



**International  
conference**

**7-8 March 2008**

**Convention Centre  
Liège (Wallonia)**

**A close collaboration with  
the Millennium Project of  
the World Federation of United Nations Associations**



**The Millennium Project**

**World Federation of UN Associations**

[www.millennia2015.org](http://www.millennia2015.org)  
Minneapolis, 28.07.2007

# 1. Millennia and its main partners

The first thing I want to do is to introduce my presentation to the Planning Committee of the WFUNA Millennium Project in Minneapolis is to thank Jerome C. Glenn, who gave the first international impulse to Millennia when he saluted the initiative of the Destree Institute and proposed to include it in the agenda of this Planning Committee.

The second thing that is really important for me is to pay my respects to Mrs. Pera Wells, Secretary general of the World Federation of United Nations Associations, who has immediately accepted to honor Millennia by her presence as a main keynote speaker.



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In her presentation, Mrs. Wells's advice is "Let's work together to define a shared vision of our relationship in... 2010, 2015, 2020".

Mrs. Wells has accepted the suggestion of organizing a joint meeting of the United Nations Associations and of the Millennium Project during the Millennia Conference in Liège next 7 and 8 March 2008.

The third thing is a great pleasure as it gives me the opportunity of presenting the team of Millennia's Scientific Committee, coming from all over the world, and especially the members of the Millennium Project Nodes:

In North America, Elizabeth Florescu, Director of research at the Millennium Project, has worked as a valuable think tank since the beginning of the project. Catherine Cosgrove brings in the ideas of the Canada Node.



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In Latin America, **Concepción Olavarrieta**, for the **Mexico Node**, proposes her relevant speakers contacts and offered the opportunity of the first Millennia international meeting in Paris last June, with **Françoise Massit-Folléa**, chairwoman of our Scientific Committee, Professor of Information and Communication Sciences in the Ecole normale supérieure in Lyon; Scientific head of the Vox Internet scientific program in Paris;

**Rosa Alegria**, for the **Brazil Node**, proposes to develop during Millennia the gender-based update of the 15 Challenges, as she has been working on that topic for years.

In Asia, **Zhouying Jin**, co-chair of the **China Node** is very attentive to connect the most representative women of her region to the process of Millennia.



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In Australia, Jan Lee Martin and Ivana Milojevic just stepped in the project with great enthusiasm, representing the Australasian Node.

In Europe, we benefit from the talent of our most respected Eleonora Masini for the Italian Node.

May I add, as a member of the Brussels Area Node, that its chair Philippe Destatte brings his expertise in the process and that Millennia will of course coordinate contacts with the European Millennium Project Initiative (EuMPI).



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## 2. Millennia's context

As early as 1989, I joined the team of the Destree Institute and we started to work with computer networks, creating the Réseau Francité network (between France, Quebec, Wallonia and other French-speaking regions) before adapting it to the internet in 1994 and configuring its network on its own independent server in 1999.

The Destree Institute's Information Society Unit fully administrates its local and international networks (primary domain names server, mail, news and web servers, online and secured data bases).



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In partnership with the **Internet Society Belgium-Wallonia Chapter (ISOC Wallonia)**, chartered in Namur in November 1998 and of which I am the president, the Destree Institute takes part in **the internet governance process** and has partners within important institutions as the Governmental Advisory Committee (**GAC**), the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (**ICANN**), the International Federation for Information Processing (**IFIP**) and the **European Commission DG Information Society**.

These international organizations deal with the **societal development of the internet** and studies the best ways to preserve and extend **ethics and citizenship values** in the virtual world, in order **to build a way from the information society to the knowledge society**.



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The Destree Institute participates in the **World Summit on the Information Society** (WSIS, Geneva - 2003, Tunis - 2005). The Information Unit of the Destree Institute developed a special section about "WSIS, Watch and governance of the Internet".

It has organized an international conference about "**Prospective de l'Internet - Foresight of the Internet**", in 2005 in Namur, publishing a book and a DVD-book about "**Foresight & Governance of the Internet**" with its partners.

In collaboration with Vox Internet and the CRID-FUNDP, the Destree Institute proposed a contribution to the **Internet Governance Forum** started by the United Nations Secretary-General and follows the IGF process.



