Millennia 2015, Women actors of development for the global challenges

Methodology of the foresight research process
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1. Context and goals of Millennia 2015

In the follow-up of its participation in the World Summit on the information society (WSIS) organised at the initiative of the United Nations Secretary general (Geneva 2003, Tunis 205, conclusions in 2015) and of its international conference "Foresight and governance of the internet" (Namur 2005, http://www.wallonie-en-ligne.net/2005_Prospective-Internet/index.htm), The Destree Institute Information Society Unit [1] decided to implement the foresight research process of Millennia 2015, "Women actors of development for the global challenges" in collaboration with its international partners, among which the International Organisation of Francophonie and The Millennium Project (http://www.millennia2015.org/Partenaires).

In partnership with public and private research centres, Millennia 2015 has taken into consideration the existence of many processes tending to the same goals of women development and empowerment at all levels, in respect of the Human rights and of cultural diversity in every country and society of the world. Many among them have decided to realize those objectives by 2015, such as the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, the World Conference on Women - with the important event of Beijing+15 in 2010 -, or the Agenda of Tunis scheduled in conclusion of the World Summit on the information society.

The need for establishing a new research structure carried by the civil society was confirmed after international meetings organized by the qualified institutions whose decisional mechanisms seem too protected. Many women and organizations defending their rights expressed their serious interest for the innovative structure of Millennia 2015, designed to gather information, to work about knowledge processes and to build intelligence platforms that would fit at the horizon 2025.

The specificity of Millennia 2015 is to work in the context of the information society with foresight as a method. The goals of Millennia 2015 are to increase the potential of women, to reinforce their capacities, to encourage their investment and to fully recognize their responsibility in technological development. Millennia 2015 research plans to create more equality and greater solidarity, taking care of cultural and linguistic diversity, as well as to make conjectures about new models of development taking into consideration women's needs and values.

The challenge of Millennia 2015 is to contribute to build a vision of a future we all want to be better for women, in a world conscious of the issues related to human rights and to sustainable development. The objective is to build, by 2015, a positive vision of the future by women for the entire world by 2025 (http://www.millennia2015.org/objectifs).

The dynamics of the process will lead to the progressive realignment of the objectives according to the results of the scenarios and the evolution of research.

The process is organized in three steps, whose structure will be developed further (point 3).

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(1) The Destree Institute is a European Research Centre philosophically and politically pluralist based in Wallonia. It works as *think and action tank* about historical research, citizenship, foresight and the information society (http://www.institut-destree.eu).
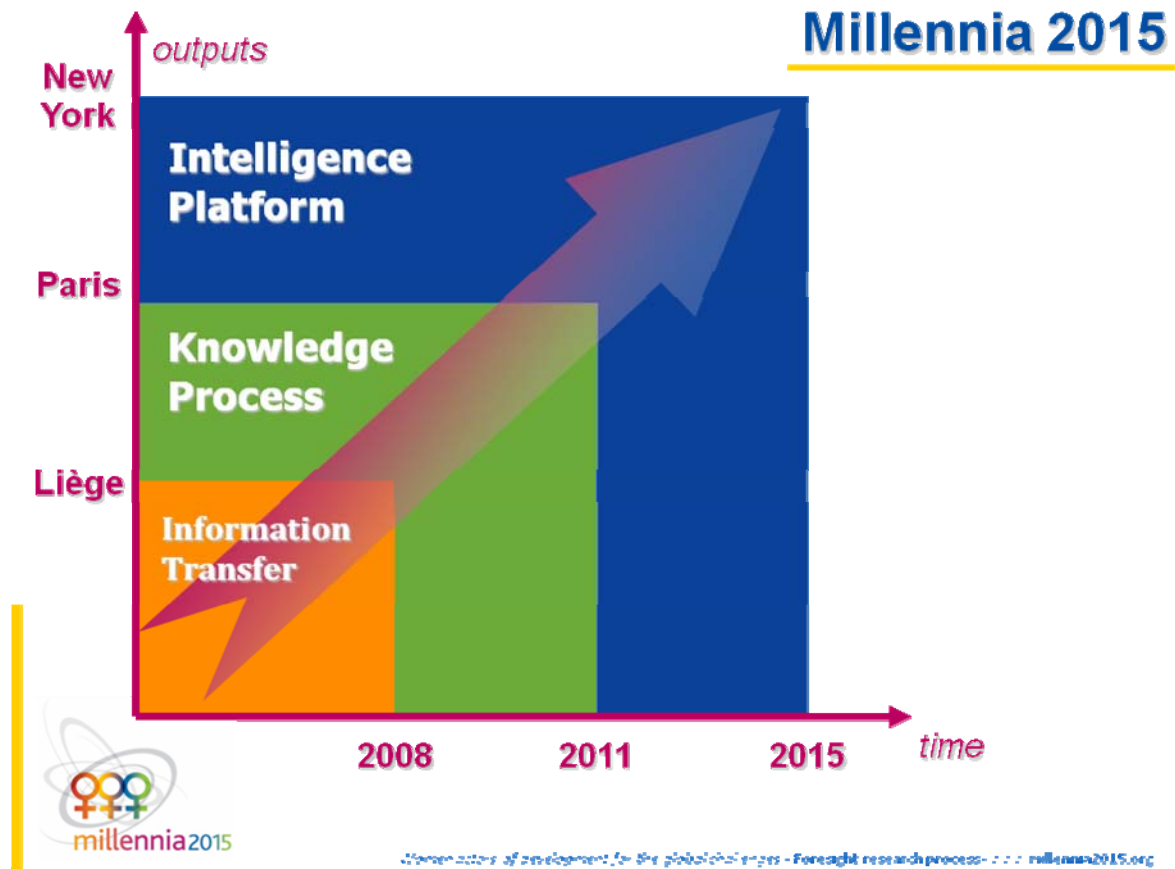
The three steps process:

- **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.

The first Millennia 2015 international conference has been successfully organized in Liege Convention Centre on the 7 and 8 March 2008. The second session will take place in Paris (in collaboration with the UNESCO), and the third one in New York (in collaboration with the United Nations).

2. The Millennia 2015 foresight research process

Organized by the Destree Institute and its international partners [2], the Millennia 2015 research works with foresight as a method: "Foresight can be described as an independent initiative, dialectic and rigorous, conducted in a cross-disciplinary and collective manner. It is designed to clarify current and future issues by examining them in their complex, systemic framework and inserting them in temporality" [3].

The methodology of Millennia 2015 is structured in steps of work undertaken since 2008 and up to 2015 (schematized as in point 4). It is based on three knowledge engines (KE): the Community of Millennia 2015 (KE1), a watch system dedicated to women (KE2) and a system of measurement considering the future of women (KE3). These tools will help to better position women in view of the knowledge society issues conceptualized by the European Commission. Indeed, the very important *Third European Report on Science & Technology Indicators 2003*, published by the EU DG Community Research and titled *Towards a knowledge-based economy*, supports the idea that, since the beginning of 1970s, the most advanced savings of the world have undergone a structural change which makes them go from industrial economy based on work, capital and the material resources towards an economy more and more based on creation, distribution and the exploitation of the new knowledge [4]. Based on works related to technological change [5], the European report insists on the fundamental and natural shift in the processes of production, accumulation and distribution of knowledge, that brings to light a transformation which exceeds widely the technical and economic domains.

Insisting on the very complex process of the transition towards a knowledge-based society, the European report stresses the importance of human resources and thus of education in the dynamics of innovation [6]. Consequently, the confrontation of the worker with the current change and thus with the constant emergence of new situations and of new problems, requires to learn how to learn.

This concept of a "learning society", of a lifelong learning society constitutes a pre-condition to the shift to a knowledge-based society [7]. It is also important to consider that *information is a tool of knowledge. By confusing them, we mistake the tool for the hand and the word for meaning. Nowadays it is too often forgotten that information is not the same as knowledge* [8].

Nicole Dewandre, Sustainable Development Head of Unit at the European Commission DG Research, insists on the fact that, in French, the concept of knowledge society can be translated by "société de la connaissance" (as knowledge) as well as by "société du savoir" (as learning). The process of Millennia 2015 will take care to target its research towards a knowledge that implies learning as well as transmission, activated by lifelong learning thanks to ICT. The evolution of the concept is not only semantic, we mean it as an added value and an upper level of collective intellectual investment.

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(2) www.millennia2015.org/Partenaires

(3) Philippe DESTATTE and Philippe DURANCE (dir), *Les mots-clés de la prospective territoriale*, Collège européen de Prospective, DIACT, La Documentation française, Paris, 2009.

(4) Philippe DESTATTE, *Mission Prospective Wallonie 21*, *Pour que la Wallonie prenne la mesure de la transition, Rapport 2003, La prospective à l'écoute de la Wallonie : Ou va le changement ?*, Namur, The Destree Institute, 2004.

