



WORLD FEDERATION OF UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATIONS

FEDERATION MONDIALE DES ASSOCIATIONS POUR LES NATIONS UNIES

A peoples' movement for the United Nations

Seminar on Futures Research Methodologies for the United Nations

Thursday 27 March – 3.00 pm

Conference Room E, United Nations Headquarters, New York

Organized by the World Federation of United Nations Associations in partnership with the NGO-Section/DESA

- Co-Chairs: Ms. Hélène-Marie Gosselin, Director, UNESCO Office in New York
Mr. Aleksander Gabelic, President, United Nations Association of Sweden
- Speakers: Mr. Jerome C. Glenn, Co-founder and Director of the Millennium Project
Mr. Theodore J. Gordon, Co-founder of the Millennium Project
Both co-authored the annual State of the Future report since 1997
- Respondents: Ms. Hanifa Mezoui, Chief of the NGO-Section/DESA
Ms. Linda Stoddart, Head of the United Nations Library

Overview

An increasing number of governments and UN agencies are creating future-oriented strategy or foresight units to contribute to their policy process and there is a growing number of methods and concepts to support these processes.

The Millennium Project has produced "Futures Research Methodology Version 2.0", a comprehensive manual with 27 different methods. It has just completed a review of 23 government futures strategy units. This seminar will share the results of both studies and explore applications for governments, UN agencies and civil society.

Participants will receive a basic understanding of futures research methods such as futures intelligence scanning systems, real time Delphi, futures wheel, cross-impact analysis, scenario construction and state of the future index (nations and world). Some concepts to be discussed include the factors of accelerated change, synergetic vs. competitive intelligence, transinstitutions, tele-nations, and holistic prioritization.

The seminar will open up a discussion on the possibility of creating an intranet to connect government and UN future strategy units with each other and with the UN system. Such a network could facilitate sharing insights that could improve global strategic research and planning to address issues such as global climate change and the MDGs.

The speakers will be Jerome C. Glenn who has 37 years experience in futures research with governments, corporations, universities, NGOs, and several UN Agencies. He co-founded and directs the Millennium Project www.millennium-project.org. Theodore J. Gordon, co-founder of the Millennium Project, inventor of the Real Time Delphi, Cross-Impact Analysis, State of the Future Index, Trend Impact Analysis, and manager of the Apollo rocket's third stage will give a briefing on the use of the Real Time Delphi method used by UNESCO.

The Millennium Project, founded in 1996, publishes the annual *State of the Future* report and is now under the auspices of the World Federation of UN Associations.

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