PRESENTATION

The Infopoverty World Conference, organized by OCCAM with the patronage of the European Parliament Information Office in Milan since 2001 on the wave of the proclamation of the Millennium Development Goals, points out yearly at the United Nations Headquarters in New York the most innovative solutions and the best practices elaborated with the United Nations system, governments and the civil society, to empower the fight to poverty. The Conference represents, for its continuity, operational capability and strong interoperability with the UN system, a unique global forum gathering leading experts, academics, opinion leaders, managers, government officials, philanthropists.

In particular, it has given rise to the Infopoverty Programme, which promotes and realizes actions on the ground using the ICTs as tools of development, having created the UN Millennium Village in Sambaina (Madagascar) and ICT Villages in Honduras, South Lebanon, Navajo Nation and Ethiopia.

The previous editions of our conference, collected in the E-book "15 Years of Infopoverty World Conference (2001-2015)", and especially the most recent, led to the launch of two institutions which serve as a model for new practices, e-MedMed and the World Food Security e-Center, capable to provide directly to communities in need Telemedicine, e-Learning, e-Training and e-agriculture services through a global digital platform.

After seventeen years of work and practical engagement in cooperation with the main stakeholders of the digital revolution worldwide, we are committed to discover and apply easier, low-cost and adequate solutions to meet the real needs of people with smart technologies. Everyday innovations create different scenarios and opportunities. The arising global connectivity made possible by the spreading use of mobile phones and smartphones is changing intimately people's life, reshaping communities, governance, and social relationships. As the observatory of digital revolution, OCCAM, launching with its partners the 17th edition of the Infopoverty World Conference, focuses the debate's attention on the high inequality of the development of ICT innovations which are generally destined to wealthy end-users' markets rather than to social growth, failing to offer solutions to fight poverty, hunger, health, to solve the most pressing global issues such as the migration and refugees crises, and to achieve universal education as stated by SDGs, cornerstone of the Infopoverty Programme.

How to overcome this handicap is the main theme of the 17th Infopoverty World Conference, providing concrete facts and best practices able to prove that digital services designed in line with the socio-economic development needs of the most disadvantaged populations could lead to relevant results in terms of health, food security, education, climate change, etc. Such solutions are particularly effective if powered by sensors of next generations, robotic devices and innovative methods by public and private operators, NGOs, IGOs, public or private institutions. It is of crucial importance for us to learn to think digital, which means to require clarity, transparency, effectiveness, active participation, community spirit, creativity, fellowship, beyond borders, cultures and the limits of knowledge, in order to develop the human resources with a massive transfer of technologies and knowledge, which make them able to create wealth for communities.

We appeal thus to the best entrepreneurial spirits, researchers, governments and institutions to join the 17th Infopoverty World Conference to find the best solutions for translating the vision of a truly global information society into reality, and to launch the concrete message that it is absolutely possible and it is a duty to eradicate poverty and make the world safer. NOW!

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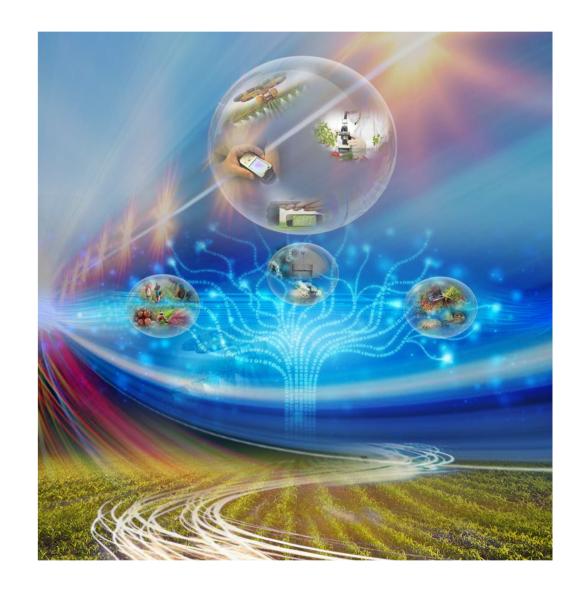to the UN in Geneva**
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XVII Infopoverty World Conference

