Biographical Note

María T. Mellenkamp

Mrs. Mellenkamp has 30 years of experience in the field of international cooperation. She has worked at the Organization of American States since 1993 and currently serves as the Officer in Charge of the Department for Sustainable Democracy and Special Missions (DSDSM).

She started as Officer of Economic and Social Affairs, and served as Chief of the Electoral Technical Cooperation Section of the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO), where she was responsible for the supervision of projects related to voter registration, electoral jurisprudence, electronic voting, and quality management. In this role, she implemented 33 projects, promoted the signing of more than 20 agreements, provided internal structure to the Section, and developed new methodologies for auditing voters' lists and certifying the quality of electoral management bodies.

She has acted as the Deputy Chief of electoral observation missions in Costa Rica, Panama, Peru, and Ecuador and has participated in the observation of multiple elections in the hemisphere including St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, and Uruguay.

She also serves as Convener of the International Standard Organization (ISO) Working Group on Electoral Assurance ISO-TC176 WG3 for quality management. Among the most important achievements in her career was creating and coordinating the group of electoral experts whose work concluded with the approval of the first ever existent international standard in the electoral quality management field: ISO / TS 54001:2019 - Specific Requirements for the application of ISO 9001:2008 for electoral bodies at all levels of government.

She holds two Master's degrees in International Transactions (George Mason University, 1997) and in International Development (Tulane University, 2003), a Bachelor's degree in International Relations (Argentina, 1991), and a Diploma in Human Rights and Citizen's Participation (Landivar University, Guatemala 2007).