(5) B.A. LUNDVALL & B. JOHNSON, *The Learning Economy,* in *Journal of Industry Studies*, vol. 1(2), 1994, p. 23-42. – R.R. NELSON and P. ROMER, *Science, Economic Growth and Public Policy*, in B.L.R. Smith, C.E. Barfield, *Technology, R & D and the Economy*, Washington DC, Brookings, 1996. – M. ABRAMOVITZ and P. DAVID, *Technological change and the Rise of Intangible Investiments : the US Economy's Growth-path in the Twentieth Century*, in *Employment and Growth in the Knowledge-based economy*, Paris, OCDE, 1996.

(6) Qu'il s'agisse des théories de la croissance ou bien des théories du changement technique et de l'innovation, la théorie économique souligne le rôle central joué par la connaissance, le savoir, en tant que force productive, en tant que facteur de production fondamental dans les économies contemporaines. Antonella CORSANI, *Le capitalisme cognitif : les impasses de l'économie politique*, dans C. VERCELLONE, *Sommes-nous sortis du capitalisme industriel ?* … p. 55.

(7) *Ibidem.*

(8) Jérôme BINDE et Jean-Joseph GOUX, *0 and 1 are the building blocks of the future, The Kathmandu Post, Sunday November 30, 2003,* http://www.nepalnews.com.np/contents/englishdaily/ktmpost/2003/nov/nov30/features1.htm. Jérôme Bindé, directeur de la division de la prospective, de la philosophie et des sciences humaines at the UNESCO, Jean-Joseph Goux , Rice University, Houston, Texas.

A report will be produced by Millennia 2015 at the end of each foresight phase: the first report (2009) will present the foresight diagnosis, the second report (2010) will define the long term issues, and the third report (2011) will present the result of this phase of research.

The Liege International Conference was intended for the process stakeholders to transfer information and to provide of a first common basis of analysis of women's situation in the world. The analysis of the multiple contributions published in Millennia's 2008 proceedings will make it possible to establish a first vision of the issues to be validated by the participants.

The two days meeting also resulted in the effective creation of the community of Millennia 2015. The international conference of Paris in 2011 (Process of knowledge) will have to capitalize the foresight diagnosis, the long term issues and the common vision in order to start the strategic phase of the process. It will activate the common development of the 2025 action plan and the publication of a reference guide about Millennia 2015 topics. The strategy conceived and structured by the community should initiate the construction, between 2012 and 2014, of women's global platform, supported by a large promotion of the strategy tested by the community and the partners of Millennia 2015. The international conference of New York in 2015 (Intelligence Platform) will concretize the interaction with the global movements and the United Nations, in order to ensure the permanence and the effectiveness of the tools installed worldwide, on the basis of the global assessment of the foresight research process.

Throughout the process, a SOFI (state of the future index) will be developed to create a women future measurement system, fed by Millennia 2015 interactive women watch system and knowledge database. A multilingual knowledge society reference guide intended to empower women in society will be published as application tool of the process conclusions. It should result in projects of actions to be implemented at all institutional levels.

3. A common basis of information, result of the 2008 session of Millennia 2015

The 2008 Millennia session gathered experts motivated by the generic theme of "Women actors of development for the global challenges", leaving the field widely opened to the first phase of the foresight process: the transfer of information. Targeted as much as possible around the subjects chosen by the 2008 Scientific Committee of Millennia, diverse and multiple concerns arose in the debates, confirming the necessity of expression of participants according to their personal situation. Their stories crossed each other and strengthened through transversal axes: on one hand their world geographical origin – all the continents and the United Nations were represented –, and on the other hand the topics were related to political, educational, cultural, economic and social domains, having constantly in mind environmental and technological issues. These topics will serve as red line to the whole process. **All the interventions, in plenary sessions or in workshops, highlighted a strong message: the urgency of taking into account the situation of women in the various contexts they described** (cfr 3.4.).

The results of the first stage generated a reflection adapted to the Millennia 2015 issues. The methodology was presented to the Millennium Project Planning Committee in Washington on July 25th, 2008 (http://www.millennium-project.org/). The meeting discussed and approved its principles, suggesting to contribute to the process in many respects and about several topics.

3.1. First Knowledge Engine: Millennia 2015 Community
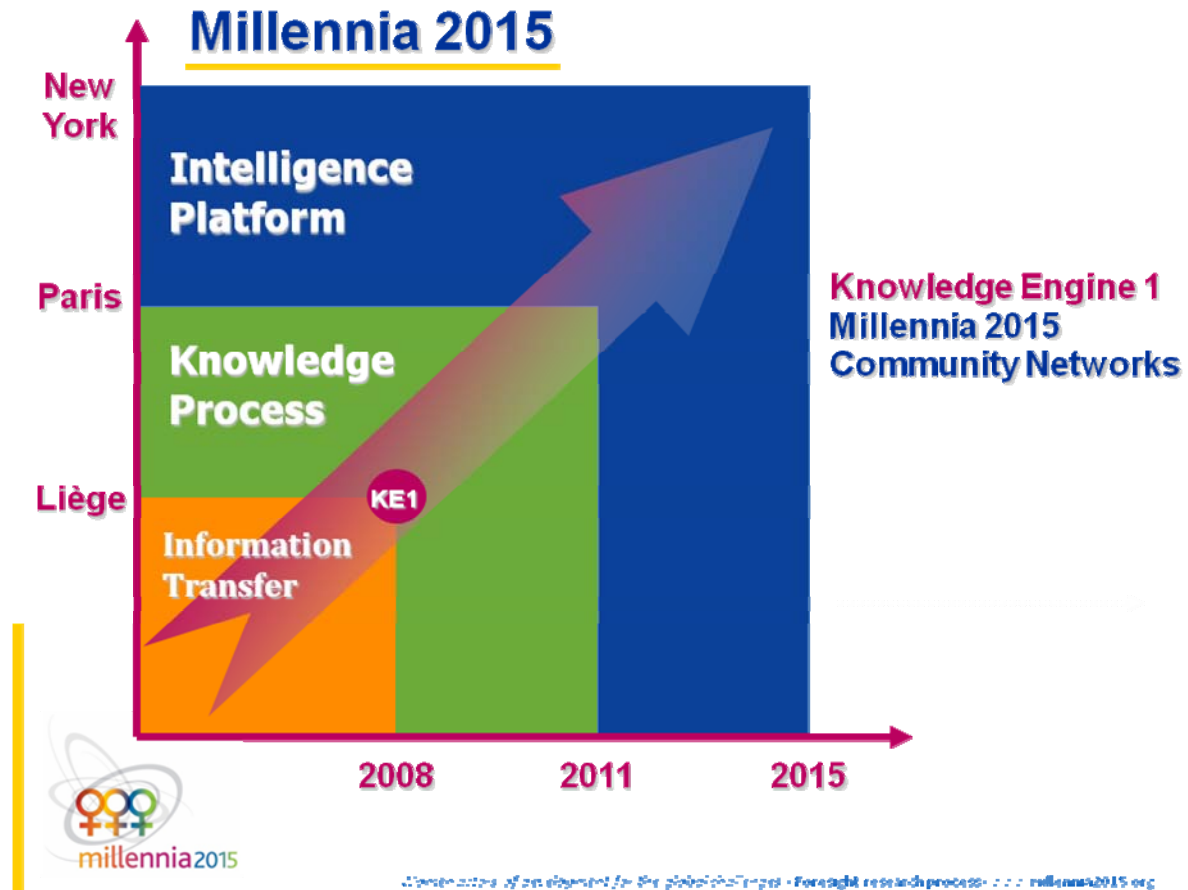
The most tangible result of the first Millennia 2015 international conference is the constitution of an experts community (about 300 members in June 2009) coming from all the continents and the United Nations.

The Millennia 2015 Community is structured as follows:
- the 2008 Scientific Committee (http://www.millennia2015.org/Comite_scientifique_2008) actively contributed to the realization of the first international conference;
- the 64 2008 session speakers coming from thirty countries (http://www.millennia2015.org/Intervenants_2008);
- the online contributors and the persons who join the Millennia process in the course of the works;
- the 2011 Steering Committee (http://www.millennia2015.org/Steering_Committee) - cfr 3.2.

Millennia 2015 Community will continue to develop: it must gather a maximum of women and men experts from all over the world to deal as precisely as possible with all the women's concerns, in the respect for their diversity and according to our objectives on the horizon 2025. It will be involved in the process and we shall encourage the Millennia regional initiatives with the support of our partners and of the international organizations. Memorandums of decisions and partnership agreements will be established to formalize these initiatives.

3.2. Millennia 2015 Steering Committee

This Steering Committee, which will build the session 2011, is organized under the high patronage of Viviane Reding, European commissioner for Information Society and Media (Brussels - Luxembourg) and of Pera Wells, Secretary-General of the Federation of Associations for United Nations (WFUNA, New York), with Pietro Sicuro's strategic support, as director of the Institut de la Francophonie numérique of the International Organization of the Francophonie. The Committee benefits in particular from the very constructive collaborations of The Millennium Project and of the World Health Organization (http: // www.who.int/).

