



## **ICTs AS THE TOOLS FOR EVERYONE TO ACHIEVE DIGNITY AND FREEDOM**

### **FINAL DECLARATION**

#### *The participants of the 16<sup>th</sup> Infopoverty World Conference:*

##### *Appreciating:*

- The Patronage of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and the support of the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations;
- The message of H.E. On. Giuseppe Castiglione, Italian Undersecretary of Agriculture;
- The participation of representatives from Permanent Missions to the United Nations of UN Member States; of representatives from UN-OHRLS, UNCCD, ITU, FAO, UN-CRPD, IDLO, UN-Habitat, UN- SIDS, UN Global Compact, UN-NGLS; and of numerous non-governmental stakeholders active in the process of sustainable and digital development;
- The role of OCCAM, the Observatory for the Digital Revolution, founder and main organizer of the Infopoverty Conference, with the Infopoverty Institute at the University of Oklahoma;
- Support provided by the sponsors: NEC, Smithers Foundations, D2L, Allscripts, Society & Diplomatic

##### *Considering:*

- The digital revolution, that is now well established and whose software has reshaped almost every aspect of contemporary living, hastened by the growing and universal use of multi-functional mobile phones, enables a strong empowerment of everyone's capabilities, providing all of us with instruments to improve our knowledge, education, problem-solving and communication skills, all of which makes us able to reach almost anyone else on the planet and acquire goods, services, and information;
- This opens a new era of sharing economy in which everyone is able to play a role, find a purpose and craft resources for his or herself and the entire community, leading to profound changes in the human relations system and gradually enabling a resetting of our basic social structure.
- The younger generation, which falls between the old pre-digital world, transmitted by educational and parental codes, and the new freedom, can contribute to the creation of a better physical and social environment, where human dignity can be fully affirmed;
- The UN, through the launch of the new Sustainable Development Goals for the Agenda 2030, indicates the path; however, to contribute to the abolition of poverty and assure health, food security, gender equality, education and so forth to everyone, depends on the convergences of industries, governments and consumers, in order to address the major needs of the population in a fair and dignified way, and create a new digital era better than the current one.

DECLARE that, in order to realize these premises:

It is essential to empower capabilities in dignity and freedom of each individual, providing them not only with a market-oriented connection, but enriching them with essential and specific digital services in order to give them access to adequate levels of education, health, food security and governance to guarantee the basic human rights.

This effort requires a strong cooperation between different entities: Governments, UN Organizations, civil society, ICT companies, private and public institutions, financial entities and donors and so forth, in order to form a focused coalition to provide the best digital services to all, to deal with rising needs related to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

# 16<sup>th</sup> Infopoverty World Conference

## *“ICTs as the tools for everyone to achieve dignity and freedom”*

14-15 April 2016, Conference Room 12, United Nations Headquarters, New York

The participants of the Infopoverty World Conference, acting as a “living network of knowledge”, are committed to concretely contribute to the fulfillment of this vision, built on the outcomes of the previous editions of the Conference – as presented by Pierpaolo Saporito, Infopoverty President – resulting in the realization of the Global Platform of Digital Services, – which consist in a network of high level Services Providers (academies, laboratories, experts, IGO) related to Services Users (countries, communities) able to democratize knowledge, moving competencies and technologies to fight poverty (SDG 1) – and the launch of two new entities: the World Food Security e-Center (SDG2) and the eMedMedProgram (SDG3) devoted to sharing digital services on food security, telemedicine, e-learning and social-economic e-governance.

In particular, the Participants noted:

On the Global Platform to fight poverty (SDG 1) suggested by Secretary General Ban Ki Moon in his “Road to Dignity” speech, significant contributions have come from:

- H. E. Giuseppe Castiglione (Italian Undersecretary of State for Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security), who stated that, in order to achieve dignity for all, it is necessary to renew global partnerships and enhance stronger capacity building using new tools such as this Global Platform; recognizing the significant role played by the Infopoverty Program and reaffirming the interest of the State of Italy in being a leading actor in the use of technology to promote better health and food security.
- Emilia Gatto (Plenipotentiary Minister of Italy to the UN), who stated that the main goal of the Conference is to discuss how to achieve the SDGs set in different domains of the Global platform. Given 2016 as the year of implementation, she highlighted that we must work to “build the roadmap to dignity by 2030,” borrowing the UN Secretary General’s words;
- Patrizio Civili (IDLO Permanent Observer to UN), who stated that ICTs are a key in finding the right approaches to the sustainable development of our world; Judit Arenas (IDLO Mandate), who stated that ICTs possess a singular power in the empowerment of people, since they offer instruments to achieve democratization, access to information, empowering and equality. Technology should be used to build transparency in all fields, including justice;
- Masahiro Ikeno (President and CEO, NEC Europe), who presented NEC’s vision to provide infrastructures for all people via the ICT and become a social value innovator by empowering security, safety, efficiency and equality. NEC has launched the Era of IoT, Internet of Things: the collecting of large-scale data by sensors, analysis and prediction, providing solutions to social issues by improving productivity and efficiency. NEC’s platform was also applied to the field of agriculture and financial inclusion. The goal is to ensure sustainable community development through the collaboration of facilitators, local communities and ICT Providers;
- Robert St. Thomas (IBM, Smarter Solutions Delivery Executive), who presented the Global Development Exchange, a conceptual layer to connect users to service providers. Non-technical components need to be included to adapt the Information and Communication Technologies for Development (ICT4D) in a culturally effective matter to the abilities of the people that use them, increasing the resiliency of cities and villages. The key is using the citizens’ local knowledge and the resources available to them and tailor the best possible protocols within regions;
- John E. Steffens (Vice Provost Emeritus, University of Oklahoma), advises in this agenda we see the demonstration of ICT4D supported sustainable development. These demonstrations engage multiple collaborators contributing to independent and interdependent development within countries. 21st century sustainable development necessitates multiple contributors, collaborating to reach sustainable solutions. Working through global exchange and platform networks facilitates collaboration.
- Amerigo B. Zampetti (Senior Officer, UN-OHRLS), who underlined the importance of providing the rural areas with electricity and connectivity, in order to ensure the generalized access to the services of the Platform;
- Katsuhiko Imada (Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Japan to the UN), who suggested the integration of the economic, social and developmental dimensions in the fields of global warming, health care, education, and disaster prevention by harnessing the potential of the ICTs;
- Gary Fowlie (Director, ITU Liaison Office to the UN), who stressed that the universal access to technology is not just a technical issue, but a human rights issue and an opportunity to create global sustainability and cooperation;
- Yamina Djacta (Director, UN-HABITAT NY office), who stated that the Global Platform could connect cities, focal centers of economic activities, and villages, the production poles, in order to counterbalance the existing socio-economical gap and guarantee better urban security;
- Liberato C. Bautista (President of the Conference of NGOs of the Religious at UN), who stressed the fact that it is necessary to include ethics in using ICTs, particularly in a democratic way. ICTs have to be used as a global public good to guarantee human dignity and human rights;

# 16<sup>th</sup> Infopoverty World Conference

## *“ICTs as the tools for everyone to achieve dignity and freedom”*

14-15 April 2016, Conference Room 12, United Nations Headquarters, New York

- Susan Alzner (Office in Charge, UN Non-Governmental Liaison Services), who explained how encouraging diversity through the effective use of the ICTs Platform can increase the opportunities and capabilities of civil society, not only on the local and national level but also on the global level;
- Hon. Tanya R. Kennedy (Supreme Court Justice, State of New York), who advocated for real gender equality in the use of ICTs, by increasing public awareness of cyber-stalking and cyber-harassment. Those issues limit the opportunities for women to have social interactions, as well as pursuits of education and wealth;
- Joan Alice Katen (Professor of Political Science & Peace and Justice Studies), who explained the benefits of the ICTs for women, and suggested three main actions to help achieving gender equality through ICTs and the Global Platform: digital education, training in the use of technology, and working towards peace by means of technological advancement;
- H.E. Mr. Ahmed Sareer (Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Maldives to the UN), who contributed the perspective of the Small Island States, understanding and embracing the opportunities the ICTs offer as key enablers of social economic development, and advocated for investments in technologies for health, education, and politics in the frame of the SAMOA Pathway.
- Amjad Umar (Professor of ICTs, Harrisburg University), who introduced the Data Base project for ICT4SIDS Partnership, a blueprint for the rapid adoption of the SAMOA pathway and the attainment of the SDGs. In order to extend the use of ICTs as much as possible in rural, regional and national areas, a database has been created, to take advantage of all the resources in the fields of telemedicine and e-governance;
- John Mwaipopo (Project manager, ICT4SIDS, Tanzania), who presented a University program in Tanzania integrating ICT4SIDS into the curriculum, to educate and train teachers, geared towards primary and secondary education.
- Toshihiko Murata (Representative of OCCAM to the UN), who stated the importance of cooperation among the UN Member States, UN agencies, Civil Society, NGOs and Private Sector to realize SDGs through ICT.
- Naoko Kimura (Relationship Manager Asia and Oceania, UN Global-Compact), who expressed her continuous support to the Conference and appreciated the results achieved in the previous editions, and the development brought forward by the stakeholders during the Session she led as Chair.

