

Arnoldo Alemán Lacayo

President of Nicaragua

Arnoldo Alemán Lacayo was born in Managua on Jan. 23, 1946. He obtained a doctorate in law from the Autonomous University of Nicaragua in 1967. From 1968 to 1979, Mr. Alemán specialized in financial law and worked for several companies. From 1983 to 1984, he was president of both the Coffee Association of Managua and the Coffee Union of Nicaragua. From 1986 to 1990, he was vice-president of the Agricultural Products Union.

In 1990, Mr. Alemán began his political career as a councillor and mayor of Managua. He has been the President of the Constitutional Liberal Party since 1990. On Oct. 26, 1996, Mr. Alemán was elected President of Nicaragua. He is married and has four children.

Mireya Elisa Moscoso Rodríguez

President of Panama

Mireya Elisa Moscoso Rodríguez was born in Panama City on July 1, 1946. She has a diploma in interior design from Dade Community College in Miami.

Ms. Moscoso began her political activity in 1964 when she participated in the presidential election campaign of Arnulfo Arias. When the government of President Arias was overthrown by a military coup in 1968, Ms. Moscoso helped work against the military regime and accompanied Mr. Arias to his exile in the United States. After returning to Panama in 1971, Ms. Moscoso was jailed, then exiled for 10 years.

The president of the Arnulfista Party since 1991, Ms. Moscoso ran for President of Panama in 1994. She was sales manager of a coffee plantation from 1996 to 1998 and now owns Arkapal, S.A., a coffee plantation in Boquete.

Following an election victory in May 1999, Ms. Moscoso became President of Panama on Sept. 1, 1999. She has one child.