Chaired by Françoise Massit-Folléa, scientific chair of the Vox Internet program of the Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme (Paris), Millennia 2015 steering Committee consists of following experts presented on the website:

- for Africa, Augustina Eniayeju, Anne-Rachel Inné, Laila Kjiri and Geci Karuri-Sebina;
  www.millennia2015.org/SteeringCom_Africa

- for Asia, Ying Bai, Zhouying Jin and Lhamotso;
  www.millennia2015.org/SteeringCom_Asia

- for Australia, Jan Lee Martin and Ivana Milojević;
  www.millennia2015.org/SteeringCom_Australia

- for Europe, Micheline Briclet, Cornelia Daheim, Marie-Anne Delahaut, Richard Delmas, Nicole Dewandre, Dilek Elveren, Eva Fabry, Nadezhda Gaponenko, Agnès Hubert, Anne-Marie Lizin, Eleonora Masini, Françoise Massit-Folléa, Nancy Pascall, Marianne Poumay, Viviane Reding, Pietro Sicuro, Simone Susskind, Véronique Thouvenot and Magdeleine Willame-Boonen;
  www.millennia2015.org/SteeringCom_Europe

- for Latin America, Rosa Alegria, Concepción Olavarrieta and Raquel Zabala;
  www.millennia2015.org/SteeringCom_Latin_America

- for the Middle East, Hind Almualla and Sawsan Sadek;
  www.millennia2015.org/SteeringCom_Middle_East

- for North America, Elizabeth Florescu, Theodore J. Gordon and Hazel Henderson;
  www.millennia2015.org/SteeringCom_North_America

- for the United Nations, Gloria Bonder, Joan Dzenowagis and Pera Wells.
  www.millennia2015.org/SteeringCom_United_Nations

The Steering committee works mainly online and could organize specific meetings according to the stages of the research process of search.

3.3. Millennia 2015 website and knowledge database

Information takes place online, with the website http://www.millennia2015.org, the RSS Via Millennia (http://www.millennia2015.org/rss.asp), working lists of information and work, based on the Destree Institute independent server. The interactive website benefits from the support of the International Organization of the Francophonie.

The originality of this website is to value information society tools for most large number of people concerned by equality women / men matters from all the continents on the long term, by associating all the stakeholders and civil society in respect of cultural and linguistic diversity. The quadrilingual website (French, English, Spanish and German) will develop an individual access for every partner in order to build the collaborative Millennia 2015 knowledge database. The objective is to collect a maximum of data and to transform them into shared knowledge to prepare the next steps of the process.

The online publication of Millennia 2008 proceedings (documents, video podcasts, photos - http://www.millennia2015.org/Actes_2008) shows the importance of the topics. The publication (DVD-book) will highlight the structure guidelines. On the other hand, the information transfer goes on online and constitutes an interesting corpus for the collaborative knowledge database to be developed on the long term.

3.4. 2008 Topics of Millennia 2015

The 2008 Scientific Committee was inaugurated on March 8th, 2007, working mainly online. Several team meetings took place (Paris, Namur, Minneapolis). As a result of that work, the Scientific Committee chose to work on the following topics in Liège on 7-8 March 2008:

01P1- Women actors of development for the global challenges
www.millennia2015.org/2008_Opening_Plenary_1

02P1- Acces to information and knowledge: enhancing capacities for women
www.millennia2015.org/2008_Opening_Plenary_2

03P2- The long-term challenges for women assessed by the Millennium Project
www.millennia2015.org/2008_Plenary_2

04A1- Women and sustainable development
www.millennia2015.org/2008_workshop_1

05A2- Enhancing women's rights, ethics, gender equality and political empowerment
www.millennia2015.org/2008_workshop_2

06A3- Women entrepreneurship and new participative competences
www.millennia2015.org/2008_Workshop_3

07P3- International Women's Day
www.millennia2015.org/2008_Plenary_3_1

08P3- Cultural and linguistic diversity, women and the governance of the Internet
www.millennia2015.org/2008_Plenary_3_2

09A4- Education, research, training, and e-learning
www.millennia2015.org/2008_Workshop_4

10A5- Adding life to the years, science and technology benefiting women
www.millennia2015.org/2008_Workshop_5

11A6- Towards a knowledge society: creativity, cultures and media
www.millennia2015.org/2008_Workshop_6

12P4- Women actors of development and change, Women architects of the future
www.millennia2015.org/2008_Closing_Plenary_2
- Reports of the Workshops : www.millennia2015.org/2008_Closing_Plenary_1
- Overall Conclusions and the Memorandum and Closing of Millennia 2015 :
www.millennia2015.org/2008_Closing_Plenary_3

These topics have been studied in workshops during which of problems and field experiences were provided and discussed between participants from different horizons. The **2008 session** highlighted **topics** related to **politics** (respect of human rights, participation in the decision process, ...); **economical and social matters** (knowledge economy, social integration, equality in employment, health care and biotechnology, solutions against poverty, action against violence, ...); **education and culture** (access to knowledge and promotion of skills, training in information and communication technology (ICT), access to education and to culture, access to life-long learning, openness to cultural diversity,...).

In terms of diagnosis, the Millennia conference held in Liège led to an **increased awareness of women's difficult situation in many social or regional contexts**. **Critical reports questioning the whole society** must be taken into account: scientific educational deficit for the girls; necessity of training in information and communication technologies in order to facilitate education and development; glass ceiling and women's small proportion among business managers; lack of women's legal, economic and social autonomy in numerous regions; non respect of human rights; deprivation of women's rights and liberties in certain cultures; blatant non-application of equal opportunities between women and men; unbearable growth of violence against women and girls; non respect of the older women or excluded from the economic process; impossibility of access to natural resources such as water; urgency of developing awareness to act for sustainable development; lack of ethics and stereotyped exploitation of women in the media; inaccessibility to healthcare and increasing plagues such as AIDS; lack of application of cultural and linguistic diversity preventing too many women from education and learning; need of promoting a shift in world view, considering a new development coming from within and not from traditional views (such as colonization).

The methodological process of Millennia 2015 should tend to study these deficits precisely as well as to measure the risk if they are still active in the future in order to formulate solutions to those challenges, particularly to the Millennium Development Goals.

3.5. 2008 Memorandum and mission of the Millennia 2015 Community until 2011

In conclusion of the session 2008, Eleonora Masini, Professor Emeritus of Futures Studies at the Gregorian University Faculty of Social Sciences in Rome, has defined four tasks for Millennia 2015, while presenting "Enhancing Women's capacities" to the plenary session "Access to information and knowledge (www.millennia2015.org/Eleonora_Masini). These four tasks were validated as guidelines of Millennia 2015 process:

T1. Identify the nature of the current and future changes;

T2. Promote a culture of respect of diversity and peace;

T3. Recognize and make recognize the capacity of women to becoming actors and not victims of the social change, while developing a new worldview that can create a more sustainable life for all humankind;

T4. Build women's networks of competence.

It is important to take into account the common potential of which we are the guardians for the future generations (our body, our health, our planet). Just as for a tree, it is necessary to clean the roots while cultivating the growth of all the branches, in order to allow their bloom.

During her interventions in the Millennia 2015 opening and closing plenary sessions, Pera Wells, Secretary-General of the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA - http://www.millennia2015.org/Pera_Wells) established the strategic outlines the Women actors of development for the global challenges will need to implement.

Françoise Massit-Folléa, president of the 2008 Scientific Committee and of the 2011 steering Committee of Millennia (http://www.millennia2015.org/Francoise_Massit_Follea), has collected these elements as well as a structured synthesis of all the interventions in order to build the first Memorandum of Millennia 2015.

The Conclusion Memorandum identifies seven main goals:

G1. Understand present and possible alternative futures in key society domains:
  - politics: to respect and enforce women rights;
  - education:
    - developing education for women;;
    - eradicate illiteracy;
    - encouraging girls to study science, mathematics and new technologies as well as facilitating their investment in ICT/CCST [9] carriers, because these are the drivers of economic and societal development as well as of change in the status of women;
    - inspiring girls to become entrepreneurs;
  - employment: breaking the glass-ceiling;
  - development: empowering women as women as actors of social change;
  - health;
  - access to ICT, information and knowledge;

G2. Promote a culture of respect, of diversity and of peace;

G3. Acknowledge the ability of women as drivers of change and as mediators for a peace culture;

G4. Recognize women as bearers of rights, as actors of changes towards a new economic model (including intangible assets) and as builders of alternative futures,

G5. 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;

G6. 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 countries, in order to prepare action;

G7. Build networks around major issues on United Nations Agenda, in respect of cultural and linguistic diversity.

The contribution of Millennia 2015 partners will allow to study and to develop these issues according to multiple worldwide criteria: we will try to make them result in positive actions for women at the horizon 2025.

The analysis and synthesis work will continue with the publication of the book and of the DVD-Book, so that the foresight research process will be enriched with all the data, ideas and references proposed by the Millennia 2015 community as time goes by.


4. Methodology of the foresight research process at the horizon 2015

The process of Millennia 2015 develops step by step: we will describe each one briefly. Besides the regular online communication, regional meetings will be organized. The 2011 and 2015 international conferences will structure the whole work in order to lead up to concrete decisions carried towards the decision-makers at every level of power.