On the World Food Security e-Center (WFSeC), a model launched in Milan as legacy of Expo 2015 that aims at reducing malnutrition and ending hunger (SDG 2), significant contributions have come from:

- Bruno Marasà (Director, European Parliament information office in Milan), who underlined the continuous support since 2001 of the European Parliament, which gives great importance to these projects, able to hasten the development in the emerging countries and empower the European policies for international cooperation;
- Mariann Kovacs (Senior Liaison Officer, FAO New York), who mainly discussed the legacy of Expo Milano 2015, an international event aimed at spreading the message that a world without hunger is possible. Kovacs stated she was proud of being part of the World Food Security e-Center, and she recalled the many activities related to food security and nutrition organized during Expo, with FAO as an active partner;
- Melchiade Bukuru (Chief UNCD Liaison office in New York), who explained the serious risks of desertification and stated that land reclamation is a good investment in order to improve food production and empower rural communities. He also praised the operational scheme of the World Food Security e-Center and the creation of a new sensor for water inspection;
- Ruggero Gabbai (President, Municipal Commission Expo Milano), who highlighted Milan's primary position to become the Hub for food security. He recognized the success of Expo, that gave the opportunity to sign the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact. He also gave his support to the WFSeC and he welcomed other actors to become part of the project;
- Claudia Sorlini (Chairperson, Expo 2015 Science Committee), who emphasized the need for institutions to form international networks in order to realize and share the best practices. She explained that a sustainable production and supply chain, combined with a digital platform for e-services in agriculture and management, could not only advance agriculture but also prevent diseases, preserve food, and optimize the diet;
- Eugenie Salebongo Basoy (Secretary General for External commerce, DR Congo), who expressed the full availability of her country to collaborate in the establishment of the WFSeC in Africa, in order to provide good practices in agriculture, forestry and fisheries. She also highlighted the need of dealing with the food gap between regions, in order to ensure access to food to all, with an efficient sanitary control;
- Carolina Requena (Delegate of the Mayor of Sao Paulo, Brazil), who announced the interest of the Mayor of São Paulo in cooperating with Milan to discuss policies for food security, like the one approved in the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact. She also expressed the ambition of fighting hunger through the development of the WFSeC in Latin America;
- Brando Benifei (Member of Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, European Parliament), who mentioned the European Parliament's support and recognized the need to take advantage of the digital revolution in order to obtain food and water security. He also highlighted the credibility of the World Food Security e-Center as central hub of all the activities pertaining the work of Expo;

# 16<sup>th</sup> Infopoverty World Conference

## *“ICTs as the tools for everyone to achieve dignity and freedom”*

14-15 April 2016, Conference Room 12, United Nations Headquarters, New York

- J. Douglas Reid Green (Expert, BASF Corporation), who presented the Military Veterans Employee Resource Group (VETS), a program that focuses on providing the veterans with strong skills in botany, entrepreneurship and cultivation that they can use raising fish and cultivating thousands of vegetables in inner-city green areas. The Program has been very impactful and represents a sustainable way of allowing veterans to readjust into civilian life.
- Pallassana Parameswara Kanthan (Former Deputy Director, Commonwealth Secretariat), who stated that historically, communities that had taken advantage of scientific and technological developments had succeeded, whereas those which failed to do so had not progressed. This was true of both the agricultural and the industrial revolutions. We now face the information revolution. Governments, Academia and the UN system have sped up digital development to keep up with global markets. The need of the hour is to ensure effective coordination among these various stakeholders through a seamless flow of information between them, keeping the Global Platform in mind;
- Armine Avagyan (FAO Delegate), who stated that Expo Milan was a landmark event that FAO and the UN system were proud to take part in, in order to foster dialogue and raise awareness about food security, nutrition, rural development and the sustainable management of natural resources.

