



# Millennia 2015

**Women actors of development for the global challenges**

Research Process and International Conference

**World Future Society**

***Futurist Views from Around the World***

**Marie-Anne Delahaut**

Washington, 27.07.2008

<http://www.millennia2015.org>

## Abstract

The process of Millennia 2015 is developed by The Destree Institute and its partners in three sessions (2008, 2011, 2015).

The main message of Millennia 2015 is to enhance the driving force of women for the benefit of humanity as a whole, with foresight as method and information society as context.

The objective is to develop a positive vision of the future envisioned by women for the entire world at the horizon 2025.

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## 1. The Destree Institute, governance and the information society

The Destree Institute is a European research NGO based in Wallonia (Belgium). The Destree Institute is a member of the Millennium Project (<http://www.institut-destree.eu/>). The Destree Institute participates in the process of the **World Summit on the information society (WSIS)** with the international conference and research *Foresight & Governance of the Internet* [http://www.wallonie-en-ligne.net/2005\\_Pro prospective-Internet/index.htm](http://www.wallonie-en-ligne.net/2005_Pro prospective-Internet/index.htm)

## 2. Women actors of development for the global challenges

Work on Gender issues at the horizon 2015, in line with:

- United Nations World Conference of Women; (Beijing +10);
- United Nations Millennium Development Goals;
- Millennium Project of the World Federation of United Nations Associations
- Tunis Agenda for the Information Society" of the WSIS and the Internet Governance Forum.



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## 4. Millennia 2015: a think tank to enhance the driving force of women

Millennia 2015 aims to enhance the driving force of women in the contemporary society and to explore the means leading towards increased equality and solidarity, in a context of respect for cultural and linguistic diversity as well as of sustainable development.

Millennia 2015 uses foresight as a method and works in the context of the information society to develop a positive vision of the future envisioned by women in a world more conscious of the challenges of human rights.



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## 5. The process of Millennia 2015: 3 levels of Foresight Research

### - 2008: Information Transfer

Exchange and transmission of data as well as of analysis already collected or built, used to inform the participants or to question the society.

### - 2011: Knowledge Processes

Interactive building processes, step-by-step, for an innovative knowledge and a strategy made of precise actions.

### - 2015: Intelligence Platforms

Collective dynamics of real field experiences exchanges and recombination of tools realized in order to learn together as well as to launch innovative initiatives.

We plan to organize the second session in **Paris** (in collaboration with the UNESCO), and the third one in **New York** (in collaboration with the United Nations).



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## 6. The community of Millennia 2015

Millennia is coordinated by a **Scientific Committee** and a **Steering Committee** composed of **women and men experts**. will organize the process until 2011 and 2015.

**60 speakers** came in Liege in March 2008, from **all the continents** and from the **United Nations**. The participants represented more than **30 countries**.

[www.millennia2015.org/Intervenants\\_2008](http://www.millennia2015.org/Intervenants_2008)



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## **7-1. Topics of Millennia 2015 organized in plenary sessions (P) and in workshops (W), 7 and 8 March 2008 in Liege**

**P0- Women as actors of development for the global challenges;**

**P1- Access to information and knowledge: enhancing capacities for women;**

**P2- The long-term challenges for women assessed by the Millennium Project;**

**W1- Women and sustainable development;**

**W2- Enhancing women's rights, ethics, gender equality and political empowerment;**

**W3- Women entrepreneurship and new participative competences;**



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## **7-2. Topics of Millennia 2015 organized in plenary sessions (P) and in workshops (W)**

**P3- Cultural and linguistic diversity, women and the governance of the Internet;**

**P4- Women actors of development and change, Women architects of the future;**

**W4- Education, research, training, and e-learning;**

**W5- Adding life to the years, science and technology benefiting women;**

**W6- Towards a knowledge society: creativity, cultures and media.**

[www.millennia2015.org/Actes\\_2008](http://www.millennia2015.org/Actes_2008)



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## 8. Memorandum of the 2008 session and mission of the Millennia Community

**Pera Wells** hopes that, *In our work together for Millennia, we can contribute to the cause of strengthening the capacities of international organizations and global networks to advance the status of women throughout the world.*

**Eleonora Masini**, professor Emeritus in the Faculty of Social Science of the Rome Gregorian University and former chair of the Millennium Project Italy Node, considers *the motivation of Millennia as crucial because we know that women can make a difference in society and, to do it we must develop the capacity of looking ahead.*

At the end of the 2008 session, we have symbolically presented the first **memorandum** or Millennia 2015 to Pera Wells, Secretary General of the World Federation of United Nations Associations.



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## 8. Millennia 2015: an interactive online process and

We want to transform the information collected into **shared knowledge** and to use the **collaborative portal** as a tool to promote that knowledge: <http://www.millennia2015.org>. The portal will soon be developed in four languages (**French, English, Spanish and German**).

The **proceedings** of the 2008 session are already **online**, in French and in English, with documents, photos and video podcasts.

[www.millennia2015.org/Actes\\_2008](http://www.millennia2015.org/Actes_2008) - [www.millennia2015.org/Photos\\_2008](http://www.millennia2015.org/Photos_2008)



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## 9. An agenda of global networking

- Tunis, 26-27.06.2008: High level symposium of the International Organization of Francophonie, "Les TIC au service de l'éducation";  
<http://www.francophonie.org/>
- Brussels, 16-18.10.2008: World Congress of the Worldwide Network of Women Business Owners, "Sharing Experiences, Staying Informed";  
<http://www.fcem.org/www/en/home.asp>
- Lyon, 25-27.11.2008: European Commission, DG Information Society and Media, 2008 ICT Event, "I"s to the Future, Invention - Innovation - Impact"  
[http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/events/cf/item-display.cfm?id=642](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/events/cf/item-display.cfm?id=642)



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## 10. Conclusions of the 2008 session: 7 goals identified for Millennia's community

1. Understand present and possible **alternative futures** in key domains of society:
  - **politics** (to respect and enforce women rights),
  - **education** (developing education for women, eradicate illiteracy, encouraging girls to study science, mathematics and new technologies, because these are the drivers of economic and social development and drivers of change in the status of women),
  - **employment** (breaking the glass-ceiling),
  - **development** (empowering women as women as actors of social change),
  - **health**,
  - **access to ICT, information and knowledge**;
2. Promote a **culture of respect**, of **diversity** and of **peace**;



3. Acknowledge the ability of women as drivers of social change and as mediators for a peace culture;
4. Recognize women as bearers of rights, as actors of changes and as builders of alternative futures,
5. Develop training and research (by, for and about women), in order to enforce equality between men and women in all respects and to formulate new concepts;
6. Enhance our critical, exploratory approach, in coherence with society, trying to measure the obstacles and the progresses: it is important to create a State of the Future Index (SOFI) on the status of women and to organize foresight workshops in every country, in order to prepare action;
7. Build networks around major issues on United Nations Agenda, in respect of cultural and linguistic diversity.



Thank you!

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