

**Interactive Panel 5**

**Engaging young women and men, girls and boys, to advance gender equality**

*Tuesday, 6 March 2012, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.*

**Panellists**

**Ms. Edna Akullq** is a young social entrepreneur, who founded Self Help Foundation Uganda, an organization aimed at rebuilding post-war communities of northern Uganda through improving children's access to and quality of education. She is also a founding member of the Young Leaders' Think Tank for Policy Alternatives, an initiative aimed at enhancing youth participation in governance and policy formulation in Uganda through policy papers on issues such as youth unemployment and maternal health. In 2011, she was selected for the Moremi Initiative Leadership and Empowerment Development Fellowship, which aims at providing knowledge, skills and experiences for young African women to excel in leadership positions. Ms. Akullq holds a Master of Arts in Gender Analysis and Economics from Makerere University.

**Ms. Sahar Othman** is the Programmes and PR Manager at Sharek Youth Forum, a non-political youth organization in the Occupied Palestinian Territory aimed at building and investing in the capacity of young Palestinians to take on leadership roles in developing society, promoting equality, and defending human rights. She has been involved with Sharek since its establishment in 2004 and provides programme design and implementation support to the organization. Prior to her work at Sharek, she worked as a Project Coordinator for the Secretariat for the National Plan of Action for Palestinian Children. Ms. Othman holds a Master in Business Administration from Birzeit University.

**Mr. Roberto Cárcamo Tapia** is a member of the Collective of Youth for Gender Equality (Colectivo de Jóvenes por la Igualdad de Género) in Chile, a network aimed at protecting the rights of women and men to a life free of violence and discrimination through promoting youth participation and citizenship to effect legislative reform and change stereotypical perceptions of gender roles. He has participated in youth dialogue with decision-makers to promote youth political participation and citizenship as well as gender equality. Mr. Cárcamo Tapia is currently pursuing a law degree at the University of Chile.

**Mr. Shishir Chandra** is a member of Men's Action for Stopping Violence Against Women (MASVAW) in India, an alliance of men and organizations committed to reacting to and reducing incidents of violence against women through cultural and advocacy campaigns. Since 2008, he has been coordinating the programmes and activities for the MASVAW Secretariat. He has worked on sensitization of male community members on gender issues, youth sexual reproductive health and rights, women's safety in public transportation, violence against women, and gender and masculinity. Mr. Chandra is currently pursuing his PhD degree in Social Work in India.

**Ms. Rozaina Adam** is a Member of Parliament in the Maldives, Chairperson of the Domestic Violence Prohibition Bill Evaluation Committee, Vice Chairperson of the National Security

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Committee, and the Deputy Leader of Dhivehi Rayyithunge Party's Women's Wing. She is one of only five women currently in the Maldivian Parliament. She first became a member of parliament through appointment by the President in the previous parliament, and was directly elected into the current parliament.