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(9) ICT, Information & Communication Technologies; CCST, Computer and Communication Sciences & Technologies.

4.1. Knowledge Engine 2: Women Watch System
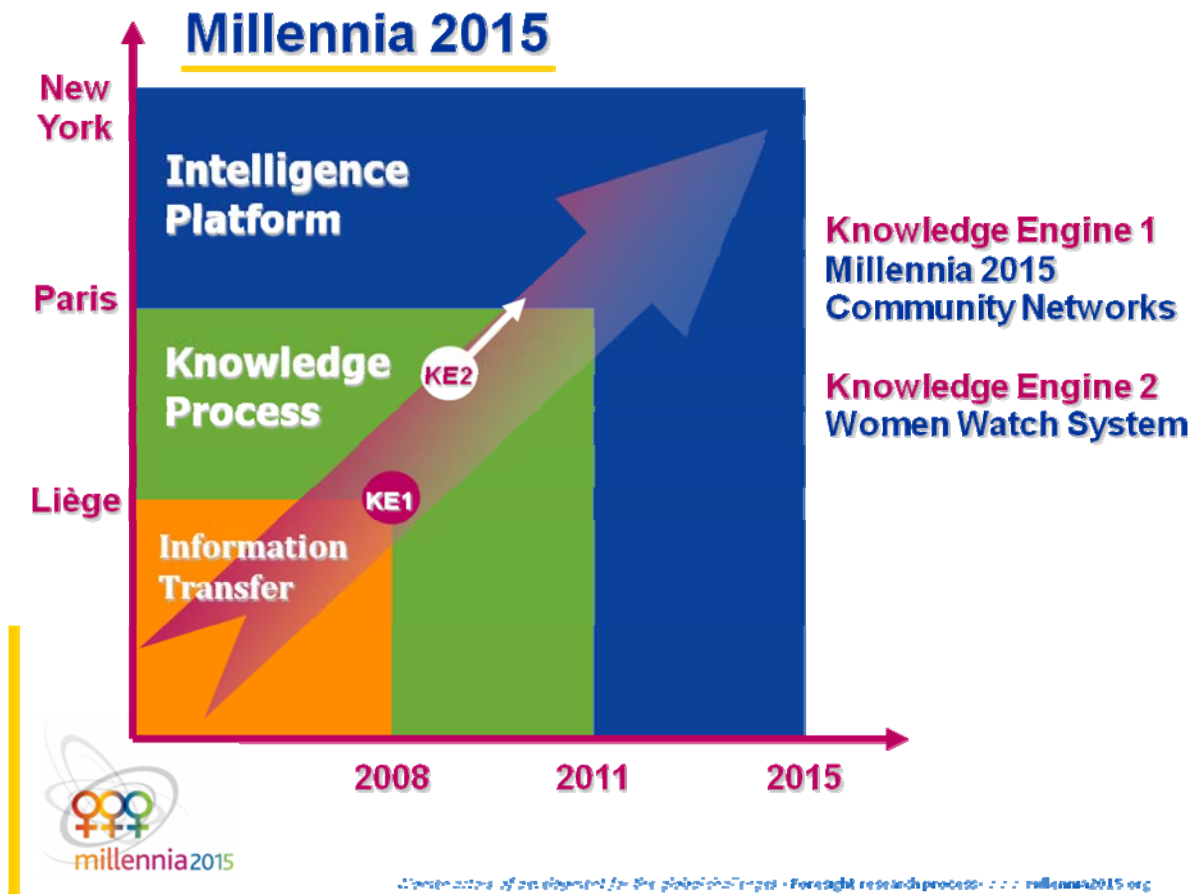
The Women Watch System, second knowledge engine (KE2) will be built on the basis of the research topics chosen by Millennia 2015 community. The collected data will feed the online the knowledge database.

This system will evolve with every phase and will remain open in order to adapt to the results of the work and to report their evolution. It will benefit from the diversity of women contributing from many regions and with different contexts.

4.2. Knowledge Engine 3: Women Future Measurement System
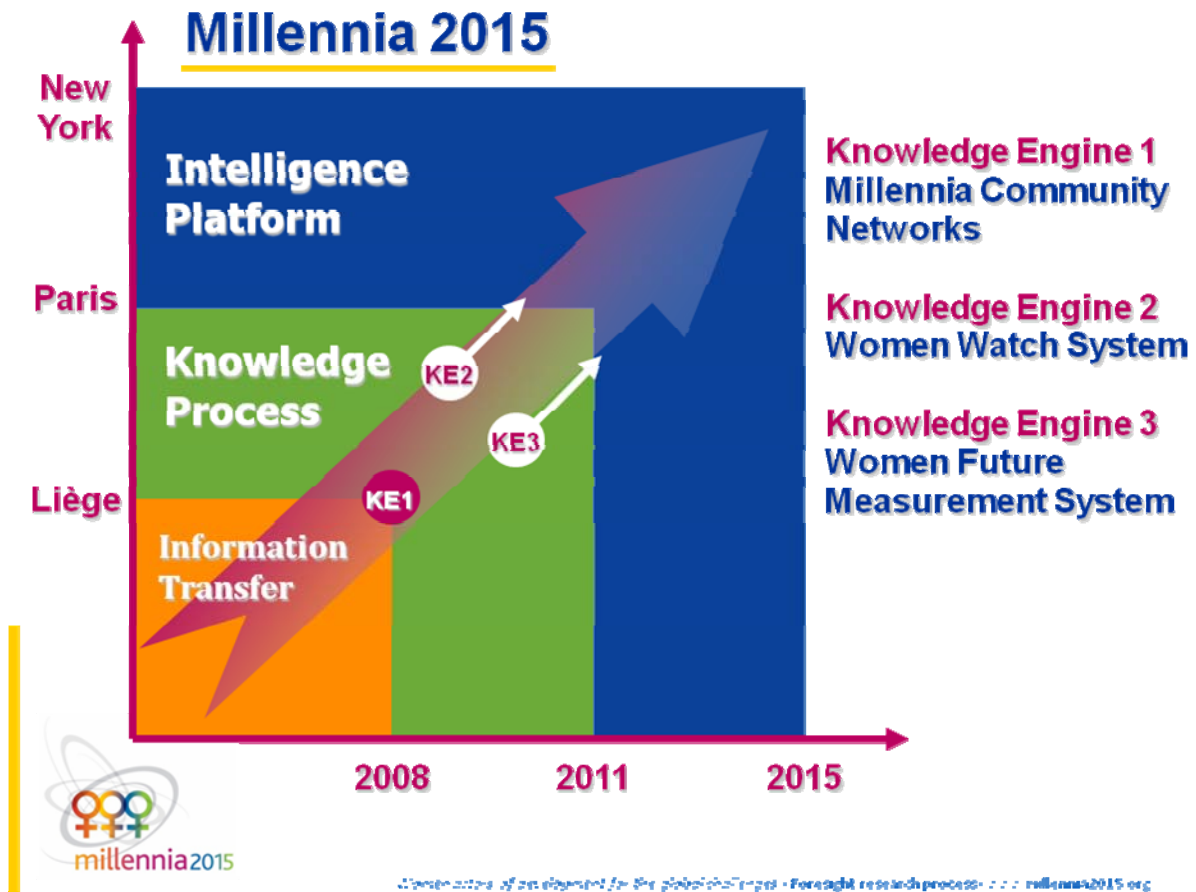
A State of the Women Future Index (SOFI) will be built in order to measure the progress of Women's vision of the future during the different steps of the process and, if possible, within all the different continents. The Women Future SOFI will constitute one of the foresight research guidelines.

