

**Commission on the Status of Women**  
**Fifty-fourth session**  
**1 – 12 March 2010**

**Interactive Expert Panel VI**

**The evolving status and role of national mechanisms for gender equality**

*Thursday, 11 March 2010, 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.*

**Panellists**

**1. Ms. Rounaq Jahan** is currently a Distinguished Fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh. From 1990 to 2009, she was on the faculty of Columbia University in New York as a senior research scholar at the South Asian Institute and as an adjunct professor of international affairs, School of International and Public Affairs. Professor Jahan's research interests include gender and development, governance, health, national mechanisms for gender equality, and politics of Bangladesh. She has authored/edited a number of books and is the author of numerous articles published in edited books and academic journals. From 1985 to 1989 she was the head of the Programme on Rural Women, Employment and Development Department at the International Labor Organization (ILO) in Geneva, Switzerland. She has served on a number of advisory boards, and has worked as a consultant to a number of UN entities, including UNDP, UNFPA, UNIFEM, UNICEF, as well as bilateral donor and non-governmental organizations.

**2. Senator Margaret Mensah-Williams** has been the Vice-Chairperson of the National Council of Namibia since 1999. She is