OCCAM

TRANSFERRING KNOWLEDGE AND ADEQUATE TECHNOLOGIES:
THE WAY TO COMBAT POVERTY AND MAKE THE WORLD SAFER

INVITATION

April 21, 2017
New York, UN Headquarters - Conference Room 12
in videoconference with:
Milano, European Parliament Information Office - Sala Conferenze

live streamed on
UN WEB TV The United Nations Live & On-demand

www.occam.org   www.infopoverty.net

New York, United Nations Headquarters
Conference Room 12

10:00-10:30 – Opening Session

H.E. Amb. Sebastiano Cardi, *Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative of Italy to the UN (tbc)*

Daniela Bas, *Director, Division for Social Policy and Development, UN-DESA*

General Introduction

Pierpaolo Saporito, *OCCAM and Infopoverty President*

New York **Conference Room 12** **10:30 - 12:00**	**Milan, European Parliament** **Information Office** **16:30 - 18:00**

First Session

HOW ICTs CAN CONTRIBUTE TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: THE WORLD FOOD SECURITY e-CENTER

During the UNFCCC COP22 in Marrakech, the <u>World Food Security e-Center</u> (WFSeC) already discussed during the last edition of the Infopoverty World Conference has been finally validated as an ICT flagship project for rural development in emerging countries, mitigation of the migrant emergency, new opportunities of job creation and empowerment of local structures to fight poverty and hunger in the spirit of UN Sustainable Development Goals. As a follow-up to its endorsement, this special session will witness the presentation and inauguration of the Center, aimed at providing assistance to the more disadvantaged communities with regard to food security, through the creation of a bridge between specialised institutions that work as service providers and public and private institutions that will be the service users. This bridge is constituted by a technological platform that will assure the connectivity and the complete functionality of the Center.

Co-Chair: **Melchiade Bukuru,** *Chief, UNCCD Liaison Office in New York*

Sarbuland Khan, *Former Executive Coordinator, UN-GAID*

Carla Mucavi, *Director, FAO Liaison Office in New York (tbc)*

Gloria Kins, *Editor in Chief, Society & Diplomatic Review*

H.E. Amb. Abdallah Wafy, *Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative of Niger to the UN (tbc)*

Co-Chair: **Bruno Marasà,** *Director, European Parliament Information Office in Milan*

Giuseppe Castiglione, *Under-Secretary of State, Italian Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies (tbc)*

Roberto Maroni, *President, Regione Lombardia, Italy (tbc)*

Giuseppe Sala, *Mayor of Milan, Italy (tbc)*

Brando Benifei, *Committee on Employment and Social affairs, European Parliament*

Giovanni La Via, *Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Security, European Parliament (tbc)*

Arnoldo Mosca Mondadori, *Fondazione Cariplo*

Rita Pizzi, *HARP Telematic Platform, University of Milan*

Claudia Sorlini, *Steering Committee, WFSeC*

New York, United Nations Headquarters
Conference Room 12

12:00-13:00 – Second Session

HEALTH FOR ALL: THE ROLE OF TELEMEDICINE IN TRANSFERRING SKILLS TO VILLAGES

The previous experience of the Infopoverty Programme in the creation of ICT Villages, including the UN Millennium Village of Sambaina in Madagascar, proved that advanced clinical tests can decisively improve the life condition of disadvantaged communities by linking the most innovative centres directly to villages, thus saving lives, crops and livestocks through new protocols of distant care, ready to be launched in Sierra Leone and other countries along with correlated actions to prevent diseases by improving the quality of nutrition.