4.3. Women in the Knowledge Society Foresight
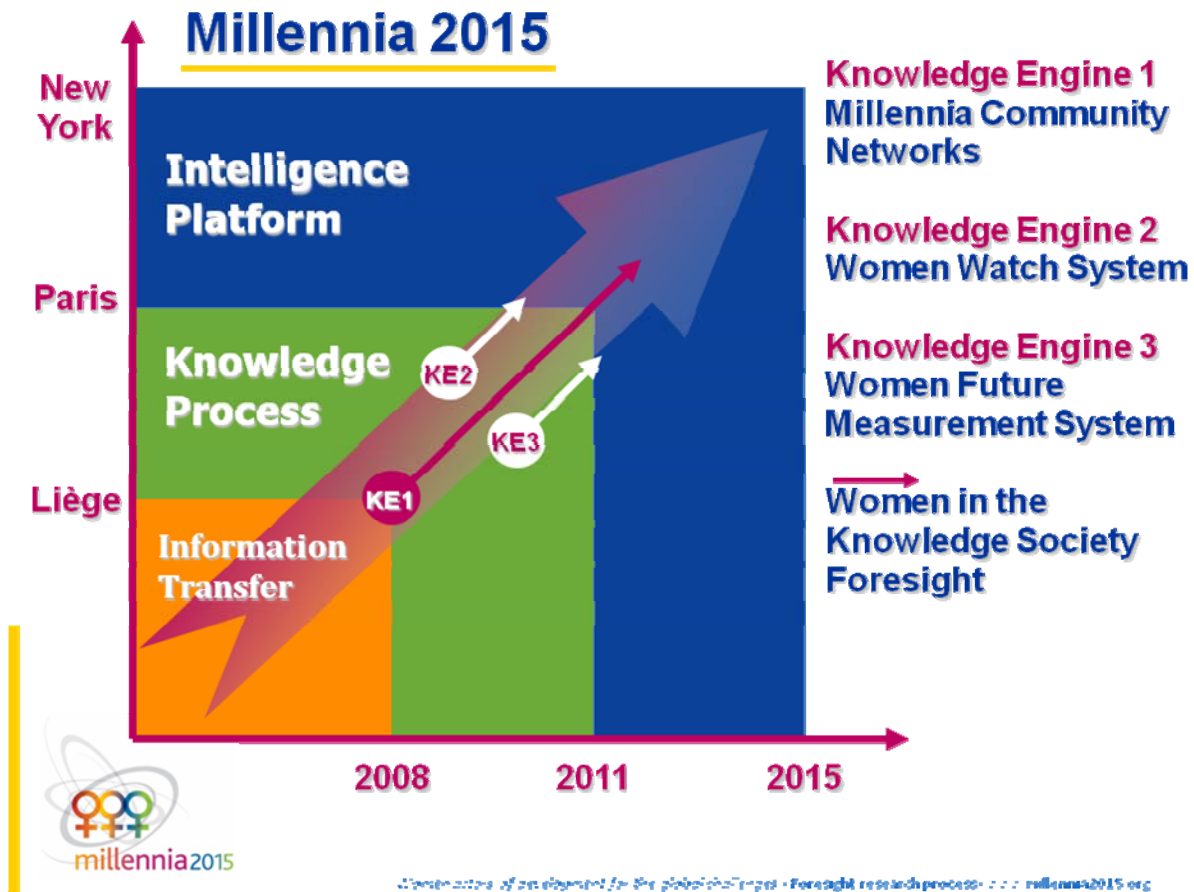
The Millennia 2015 Foresight exercise will be developed as a partnership process between a maximum of actors and experts, – think-tanks, organisations and civil society –, in order to provide significant changes to the evolution of society. The idea is to involve the actors at all levels and, finally, to induce progress within institutions and the United Nations following the strategic recommendations of women actors of development for the global challenges.

Millennia 2015 is meant to be a normative, strategic and very ambitious foresight exercise that intends to contribute to the UN Millennium Development Goals and whose results should be proposed to the European Union and worldwide national States in order to contribute to define new priorities and strategies about women issues. The stake is to promote a culture of respect of diversity and of peace, as much as to acknowledge women's capacity to be actors of social change and architects of the future.

Véronique Thouvenot, scientist at the World Health Organization, specifies that these goals imply to consider the issues of war, whose first victims are women and their children. The contribution of Millennia 2015's work also has to be implemented for all women in times of social violence, revolution, violent conflicts or war, in order to guarantee the respect of human rights, free access to education, to health information, to education and training, and to investments mechanisms.

Women in the Knowledge Society Foresight
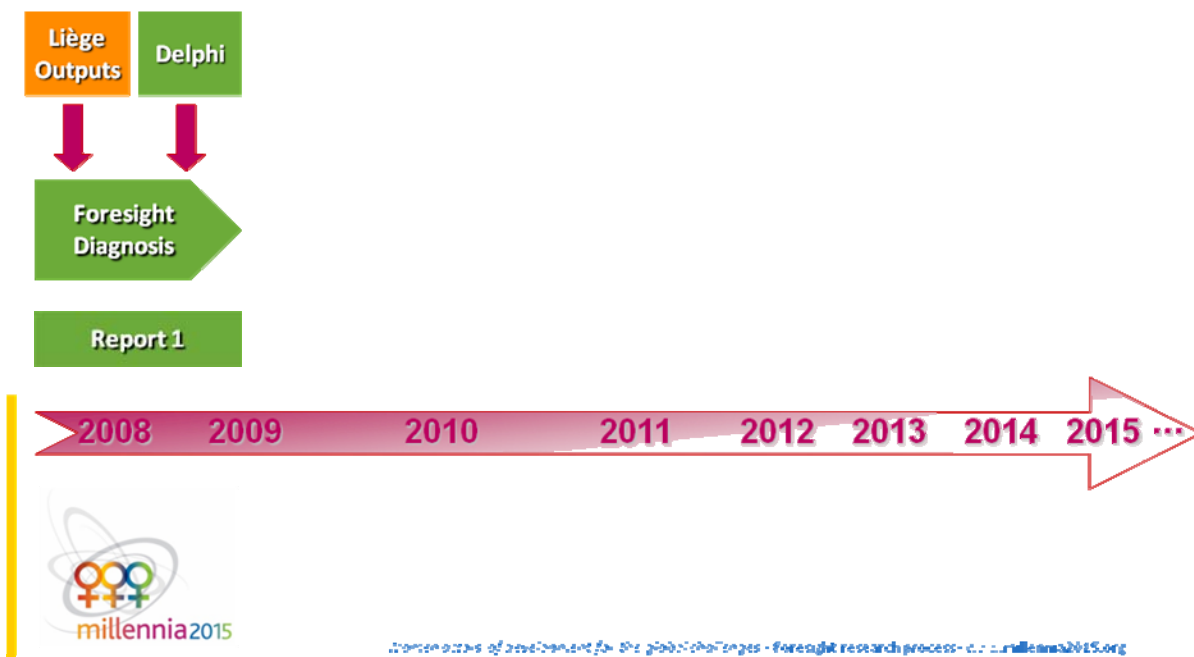
The assessments and evolutions identified during the Liège conference constitute a first diagnosis which was completed by a Real Time Delphi organized in association with The Millennium Project from September to December 2008 about " Millennia on 2015 - Global Experts Study, Developments to improve the status of women" (http://www.millennium-project.org/millennium/millennia2015.html). This analysis was piloted by Theodore J. Gordon, Elizabeth Florescu and Rosa Alegria. 220 participants supplied 4.196 on-line answers, in English and in French. The summary was published in April, 2009 and is joined into "2009 State of Future" (http://www.millennium-project.org/millennium/issues.html) published by The Millennium Project.

The Millennia 2015 study was designed to collect judgments about gender-sensitive issues that are not yet sufficiently addressed or resolved, those that are emerging or might grow in importance in the next two decades, as well as policies, strategies, challenges and barriers to improving the status of women worldwide and in specific regions or cultures, and the organizations that exist or should be established to address them. The analysis of the results will contribute to build a foresight diagnosis about these issues.

