



**AIDS 2008**

XVII INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE

**Mexico City, 3-8 August**



## VIP Speaker Bios

**María Teresa FERNÁNDEZ DE LA VEGA, JD, PhD** (Spain), *First Vice President of Spain and Minister of the Presidency*

María Teresa Fernández de la Vega became the first female First Vice President of Spain in 2004. She is also Spain's Minister of the Presidency and is a member of Spain's Socialist Workers' Party. Vice President Fernández de la Vega began her political career as Director of the Advisory Cabinet of the Minister of the Justice. In 1989, she became a magistrate, obtaining the highest qualification in the Ministry of Justice. She was elected to the Parliament for Jaén (from 1996 to 2000), Segovia (2000-2004), and eventually, for Madrid in 2004. She is known for her dedication to the issue of women's rights and has participated actively to reform Spanish law to ensure equal rights for women. Vice President Fernández de la Vega has received several awards including the *Tomás y Valiente* Award in 2006. She is a member of *Jueces para la Democracia* and has published several papers. She received a law degree from the Complutense University of Madrid, a doctorate degree in law from Barcelona University, and studied European Community law at the University of Strasburg.