Chair: **H.E. Filippo Grandi,** *UN High Commissioner for Refugees (tbc)*

Christopher B. Smithers, *President, The Christopher D. Smithers Foundation*

Milton Wainberg, *Scientific co-director, Global Mental Health Program, Columbia University*

Madina Rahman, *Deputy Minister of Health and Sanitation, Sierra Leone*

Hossam Badrawi, *President, Nile Badrawi Foundation for Educaton and Development*

Enzo Bianco, *Mayor of Catania, Italy*

Kohsuke Hara, *Programme Manager, Development Programme Alliance Forum Foundation*

Asahi Ota, *Programme Officer and Nutritionist, Alliance Forum Foundation*

H.E. Amb. Koro Bessho, *Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative of Japan to the UN (tbc)*

14:30-16:00 – Third Session

THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION: MOVING FROM SMART CITIES TO ICT VILLAGES TO EMPOWER PEOPLE'S LIVES

This session will work as a forum to debate, discuss and promote new technological solutions for development in order to help disadvantaged communities and ensure an effective achievement of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals through the employment of ICTs. Nowadays, the industrial trend is focused to serve only a minority of the global population, thus overlooking the needs of the most economically and socially marginalised cities and countries. It is therefore right and proper to take into account these needs, and the role of ICTs proves here to be on one side an essential guarantee for a concrete development of these communities, and on the other side a great opportunity for corporations and producers of technological devices to open new and promising markets in order to make urban communities greener and more sustainable and, at the same time, empower rural areas with urban services.

Chair: **Joan Clos,** *Executive Director, UN-HABITAT (tbc)*

H.E. Amb. Zina Andrianarivelo-Razafy, *Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative of Madagascar to the UN (tbc)*

H.E. Amb. António Gumende, *Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative of Mozambique to the UN (tbc)*

H.E. Amb. Necton D. Mhura, *Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative of Malawi to the UN (tbc)*

Giovanna Bottani, *Operations Senior Consultant, STMicroelectronics Foundation*

Aliye P. Çelik, *President, Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization*

Yamina Djacta, *Former Director, UN-HABITAT New York Office*

Makoto Goda, *Nippon Biodiesel Fuel Co.*

Toshihiko Murata, *OCCAM Representative to the UN*

David Neely, *President & CEO, Affecting Change International*

New York, United Nations Headquarters
Conference Room 12

16:00-17:30 – Fourth Session

BUILDING A PLATFORM FOR THE SHARING OF KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGIES

This new paradigm could change the relationship between poor and wealthy people, donors and recipients, challenging everybody to express each his own identity choosing the best way to develop hidden capacities.

Considering the global financial crisis and the increasing difficulty in transferring money, with loans ever heavier, it is clear that if we could better valorise our large patrimony of knowledge, putting this at the disposal of those in need, we can accelerate the achievement of SDGs, through an intensive and innovative use of new smart and low cost technologies

The session will explore, with main stakeholders, government, the UN System, academia and civil society representatives, the best way to start action together, to act fast to achieve these goals.

Chair: **Susan Alzner,** *Head, UN-NGLS New York Office*

Saideh Browne, *President, National Council of Women*

Maria Grazia Cavenaghi-Smith, *OCCAM Liaison Officer; Former Director, EU Parliament Information Office in Milan and Marseille*

Patrizio Civili, *IDLO Permanent Observer to the UN*

Gary Fowlie, *Director, ITU Liaison Office to the UN*

Naoko Kimura, *Relationship Manager – Asia & Oceania, UN Global Compact*

Linda Spradley Dunn, *CEO, Odyssey Media*

Robert St. Thomas, *Smarter Solutions*

17:30-18:00 - Fifth Session:

CONCLUSIVE ROUNDTABLE

Held by the chairpersons of the sessions to formulate the results of the Conference and define them in the traditional final declaration, which will be delivered to the entire UN-System and the Governments.

ENDORSEMENT OF THE FINAL DECLARATION OF THE 17th IWC

Videomessage by **H.E. Staffan De Mistura,** *UN Special Envoy to Syria (tbc)*

In-between sessions, **UNAFF, OCCAM** and **IFTC-UNESCO** present short movies on the themes of Infopoverty from the

7th SIGNS OF CHANGE / 14th UNAFF TRAVELING FILM FESTIVAL NEW YORK

introduced by **Jasmina Bojic,** *Founder and Director, UNAFF/UNAFF Traveling Film Festivals*