On the eMedMed Project and Telemedicine as a mean to ensure Good Health and Well-Being (SDG 3), significant contributions have come from:

- Enzo Bianco (Mayor of Catania), who in a message explained how he has been dealing with the great migrant emergency in Sicily since the second half of the 1990s. Medical care is one of the biggest issues Sicily is facing, and the eMedMed project in Catania promoted by OCCAM has been of key importance, as the development of modern technology enables the effective use of Telemedicine. The City of Catania will do its part, with a strong sense of humanity, to establish an operative Hub;
- Francesco Sicurello (President of Institute for Telemedicine), who illustrated the eMedMed Project, designed with OCCAM, aimed at supporting the refugees and guaranteeing sanitary assistance to disadvantaged communities. The project involves the Countries of the Mediterranean Area (Morocco, Libya, Egypt and Tunisia) in multiple actions and provides them with special digital devices to connect up with the network of 20 hospitals of the Area. Telemedicine, the application of ICTs in health care in order to support doctors and patients, is a central field in the fight to this end;
- Francesco Santocono (Professor on Health Law, University of Benevento), who explained how the eMedMed project utilizes an efficient communication system by connecting all actors involved and coordinating the exchange of information in the fields of health and medical assistance. The objective is the construction of an “health identity” system and a map of health determinants and risk factors, by providing operators with a mobile health unit equipped with satellite system. All the data gathered is transmitted to the central Hub of Catania, to analyze migration flows and the pathogenic causes of diseases. A University Master’s Program in Telemedicine was also launched;
- Steven H. Shaha (DBA, Principal Outcomes Consultant, Allscripts), who emphasized the importance of guidance in relation to health issues. Shaha stressed that Internet wasn’t created for business profit, but for caring for people who need caring for. Programmability, user-friendliness, universal access for clinicians and complete analytics are key factors. It is crucial to have a single source of insight, well-coordinated with other diagnostic systems, state Governments, and national information networks, to allow better consulting services, wellness, and Tele-Health;
- Tat'ána Kuchařová (Chairman of the board of Trustees, Beauty of Help), who presented her Foundation “Beauty of Help” for senior citizens in the Czech Republic, whose goal is to prevent institutionalization and keep seniors close to their loved ones, homes, and professional cares to create more possibilities for them. The Foundation also tries to ensure seniors stay active and integrated in society. Kuchařová has also attempted to motivate younger generations to connect with older ones: in this field the new technologies are the key;
- Christopher Smithers (President, Smithers Foundation), who sent a message showing how the use of the new technologies offered by ICTs can improve health and lower alcohol abuse. He underlined that in order to achieve this commitment we need to determine a series of golden rules.
- Aliye Celik (President, Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization), who stressed that cities need to be planned in a way that makes them able to provide services of higher quality to all; in the case of mass migrations health is often at risk, due to unsanitary water, the spread of infections and diseases and accidents. The access to public services such as education and basic health care must be secured. ICTs could be a great mean to meet those needs, as is showed by the effective role of Telemedicine in dealing with migrants in Mediterranean;
- Alvaro de Marichalar (Member of the Royal Sea Academy of Spain), who, recognizing the lack of efforts and cooperation among the European Nations to support Italy and Greece, urged Europe to be more united and stop the causes of migrations. He also advocated for the involvement of the private sector in facing and solving these issues;
- George Mathew (Chairman, Institute of Social Science), who presented the NITI, National Institution for Transforming India, which is developing projects such as the NMEICT Initiative, a web-based portal for higher education learners, and Kilkari, a mobile app developed by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation that delivers weekly audio messages on pregnancy,

# 16<sup>th</sup> Infopoverty World Conference

## *“ICTs as the tools for everyone to achieve dignity and freedom”*

14-15 April 2016, Conference Room 12, United Nations Headquarters, New York

childbirth and so forth. Mobile internet coverage is expected to reach over 371 million by June 2016 and the focus needs to be on rural areas, with technologies such as a mobile app to monitor rural employment scheme;

