

Roundtable Session 2.2

Fostering the development impact of returning migrants

16:30-19:00, 28 June 2017

Ms. María Reyes Fernández

*Head of the International Law Department
General Secretariat of Immigration and Emigration
Ministry of Employment and Social Security of Spain*



Double Graduated in Law and Business Administration and Management, she began her professional career at the prestigious Law Firm J&A Garrigues, S.L.P. After several years of practicing law, she decided to start working in the Public Sector by preparing her access to the Senior Corps of Civil State Administrators.

As Civil Administrator of the State, she began her career in an attractive sector of the future, the information society, in order to begin to dedicate herself to her true passion and to one of the great challenges of contemporary societies, immigration.

She is currently Head of the International Law Department in the Legal Affairs Unit of the General Secretariat of Immigration and Emigration of the Ministry of Employment and Social Security of Spain.

Ms. Laura Thompson

*Deputy Director General
International Organization for Migration*

Laura Thompson is the Deputy Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). She is responsible for assisting the Director General in administering and managing the Organization; conducting the political dialogue and building IOM relationships with governments, UN agencies, civil society and the private sector; as well as in defining policies, strategies and prioritised action. Prior to this position, Laura Thompson was the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the UN and other International Organizations in Geneva. She also served at the Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva in a prior occasion and at the Delegation to UNESCO.

In addition to her diplomatic experience, Laura has held posts as Legal Officer in two UN Organisations. Laura Thompson obtained a Master's degree in international relations, with a specialization in international law, from the Graduate Institute for International Studies of Geneva and holds a degree in law from the University of Costa Rica. She has also completed Executive Education at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and INSEAD. In addition to Spanish, which is her mother tongue, Laura Thompson is fluent in English, French and Greek, and has a basic knowledge of Italian and Portuguese.

