



Program
Friday, 7th of March 2008, Brussels, Belgium
09:00 a.m. - 03:00 p.m.

European Commission
in the DG INFSO's Building BU5 - Avenue de Beaulieu 5 - 1160 Brussels –
Meeting room 0A (groundfloor).

- 09:00** **Welcome by Dr. Rosalie Zobel**, Director Directorate G – Components and Systems,
European Commission DG Information Society and Media
- 09:10** **Welcome speech:**
- Gabriele Zedlmayer, VP of Corporate Affairs, Hewlett-Packard Company, USA*
- 09:30** **Creating a New Strategy for Gender in the Information Society:
Empowering Women in ICTs**
- Claudia Morrell, Executive Director, Center for Women and IT, UMBC,
Chair of ITF, member of UN GAID Champions Network
- 09:50** **Towards setting up the European Center for Women and Technology**
- Jørn Leknes, Special Advisor to the Minister for Government Administration
and Reform, Norway
 - Knut Brinchmann, CEO Papirbredden Innovasjon, Norway
 - Eva Fabry, Co-ordinator ITF – Europe, Member of the SC of the ITF,
European Affairs Manager, Papirbredden Innovasjon, Norway
- 10:10** **Coffee break**
- 10:30** **Plenary discussion: Process and logistics**
- 11:00** **Workshops:**
Four thematic groups: Education – Workforce – Entrepreneurship - Leadership
- 12:30** **Plenary report outs and discussion on strategy for an action plan**
- 13:45** **Closing Remarks**
- 14:00** **End of the meeting**
- Lunch**

**To be confirmed*



Background Since year 2005 the concerted **global initiative of the International Taskforce for Women and ICTs (ITF)** initiated by the Center for Women and Information Technology (CWIT), UMBC **aimed at increasing girls' and women's participation and leadership in ICT** has managed through the Leadership Meetings organized in Baltimore in 2005, in Paris in 2006 and in Kuala Lumpur in 2007 to mobilize around **100 key multi-stakeholders from all over the world** and energize high-level decision makers of the UN, UNESCO, the European Commission, the World Bank, the Inter American Development Bank, major multinational companies as HP, Texas Instruments, Cisco, Microsoft, IBM and Dell as well as dozens of regional public key actors, companies, universities, research institutes and regional and global NGOs to support a new **'Bold Global Multi-Stakeholder Strategy and Actionplan to bring about a major breakthrough in regard to women's participation in the knowledge-based economy'**.

The new strategy and action-plan was formed, based on a **Declaration of Agreement** and as a result of the two year long (2005-2007), high-level, multi-stakeholder process wherein the needs, capabilities, and target impact areas were identified, discussed and focused to provide an understanding of what must be accomplished for critical global change to ensure the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and related stakeholder goals.

As a result of the Leadership Meetings and consultations carried out in Baltimore in 2005, in Paris in 2006 and in Kuala Lumpur in 2007 **a broad consensus has emerged that there is a need to continue the global, transparent, multi-stakeholder dialog and setting up of a global hub 'Global Women and Technology' and Ten Regional Centers based on a global framework for bringing about major changes and achieving considerable impact** was seen by most participants as the optimal approach.

The goal is to ensure that the participation and leadership of women in education, entrepreneurship and employment in ICT globally is measurably and significantly increased within five years.

From Europe the European Commission DG INFSO participates as observer and Papir-bredde Innovasjon, Norway, WITEC, WINNET Europe, EPWS and the International Science and Technology Center (ISTC) -iEARN -Tbilisi, Georgia have been involved in the entire process since 2005.

On the 20th of October 2007 the core ITF-Europe group supported by several stakeholders from the public and private sector, academia and NGOs met for a pre-stakeholder meeting in Åbo. The proposal and plans towards setting up of a European Centre for Women and Technology that will be presented at the meeting are the results of the joint efforts of a rapidly growing multi-stakeholder platform.

Brief description

Participation at the meeting will be by invitation.

The Multi-Stakeholder Partnership meeting will achieve the following goals:

- Participants will get deeper insight into the global framework, how it will bring about a major breakthrough in regard to women and ICTs and the plans towards start-up of a European Center for Women and Technology
- Participants will understand the benefits to all stakeholders - "What's in it for me".
- Participants will be able to provide input and identify their role in the work of the centre