It is interesting to notice that the positive developments considered as being likely, with high impact and low backfire potential, include the following points:
- equal access to education is guaranteed by law in all countries;
- women's right to health information and family planning, to decide on pregnancy, and access to safe, effective and affordable health care services is guaranteed in all countries;
- women have equal access to training and skills-development programs to ensure their full participation in the economic and social life, worldwide;
- access to investment and financing mechanisms is equal for men and women.
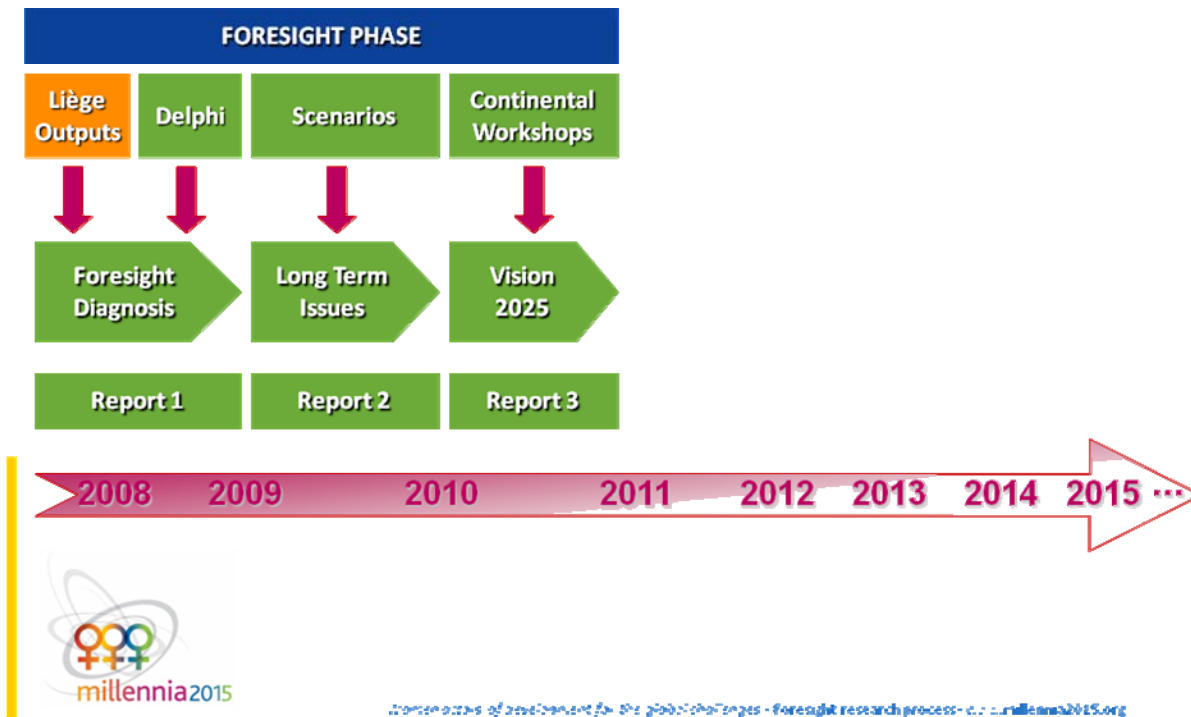
Women in the Knowledge Society Foresight
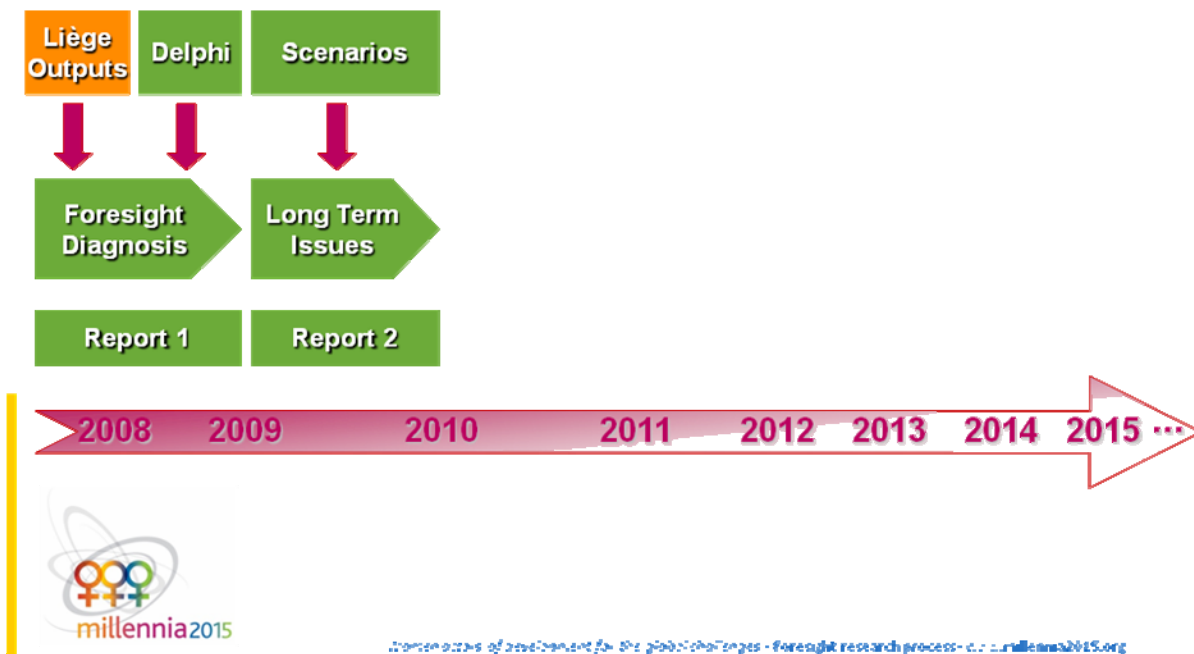
The foresight diagnosis and particularly the Real Time Delphi enabled the identification of the key-variables necessary to approach, in a systemic and foresight way, the issue of women in the knowledge society at the horizon 2025. Let us remind that these key-variables can be, for example, the importance of women in running the economic life; their participation in the political life; their role of educators and mediators within the family and in the societal context; the violence against women; the scientific training of women; the access of women to healthcare; their access to information & communication technologies (ICT) as well as to computer and communication sciences & technologies (CCST); women as peace ambassadors and generators of survival in wartime.

A second Delphi round could bring out regional idealistic visions for each key-variables in order to better nurture the scenarios and their necessary potential of leading to transformative paths for the 2025 vision phases.

4.6. Outcome of the Foresight Phase and Report 3

Women in the Knowledge Society Foresight

The setting out of the long-term issues began in April 2009. The goal is to identify, by means of exploratory scenarios, the future issues that will impact on women's life in the knowledge society and will constitute for them as many opportunities or risks for their condition, their lifestyle, their empowerment in society and their responsibility in its evolution at a global level.

The research work on that corpus will help to elaborate a methodological base and a common reference system, from which Millennia 2015 Steering Committee and Community will elaborate the scenarios leading to more equality and solidarity, in respect of cultural and linguistic diversity, as well as with the concern of innovation oriented sustainable development. This work will be organized in all the main regions of the world: Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe including Russia, Latin America, Middle East and North America.

These contrasted scenarios, counting at least four by region, will be realized by structural analysis of the variables (in order to identify the keys variables), construction of hypotheses by sub-systems, writing of micro-scenarios followed by macro-scenarios. The issues will then be defined by regions through key questions to answer during the following stages of the process, by the formulation of desired future related to the 2025 vision as well as of axes and actions targeted at the strategic phase concerns. The vision should consider how women might contribute to a better future, conceiving not only the issues resulting from projections but also the desired worlds.

By the end of 2010, all these scenarios will be assembled in order to establish global scenarios which will be discussed, amended and validated collectively during the regional workshops organized in the participating regions.

These workshops will mark the beginning of the third step. Their goal will be to express possible futures as well as a regional vision of women's future in the knowledge society at the horizon 2025: that vision will be constituted of purposes, important projects, shared values as well as common symbols of the will necessary for its implementation.

These regional visions will be gathered and articulated in debates in order to prepare the second international conference which will be held in Paris, under the auspices of the UNESCO in 2011.

4.7. Beginning of the Strategic Phase and second Millennia 2015 International Conference in Paris

Women in the Knowledge Society Foresight
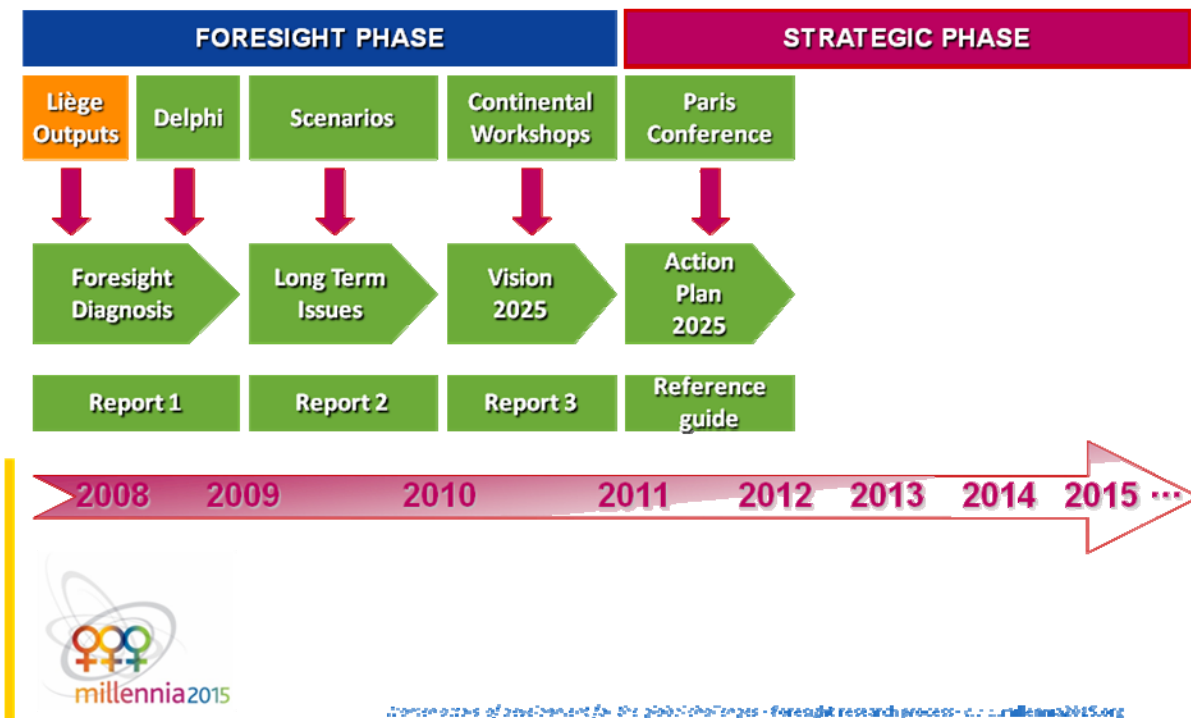
The Millennia international conference in Paris "Visions and strategies for 21th century Women" is a bridge between the foresight phase and the strategic phase. Besides the presentation of the vision, the conference of Paris will have to lay the foundations of an action plan that will help to reach this vision and to concretely meet the issues at the horizon 2025. This action plan will articulate according to the various levels of governance: it will be at once global, structured by regions and might contain pilot actions intended for national States, federal entities or infra-national territories.

