior to that Urrutia served in the office of the president of Guatemala as Secretary for Strategic Analysis and as a presidential speech writer.

**René Mauricio Valdés** is the United Nations Resident Coordinator and United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Resident Representative in Guatemala. Dr. Valdés has held positions with the United Nations in Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Panama, and in the UNDP headquarters in New York. He was the director of the Central American Master of Public Administration Program at the Central American Institute for Public Administration (ICAP) in San Jose, Costa Rica. A native of El Salvador, Dr. Valdés also served as the director of International Economy and of the Public Sector Reform Program for the government of El Salvador. He holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Toronto and a M.A. in Public Administration from the University of Costa Rica. Dr. Valdés has published 12 academic and journalistic articles, and his areas of expertise include public management, democratic reform, justice system reform, Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and public policy analysis.

**Raquel Zelaya** is the executive secretary of the Association for Research and Social Studies (ASIES), serving also as the Association’s representative to the Executive Committee of the Guatemala Forum and as the academic sector representative to the National Commission of Peace Accords. Previously, she served as a member of the Council State as a representative of the Guatemala Women´s Association in 1982. Ms. Zelaya has served as Public Finance Minister, a representative of the Guatemalan government to the Peace Commission (COPAZ) in 1996, and as both the Secretary of Peace of the Presidency and Coordinator of the Accompaniment Commission of the Peace Accords. From 2000-2006, Ms. Zelaya was a member of the Board of Directors of Rafael Landívar University where she was also a professor of economics and political science. Ms. Zelaya has received national and international honors for her work and has been invited to lecture in Mexico, Colombia, Costa Rica, Sweden, Argentina, Holland, Canada, Egypt and Israel.