



## Economic and Social Council

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### Commission on the Status of Women

Sixty-second session

12–23 March 2018

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and  
to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly  
entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and  
peace for the twenty-first century”

### Statement submitted by Institut Jules-Destrée, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council\*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being  
circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council  
resolution 1996/31.

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\* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



## Statement

### **Share and affirm your skills in innovation and the empowerment of women with the Millennia2025 Intelligence Platform**

The sixty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women, organized by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in March 2018, will be focused on “Participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies (ICTs) and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women”. As stated in the conclusions of the forty-seventh session of the Commission in 2003, it is important to enhance women’s training in ICTs and to develop strategies to enable them to use their skills for equality, employment and economic leadership. On that occasion, the Commission recommended that priority be given to “the allocation of resources to support programmes, projects and strategies that aim at increasing women’s participation in, and equal access to, the information society, including vocational, scientific and technical training, literacy training and capacity-building programmes” (<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/csw47/AC-mediaICT-auv.PDF>).

This is one of the main concerns of the Millennia2025 Women and Innovation Foundation, whose Millennia2015 foresight research process resulted in the “Action Plan for Women’s Empowerment and Gender Equality”, which, since 2007, has been developed by Institut Destrée with the support of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) ([www.millennia2015.org](http://www.millennia2015.org)). The method, network and specific actions involved are also detailed in the document “Ensemble pour l’égalité ! [“Together for equality!”] by Marie-Anne Delahaut, with a foreword by Ms. Irina Bokova, the Director-General of UNESCO ([http://www.millennia2015.org/MA\\_Delahaut\\_Ensemble\\_pour\\_egalite](http://www.millennia2015.org/MA_Delahaut_Ensemble_pour_egalite), 608 pages).

One specific action is the creation of the Millennia2025 Intelligence Platform, which emerged from the foresight study conducted at UNESCO in late 2012, with a view to 2025. Its last chapter reads as follows: “In 2025, new and more harmonious life models have been conceived and implemented and are constantly being assessed by countries so that they can continuously adapt, both in time and in space. The tools of the knowledge society are being brought to bear to ensure that the planet’s vital parameters are in balance. Dramatic advances in ICTs and broadband coverage have greatly contributed to women’s empowerment. Policies of war are on the wane thanks to the sovereign global mobilization for peace. Education and training have been upgraded to generate growth and jobs . This has allowed many countries in precarious situations to find or regain their economic equilibrium. Older persons are again valued for their unique capacity to impart knowledge to new generations. Empowerment fosters solidarity between genders, between generations and between peoples. The human person is central to society. We have the right to dream. It is our duty to strive. The goal of Millennia2015 is twofold: an operational foresight process combined with fieldwork. In pursuing that goal, we must mobilize women, men and youth to take ownership of the change process through a creative coordination that leverages the power of networks.” ([www.millennia2015.org/La\\_vision](http://www.millennia2015.org/La_vision)). This vision, available online, has been translated by an international network of volunteer Millennia2025 researchers into 13 languages (Bahasa, English, French, German, Greek, Igbo, Igbo Etiti, Kinyarwanda, Nepali, Swahili, Turkish and Urdu).

The purpose of the Millennium2025 Intelligence Platform, optimized by PROMIS®, is to structure, share and transfer knowledge among its members. It confers tangible benefits on knowledge bearers or mentors: once organized, knowledge is protected by intellectual property rights and can be directly translated into many languages, and thus shared internationally, by their partners. Youth and learners also benefit, as they have access to the knowledge of mentors of their choice from other countries, who speak a different language, with whom they themselves can communicate in their mother tongue in a secure, protected environment. Each member receives a login and has access to a number of functionalities: filling out their profile, structuring their knowledge into tetrahedra, creating surveys, publishing documents, accessing Massive Open Online Courses or videos, organizing e-learning, and offering their services as a mentor or enrolling as a learner, depending on the field of interest. The Platform also supports the applications of Millennium2025's Women Observatory for eHealth, such as the maternal health application "Zero Mothers Die" ([www.m2025-weobservatory.org/](http://www.m2025-weobservatory.org/)).

Many members already have a website, their own or one hosted by their university, company or non-governmental organization, and can invite colleagues to connect to the Millennium2025 Intelligence Platform. Many others, however, have no personal online presence where they could showcase their skills. To remedy that, the MAD-Skills.eu interface ("Master, Apply and Dynamize your skills") equips them with the requisite public tools (domain names, logo, email etc.) in a secure space free of advertising. These services will be free of charge for people in developing countries, rural areas and vulnerable regions. Specific support will be offered to women and girls whose learning has been hampered by their life circumstances but who nevertheless rely on their skills in every area to build their own futures.

The Millennium2025 Intelligence Platform is an innovative, value-added platform: the Millennium2025 Women and Innovation Foundation, in conjunction with PROMIS@Service, is the sponsor of the WePROMIS® initiative, recognized as a "pledger" under the European Commission's Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition (<http://pledgeviewer.eu/pledges/promis-service-sarl-66.html>).

Millennium2025's e-Mentoring tools provide for optimization of the following three steps:

- Learning: protect your intellectual property rights; submit and promote your résumé as a mentor; structure your tetrahedra to share your knowledge with the world in all fields, themes and subjects you consider important; and learn new skills by communicating directly with mentors of your choice within the Millennium2025 community;
- Teaching: structure knowledge in your own language and share it in many; improve internal communications and coordination within your organization and your networks; foster sustainable improvement of your services; and structure and publish your online courses, lessons and training at a high level of quality;
- Working: contribute to gender equality and the empowerment of women; build communities of knowledge; communicate with your network in all languages; and create multilingual questionnaires and surveys to optimize research, user queries and market analysis.

Also among Millennium2025's added value and key factors are the methods employed in its foresight studies of the best ways to make innovation beneficial for women, girls and youth, including actively sharing knowledge with all generations. This "e-Mentoring" concept is uniquely useful in worldwide efforts for the

empowerment of women and gender equality. The intelligence platform concept aims to create an inclusive, innovation-based tool to be used by communities of knowledge, all of whose members will thus be able to showcase their skills or outputs in keeping with the ethic and charter of Millennium2025. These applications are particularly relevant to the objectives of the sixty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women, and specifically to women's access to ICTs that can further their empowerment and their involvement in decision-making at all levels.

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