The Millennia 2025 Action Plan will be published in a Reference Guide presenting in a very concrete and educational way both the vision and the strategic actions of the main regions of the world by detailing them both at individual and collective levels. This guide, written in simple terms, will be have to be translated in a maximum of languages, and diffused country by country.

4.8. Diffusion of the Strategy and Women Global Platform

Women in the Knowledge Society Foresight
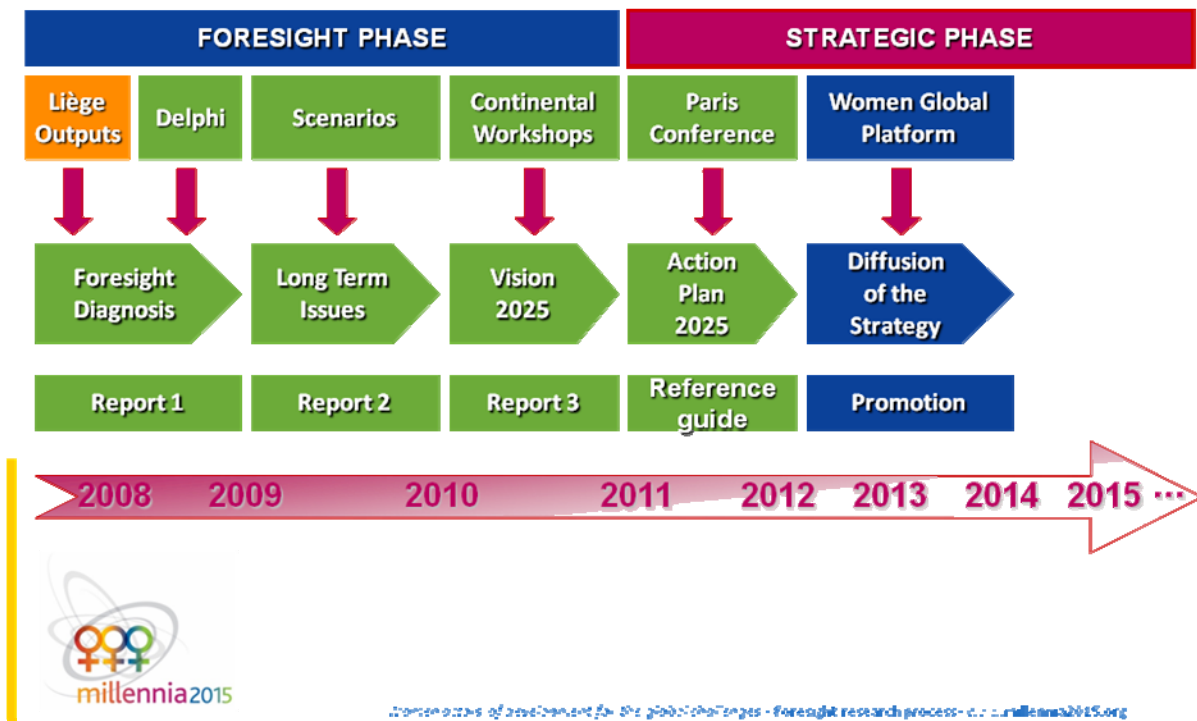
Women actors of the Millennia 2025 Vision will have to organize in mutual aid and action civil society groups by States. Delegates will be elected who will be members of the world Millennia Women Global Platform, intended to democratically pilot the strategy implementation at a global as well as local levels. An important promotion work will be realized at every level to inform about the strategy implementation process and about its progress: The production of a film about Millennia and Women actors of development for the global challenges, following the example of "An Inconvenient Truth" realized by Al Gore about the global warming is a great example of awareness about a global problem resulting from a great citizens' mobilization. The Women Global Platform, created by Millennia's process in 2013 will have to meet about this in 2014 as well as to prepare the New York international conference.

As suggested by Véronique Thouvenot, the foresight work will also have to envisage the risks inherent to the non-realization of these objectives: what will happen if the women are not integrated, if they have no access to health information, to trainings, to credits and investments? What will be the risks for the whole population, the human and economic cost for society or States? And what would then be the vision of the world?

Rosa Alegria stresses the importance of not only trying to integrate women in the actual context built on patriarchal ancestral values, but instead of creating new paradigms and worldviews in order to make life possible for everyone in a world coping with global warming (according to latest studies presented by Lester Brown in Brazil, we have only 10 years to reduce 80% of CO_2 emissions).

## 4.9. New York International Conference and interaction with Global Movement

Women in the Knowledge Society Foresight
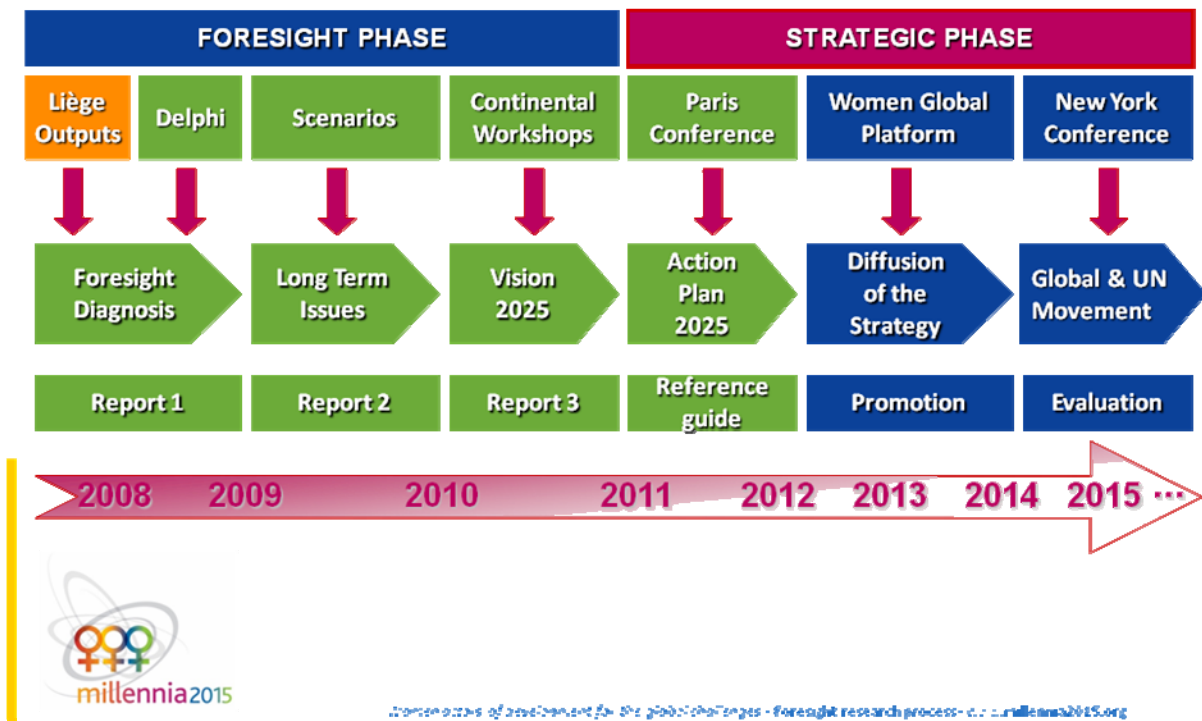
The third Millennia 2015 international conference which will be organized at the United Nations in New York in 2015 will have to gather, under the auspices of the Secretary General of the United Nations, a maximum of the world civil society's associations to present the accomplished work and to contractualize with them in order to create, around the Women Global Platform, a real movement intended to implement, at every level, the strategy defined by Millennia 2015 in Paris. In that purpose, a first evaluation of the implementation of this strategy will be realized and published.

