



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF YOUTH BRIEFING SESSION

Friday, 6 May

1:15 - 2:45 p.m.

North Lawn Building, Conference Room A

Empowering disadvantaged girls and young women

The UN Programme on Youth (UNPY) is hosting a briefing session on **Empowering Disadvantaged and Vulnerable Girls and Young Women**, in the context of the International Year of Youth. Kicking off the session will be the presentation of a video followed by a panel discussion with young people, civil society and UN experts. The panel, which will be moderated by Ms Susana Vas Patto from the Permanent Mission of Portugal to the UN, will discuss the root causes of disadvantage and vulnerability in girls and young women and will explore mechanisms for improving their participation in society, through active leadership, education and access to basic services.

Please join us in discussing the importance of enhancing opportunities for girls and young women:

- **Ms. Susana Vaz Patto, Moderator**, Permanent Mission of Portugal to the UN
- **Ms. Sylvia Wong**, Technical Specialist on Adolescents/Youth, UNFPA
- **Mr. Jimmie Briggs**, Executive Director, Man Up Campaign
- **Ms. Itzel Delgado**, Teen Advisor, Girl Up Campaign
- **Ms. Lillian Rodriguez, Dramatisation**, Project Girl Performance Collective

Investing in adolescent girls and young women is key to development and a priority of the UN system. Furthermore, ensuring the participation of girls and young women at all levels is central to the International Year of Youth. Girls and young women can face disadvantage and vulnerability for a multitude of reasons, including poverty, lack access to education and health care, violence and conflict. These factors serve to limit the chances of girls and young women to actively participate in society, exposing them to greater vulnerability and marginalization. Through education, awareness raising and enhanced participatory opportunities, young women's role in society can be greatly improved. The promotion of education for girls and young women as well as the development of young women as leaders are some of the tools which ensure young women role and visibility in society is strengthened.

The UN Programme on Youth has organized this session as one of a series held to celebrate the International Year of Youth (2010-2011) under the theme "Dialogue and Mutual Understanding".

To register your attendance please email Ms Elizabeth Niland nilande@un.org

