



VII INFOPOVERTY WORLD CONFERENCE

Under the High Patronage of the President of the Italian Republic

The VII Infopoverty World Conference was held at the United Nations Headquarters on 19-20 April 2007 to discuss the theme "Harnessing the use of ICTs towards the Millennium Development Goals." It was organized under the patronage of the President of the Italian Republic and co-organized by the Observatory for Cultural and Audio-Visual Communication (OCCAM), the Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID), the University of Oklahoma, the European Parliament Office in Milan and Politecnico. The two-day Conference was attended by United Nations member-states, representatives of the United Nation system organizations, NGOs and civil society and private sector (see Annex I).

The outcome of the Conference were synthesized into the:

FINAL DECLARATION

Considering:

1. The Conference underlines: (i) the current imbalance between those who have access to new technologies and those who have not, in particular fields such as connectivity; (ii) energy gap; (iii) environmental emergencies; (iv) lack of products fit to the needs of new users; (v) financial structures that are too centralised and expensive; (vi) fragmentation in actions promoted by stakeholders; (vii) lack of interoperability of systems and standard; (viii) absence of primary health services; (ix) lack of coordination among programmes and projects.
2. The very effective concrete actions to improve conditions in disadvantaged communities indicated a strong convergence on the importance of the social use of ICTs; the solutions on renewable energies, connectivity, e-learning and telemedicine opening new perspectives at affordable costs for high level technologies. See Annex II.
3. The successful outcomes of last year edition of the Infopoverty World Conference, whose Final Declaration, as per the report that was submitted by OCCAM, has been widely implemented in regard to:
 - (i) The creation of a GRID of centres of excellence and the satellite platform of e-services for development
 - (ii) The duplication of the ICT Village model in communities in developing countries
 - (iii) The realisation of the Infopoverty Exhibition, held on February 6-10, 2007 at the Milan Fairground
 - (iv) The formulation of a strategy towards the bulk of users.
4. Reaffirming the call of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) to transform the spirit and vision of its Plan of Action and Agenda for the Information Society into reality, and to promote multi-stakeholder dialogue and partnerships in promoting the use of ICT for the achievement of internationally-agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

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The participants in the VII Infopoverty World Conference

Appreciate the continued patronage of the President of the Italian Republic for the realization of the series of the Infopoverty World Conferences;

Appreciate the continued support of the European Parliament;

Appreciate the United Nations Global Alliance for ICT and Development for facilitating the Conference and leading the whole process, making all stakeholders converge to achieve the Millennium Development Goals;

Invite the stakeholders to promote partnerships for the following mentioned projects whose objective fall in line with the ECOSOC initiative on the United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development (UNPPA):

- (i) In Madagascar **to strengthen further** the Sambaina ICT Village inaugurated in 2006 which has already demonstrated promising and tangible results under the patronage of H.E. Mr. Marc Ravalomanana, President of Madagascar;
- (ii) In the Dominican Republic **to implement** the ICT Village at Constanza;
- (iii) In Angola **to launch** a plan for ICT for development activities;
- (iv) In Honduras **to strengthen** the activities in San Francisco Lempira and San Ramon, inaugurated in 2000;
- (v) In Liberia **to develop** a strategic platform to fight poverty harnessing the use of ICTs;
- (vi) In Navajo nation **to sustain** their best practices for dissemination through the Indigenous People Program.

Sustain the programme *Feeding the Planet - Energy for life* presented by the City of Milan

Promote a research on specific needs in ICTs of civil society/NGOs and United Nations system organizations, to search the common requests and create a market critical mass of **bulk users** to grant higher value and quality.

Adhere to the Infopoverty Community of Expertise under the Global Alliance for ICT and Development to make the Platform of e-services for development more effective.

Approve and **encourage** all stakeholders to be coalition partners for the creation of a **Permanent UN-ICT Village labs and exhibits**, proposed by OCCAM, in the light of the success of the Infopoverty Exhibition– aimed at testing and showcasing innovative solutions at affordable costs for the needs of emerging countries and disadvantaged communities to facilitate the wide and integrated implantation of new technologies for development.

Invites OCCAM, with the support of all stakeholders and organizations mentioned in Annex 2 to prepare a report to the VIII Infopoverty Conference on progress achieved in mobilizing support and its impact on the identified countries for partnership.

Decide to hold the next Infopoverty World Conference in April 2008 proposing the following issue: **'Low Cost – High Technologies: a new approach for development'**, requesting all stakeholders to actively support the above mentioned initiatives and facilitate the organization of the Infopoverty World Conference 2008.

April 19-20, 2007
New York, UN Headquarters, Room 8-9

Annex 1: List of Participants

Annex 2: Report on projects presented