## 4.10. Women Watch System and Women Future Measurement System at the horizon 2025

Women in the Knowledge Society Foresight
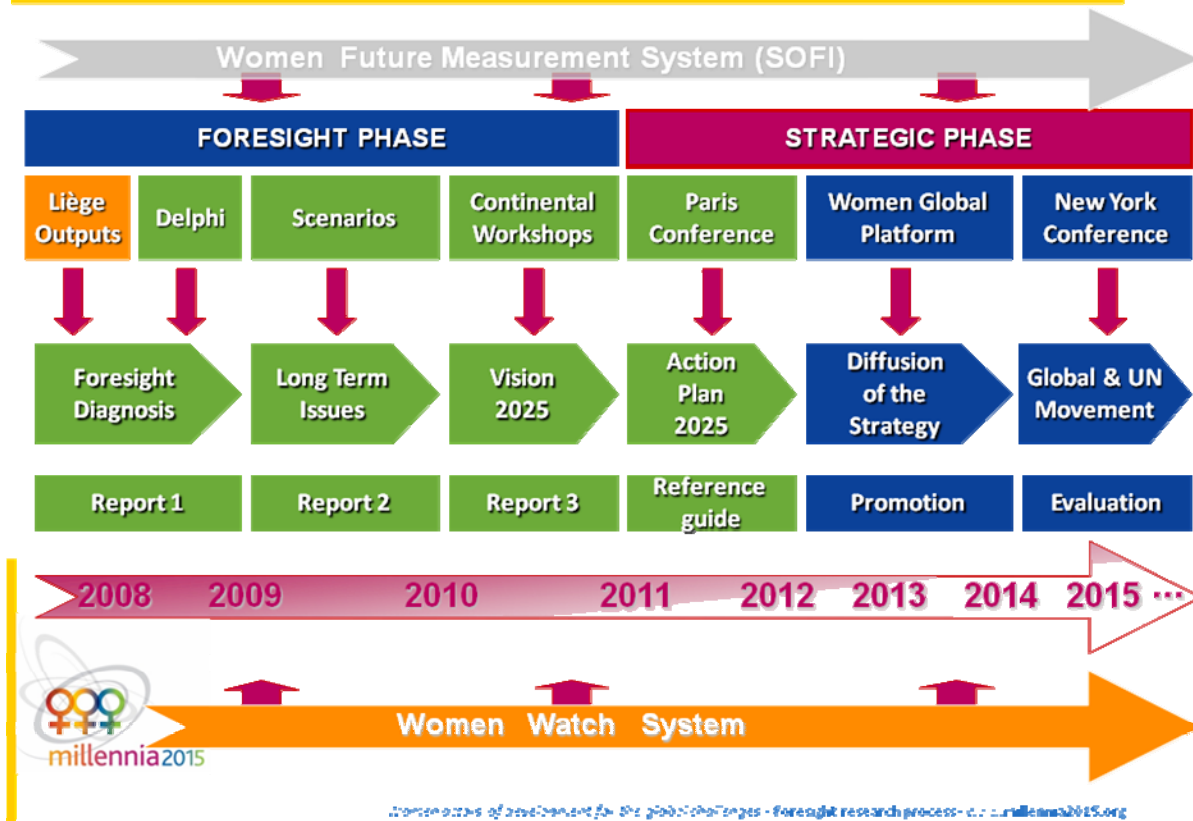
A Women Watch System has been implemented for Millennia Community since 2009. This foresight watch system will be gradually improved. Its purpose is to collect information (issues, events, publications, actions, statistics, assessment, mapping) produced by all the stakeholders and women actors of development for the global challenges networks, among which many already appear among the partners referenced on the portal (www.millennia2015.org/Partenaires).

Millennia 2015 Steering Committee contributes to the conception of the interactive and multilingual knowledge database. It began its activity in 2009 and proposes the regular publication of information targeted for Millennia 2015 Community, by means of information or working mailing lists and by the RSS based on the portal (www.millennia2015.org/Via_Millennia).

4.11. Women Knowledge Society Reference Guide
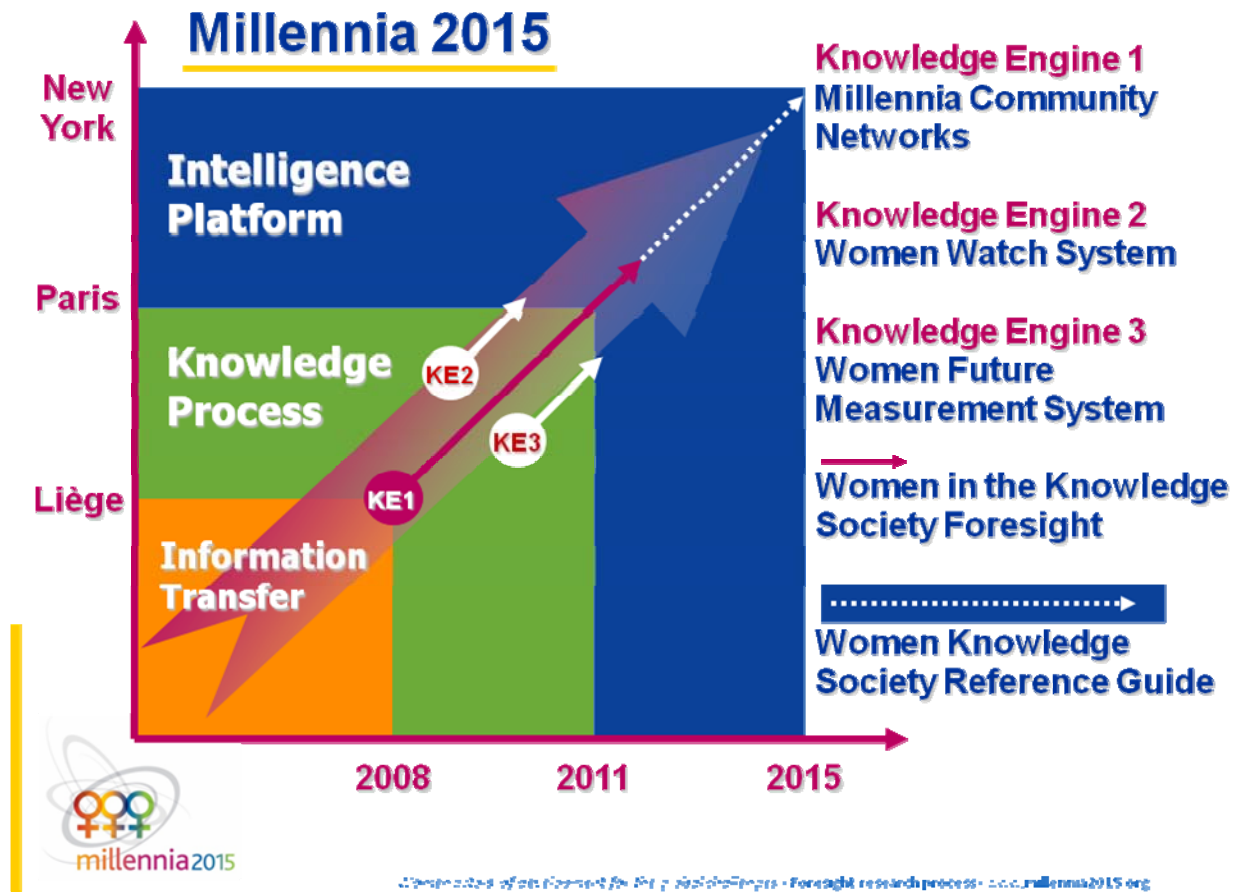
The Women Knowledge Society Guiderail will implement the application of the Millennia 2015 strategy at the different global, continental, national, federal or regional levels as a convergence program.

The Reference guide will be proposed for the attention of the various governance stakeholders: companies, civil society and associations, governments and universities. In 2011, it will pave the way for building the Millennia 2025 vision. It will be regularly assessed, adapted and clarified.

5. An ambitious program

With Millennia 2015 foresight research process, women from all over the world are called to claim their quality of stakeholders in the knowledge society and to act as architects of their future.

As confirmed by Pera Wells, Secretary-General of the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA), during her contribution to the Liège conference opening and closing session, Millennia 2015 is particularly in line with the United Nations framework concerning women actors of development for the global challenges: *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* [10]. This innovative research process built with foresight as a method and the information society as context must be valued and supported on a large scale on the long term.

Kindly contributing to this methodological note, Eleonora Masini underlined, on the 4th of July 2009, the fact that the foresight part of the method *is very important and the phase of alternative exploratory scenarios crucial for the development of the research. It will also be able to show possible weak points of women's future situations and may allow to clarify the aims of Millennia 2015 so as to foresee also the risks for women in the future.* This sequence is also essential in order to identify the upstream key-variables best adapted to regional micro- or macro-scenarios, as much as to determine the adequate way of involving a maximum of women in every region of the world. A particular effort will be necessary to identify the representative women in emerging countries (as it was already done for Millennia 2015 Liège session), in Africa, in the Middle East, in China and in the Far East countries where women's commitment in the initiative is less well-known.

The changes occur more and more quickly, even if their rhythms are different according to contexts and regions. They are sometimes obscured by other difficulties, e.g. economic outcomes. The problems of the society in constant transformation must all be comprehended by women with full knowledge of the facts. The mission of Millennia consists in emphasizing and in supporting women who work as actors of development, particularly when they are not recognized as such, by themselves or by their country, in order for them to participate in the front line to the process.

Millennia 2015 is an ambitious program dealing with strategic issues in order to make all the women act collectively as quickly as possible. It requires numerous resources to induce partnerships with eminent international organizations, in particular to mobilize everywhere, to carry and promote the initiative as well as its results. Millennia Steering Committee and Community will interact in the knowledge society within the Women Global Platform to build a positive vision of the future for the whole world on the horizon 2025. Let us make sure this tool becomes more and more performing and that it benefits to the largest number of people.

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(10) Pera WELLS, *Strenghtening the capacities of international organizations and global networks to advance the status of women throughtout the world*, Millennia 2015 Opening Plenary Session, Liège, 7 March 2008 - www.millennia2015.org/2008_Opening_Plenary_1