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منظمة الأمم المتحدة  
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联合国教育、  
科学及文化组织



**Millennia2015**  
**Women actors of development**  
**for the global challenges**

**Foresight Research Process and**  
**International Conferences**  
**Liège 2008 - Paris 2011 - New York 2015**

## Press release

# **Millennia2015,** **"An action plan for women's empowerment"** **International Conference organized by the UNESCO and The Destree Institute** **at the end of 2011**

The international conference Millennia2015, "An action plan for women's empowerment" will be organized at the end of 2011 at the UNESCO in Paris, to present the results of the foresight exercise ([www.millennia2015.org](http://www.millennia2015.org)) started in 2008.

Benefiting from the patronage of the UNESCO and the support of the International Organization of la Francophonie, Millennia2015 "Women actors of development for the global challenges" has been launched by The Destree Institute and its international partners in 2007. Its international community gathers more than one thousand experts, women and men, decided to strengthen and to promote the empowerment of women, the respect of human rights and of gender equality all over the world. On the occasion of the 54<sup>th</sup> Commission on the Status of Women (Beijing+15) in March 2010 at the United Nations headquarters in New York, Millennia2015 has also launched an appeal for international digital solidarity in order to work together until 2015, with the aim of building sustainable futures in solidarity for all women in the entire world at the horizon 2025.

Gender equality is one of the two UNESCO's global priorities for 2008-2013. The Director-General pays great attention to that issue and has committed herself to implement it in all the UNESCO's programmes through concrete initiatives. The Division for Gender Equality is responsible for ensuring the implementation of the "Priority Gender Equality Action Plan for 2008-2013" (<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001858/185856m.pdf>). This work is supported by a two-pronged approach involving both gender-specific programmes and gender mainstreaming within UNESCO's five Major programmes (Education, Natural Sciences, Social and Human Sciences, Communication and Culture).

On the occasion of the press conference organized on the 8 December 2010 at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris to launch the international conference Millennia2015, "An action plan for women's empowerment", Gülsér Corat, Director of the Division of Gender Equality at the Office of the Director-General of the UNESCO and Representative of the Director-General, Ms Irina Bokova, has declared that "women must not be considered only as the beneficiaries of the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals but also as those who can develop and implement projects as well as act for change", adding that "thanks to initiatives such as Millennia2015 women are able to assume this role".

Jean-Pol Baras, Delegate of the Governments of the French Community of Belgium and of the Wallonia Region in France, and Roger Hotermans, First Counsellor to the Delegation of the French Community of Belgium and of the Wallonia Region to France, have confirmed their interest in Millennia2015.





Françoise Massit-Folléa, Chair of Millennia2015 Steering Committee and Director of Research in Communication Science in Paris, has presented the evolutionary context of Millennia2015. In the follow-up of her participation in the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Geneva 2003 – Tunis 2005 and the research she has developed about "Foresight and Governance of the Internet" for The Destree Institute, Marie-Anne Delahaut (Founding head of Millennia2015 and Director of Research at The Destree Institute, Namur, Wallonia) has matured the idea of a process designed to advance the cause of women around the world, in line with the 2015 issues of the Millennium Development Goals and of the WSIS, aiming to achieve results by 2025.

Marie-Anne Delahaut has detailed Millennia2015 foresight methodology as well as the foresight exercise in which everyone is invited to participate online: the study of the "information transfer" organized by Millennia2015 since 2008, has led to identify the 37 variables. Their analysis is structured around eight specific questions in the "knowledge process" ([www.millennia2015.org/KP2010\\_Foresight\\_Exercise](http://www.millennia2015.org/KP2010_Foresight_Exercise)). The analysis of the results will lead to building Millennia2015 Action Plan for women's empowerment that will be finalized during the international conference organized at the UNESCO at the end of 2011. The people, associations and institutions who will contribute to the foresight exercise will be involved in the conference, particularly Millennia2015 Communities already active in Goma-DRC, in India, in Bangladesh, in Senegal, in Francophonie as well as the international working group Millennia2015 "Women and eHealth" (WeHealth).

Your contribution is welcome!

[www.millennia2015.org/Community\\_Registration](http://www.millennia2015.org/Community_Registration)  
[www.unesco.org/genderequality](http://www.unesco.org/genderequality) - [www.millennia2015.org](http://www.millennia2015.org)



UNESCO-Millennia2015 Press Conference:  
Gülser Corat, Jean-Pol Baras, Marie-Anne Delahaut, Françoise Massit-Folléa,  
UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, 08.12.2010.  
Photo The Destree Institute