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Those **international meetings and networks** gave me an opportunity to meet **many women around the world**.

On the 8th of March 2006, **ISOC France** invited me to present a conference where I initiated the project of **an event related to women issues**. This was the basis of **Millennia**.



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## One century of action

On the 8th of March 1908, the premise of the International Women's Day was born out of the actions of women workers demanding suffrage for women, as well as political, economic and social rights. They also acted against child labor and against the war.

The Women's Day was instituted in 1910 and has been celebrated on the 8th of March nearly all over the world ever since, with a recognition by the United Nations in 1977 as a "United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace".

To commemorate that date and one century of action, I decided to organize, with the Destree Institute, an international event:

Millennia 2015, named as a feminine version of the Latin word "millennium".



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### 3. The logo of Millennia



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To build the logo of Millennia, I wished to illustrate:

- **the universality of Women** in Millennia (3 Women signs with different colors in movement),
- **the colors of the world**, starting from where Millennia will take place, Wallonia (**red** and **yellow**), to our nearest partner, Europe (**yellow** and **blue**); with **blue** as the color of the United Nations, of WFUNA, of UNESCO; and **green** to keep in mind one of our main concerns, which is the fragility of environment as a difficulty to achieve **sustainable development**,
- the **Millennia's process** at work from 2008 to 2015 (**3 spirals with different axes**),



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- the official international women's color, **purple**, at the center of the word "millennia";
- again, the **sustainable development concern** of Millennia, at the horizon "**2015**" designed in **blue** and **green**.



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## 4. Millennia's generic title and topics

In English:

**"Millennia 2015, Women as actors of development for the global challenges"**

In French:

**"Millennia 2015, Femmes actrices de développement pour les enjeux mondiaux"**

Apart the fact that the conference will hold in a French country , let me remind you that these two languages, **English and French**, are the **two official languages of the United Nations Associations (WFUNA)**.



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**Millennia** is more than a new conference, a new association or a new network, with new publications and a new website. Millennia will take the best of all those elements to constitute **a think tank as a new milestone to empower women's entrepreneurship at large and on a global level**. It is maybe the first international process to work for women's future **with foresight as a tool**.

Millennia will work to gather women experience from all over the world, with a vision leading **to enable research and development towards 2015** and beyond.

We intend to present, during each session, **Millennia's Memorandum and decisions** to political, economical and social decision-makers at all levels (local, regional, European and worldwide).



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We are still working on **the topics**, as speakers are still registering. Anyway, **ICT and the Internet** are at the centre of the work, as an extraordinary **tool for development and education**.

We will work about **the following issues**:

- **Gender digital divide**;
- **Women and technological innovation**;
- **Women and digital solidarity**.

We will **link** these main topics with:

- **Cultural and linguistic diversity**;
- **Women and soft-technology for the future**;
- **Gender and sustainable development**;
- **Women's empowerment**.



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The **challenge** will of course be to develop those **guidelines** in relation with **the conclusions and goals** of:

- the **World Conference on Women**;
- the **Millennium Development Goals**;
- the **Millennium Project State of the Future issues**;
- the **Agenda of Tunis**, the **World Summit on the information society** and the **Internet Governance Forum**.

**It would not be realistic** to address all these issues in one venue, that is why **we plan to organize three sessions of Millennia before 2015**.



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## 5. The speakers (27.07.2007)

Australia, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Cameroon, China, Dubai, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Luxemburg, Morocco, Mexico, Quebec, Romania, Russia, Senegal, Serbia, Slovenia, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, USA, Wallonia and Brussels



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Africa - Afrique		
<b>Marie-Thérèse Bikong</b>	Cameroun	<a href="#">Mme Bikong est titulaire d'un DEA en Economie de Gestion, Chercheur au Ministère de la Recherche Scientifique et de l'Innovation au Cameroun</a>
<b>Anne-Rachel Inné</b>	Niamey, Niger	Femme, Africaine et consultante internationale ICANN Regional Liaison for Africa.
<b>Laila Kjiri</b>	Rabat, Maroc	Professeur d'informatique dans une école d'ingénieurs (ENSIAS, Ecole nationale Supérieure d'Informatique et d'Analyse des Systèmes) à Rabat au Maroc; titulaire d'un ph-D en informatique de l'Université de Montréal; membre de MISOC Maroc et active dans les différents projets sur les NTIC
<b>Jeanne Meng Miakalo</b>	Cameroun	Mme Meng est Enseignante en Science de l'Education, par ailleurs Déléguée provinciale au Ministère du Tourisme au Cameroun
<b>Colette Mfaram-Ndio</b>	Cameroun	Maîtrise en Droit privé, Cadre à la Douane Camerounaise, milite dans plusieurs associations de défense des droits de la Femme
<b>Fatou Sarr</b>	Dakar, Sénégal	Sociologue sénégalaise, chercheuse à l'Institut fondamental d'Afrique noire (Ifan); @ Fatou Sarr (sarrsow@yahoo.fr)



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## North America - Amérique du Nord

<b>Edith Brown-Weiss</b>	Washington DC, USA	Futures generations right to sue present generations
<b>Hazel Henderson</b>	St. Augustine, FL USA	Author, futurist , environmental and media activist
<b>Cristina Puentes Markides</b>	Washington DC, USA	Pan American Health Organization
<b>Starhawk</b>	San Francisco, CA USA	Starhawk (born Miriam Simos in St. Paul, Minnesota on June 17, 1951) is an American writer, activist, anarchist and witch. She is well known as a theorist of Paganism and is one of the foremost voices of ecofeminism.



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## Asia - Asie

**Juan Ding**

China

Researcher from China woman association who is expert of Chinese woman issues at Chinese Women's Research Society



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<b>Europa - Europe</b>		
<b>Philippe Busquin</b>	Seneffe, Wallonie	Former European Commissioner for Science and Research, Chairman of the STOA (Scientific and Technological Options Assessment) at the European Parliament, administrator of the Destree Institute
<b>Dana Diminescu</b>	Paris, France	Dana Diminescu est sociologue à l'ENST/MSH-Paris, coordonne le Groupe d'étude sur l'usage des TIC dans les migrations et travaille particulièrement sur les circulations migratoires et la place du migrant dans le système global des mobilités.
<b>Bérengère Marques-Pereira</b>	Bruxelles, Belgique	Professeure en Science politique à l'Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), Professeure invitée, Département de Science politique, Université de Montréal, Directrice du Centre de Sociologie politique et du Groupe d'Etudes latino-américaines de l'Institut de Sociologie de l'ULB
<b>Viviane Reding</b>	Luxemburg, Luxembourg	European Commissioner for Information Society and Media



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<b>Magdeleine Willame-Boonen</b>	Bruxelles, Belgique	Présidente du Conseil des Femmes Francophones de Belgique Sénatrice Honoraire (1995-2003)
<b>Françoise Thibault</b>	Paris, France	Directrice de programme scientifique en sciences de l'information et de la communication Programmes Thématique/ e-pathie, Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme de Paris
<b>Vanessa Watkins</b>	Essen, Germany	Foresight Consultant, Z_punkt



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International		
<b>Markus Kummer</b>  proposed by Marie-Anne Delahaut	Geneva, Switzerland	Executive Coordinator of the United Nations Internet Governance Forum (IGF)
<b>Pera Wells</b>  proposed by Elizabeth Florescu	New York / Geneva	Pera Wells is the Secretary-General of the World Federation of United Nations Associations. North-South Institute.

[To be continued !]



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## 6. The venue

The reservation of the **Liège Convention Centre** is in order to organize Millennia during two days, the 7 and 8 March 2008.

The structure proposes rooms for **three workshops** and special meetings on the Friday 7 March and the main room for the **plenary sessions** on the Saturday 8 March. The hall will welcome **the exhibition**.



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## 7. Budget and Sponsors

I am working to develop the **website**, with a structure ready by the end of July as I will present Millennia 2015 to the Millennium Project in Minneapolis next 28 July.

We also will have to finance the travel and hotel of the speakers, for the promotion tools, for the **book** and for the **DVD-book**. At a first glance the budget is of about 250.000 euros. We will work to include a part of **budget for future research about Millennia's topics and results**.



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# Thank you !

**Project manager**  
**Marie-Anne Delahaut**

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