- Lisa Novajosky Smith (IBM Federal Healthcare, Collaborative Solutions and Technologies), who presented the “Clusters of Compassion” collaboration that aims to deliver healthcare in areas with little to no physicians. Adapting to environment is of crucial importance while dealing with technology and there need to be international connections to develop small non-profit models for the needy;
- John G. Kenerson M.D (FACC, Co-Founder, Colleagues in Care, World Hypertension League), who presented Colleagues in Care, a healthcare model developed in Haiti, extendable to the rest of the world. The core of the model is to empower medical workers using cloud technology to connect hundreds of doctors and nurses. Small, simple efforts are sufficient to treat diseases. In the “best possible practice” model more people should be granted access, and the NGOs must be involved to train their professionals as well;
- Luigi Giannazzo (President, One Sanità, Italian private organization), who stated that ICTs are the tools for everyone to achieve dignity and freedom and that projects such as the eMedMed Project are models that every person, regardless of race, religion, social and economic status and political belief, has the right to have access to;
- Michael Mathews (Chief Information Officer, Oral Roberts University), who focused his speech on how to implement Geonetics through Geovision technologies in order to bring education to everyone all over the world. By nanosized technology and through telepresence robots, ORU is able to teleport every student's faculty and curriculum anywhere in the world: this also means that around 1.5 billion disabled people, who cannot physically attend college, will have the chance. ORU also launched a global learning center with a portal that can be used in 85 countries;
- John Baker (Founder and President, D2L), who said that education is not only life-changing to the people receiving it, but also to the communities in which they live. For instance, the women involved in the “1000 Women project” didn't talk about education changing them or their individual perspectives, but about how it could change their children's future. In the same way, refugees should be able to pick up their education where they left it off and, despite economic and social differences, everyone should be able to achieve their potential in life;
- Sugandha Sukrutaraj (Founder and CEO, AMBA, India), who presented AMBA, the Learning Model for Adults with Developmental challenges in India with the goal of providing sustainable livelihood to individuals with moderate to severe intellectual disability using Information Technology and peer driven processes. AMBA collaborates with Special Institutions that address livelihood for adults with IQs of 65 and lower and helps them develop into hubs for ‘Learning and Earning’, with appropriate training in the field of computing to enable high quality and accurate back office data entry for various clients, thus maximizing the potential of the community of adults with intellectual disability by economically empowering them;
- Gloria Starr-Kins (President Kins Group Publications), who stressed the importance of the empowerment of women to achieve gender equality on the internet. She also highlighted the importance of Telemedicine in the field of health because it allows the remote monitoring of pregnant women and newborns.

Appreciated the inspiring contributions on Gender Equality (SDG 5) that have come from:

- Maria Grazia Cavenaghi-Smith (OCCAM Liaison Officer), who chaired this session, stressed that fulfilling SDGs goal 5 to “Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular ICT, to promote the empowerment of women” is our aim. Progress have been made, but in order to fill the large gap still existing between the genders in the accessibility and use of internet, we must promote gender specific policies, and implement and monitor dedicated action lines to mainstream gender in the ICTs.
- Susan Johnson Cook (Former US Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom), who highlighted the need to achieve the goal of gender equality through the ICTs. She recognized that significant improvements have been made but she noted that the internet still gets restricted too much in several countries;
- Saideh Browne (Vice President Development and Public Affairs, US National Council of Women), who denounced the fewer opportunities for women to access technology globally. She stressed the need for women to use all of the free tools available to them to share and amplify their voice so that no one is left behind;
- Linda Spradley Dunn (CEO, Odyssey Media), who advocated for a combined effort in order to achieve gender equality, which represents the fifth Sustainable Development Goal. She also supported the idea that social media and ICTs might help younger generation to live in a world with less gender inequality;
- Ilyasah Shabazz (Activist, Author and Educator), who stated that young women have to recognize their individual power, their leadership role, their participation and contribute to the society. We need to pass over every race or gender differences, to achieve truth and justice; through internet we are able to shine a light over that.

In conclusion, the Final Round table, taking in consideration the overall discussion, concluded:

## 16<sup>th</sup> Infopoverty World Conference

### *“ICTs as the tools for everyone to achieve dignity and freedom”*

14-15 April 2016, Conference Room 12, United Nations Headquarters, New York

- To offer the UN system the access to the Global Platform of Digital Services as implemented, with the contribution of the stakeholders;
- To validate the WFSec as a new institution able to be an effective instrument to fight hunger, inviting all the participants to support it, activating in their country or organization their relevant areas of expertise;
- To approve the eMedMed program on telemedicine devoted to migrants and refugees, as a concrete application of ICTs to alleviate the emergency;
- To assume the conference as a Living Network of Knowledge, developing a great convergence to improve the evolution of the ICTs from a market-oriented to a people-centered perspective, able to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs; encouraging the role of women and that of the younger generation in leading this process;
- To launch an appeal to all stakeholders to take part in the INFOPOVERTY PROGRAM 2016-2017, which endorses this statement, and will be oriented *in primis* towards the Least Developed Countries and the Small Islands States;
- To invite the participants to be active part of the Goodwill ICT Coalition focused on the realization of the above stated tasks;
- To establish, to this end, a Steering Committee, open to the participants, that will be instituted to monitor and promote the prompt actualization of the outlined projects; and to program the 17<sup>th</sup> Infopoverty World Conference in the first half of April 2017, focusing on progress in the implementation of the present Declaration;
- To invite OCCAM, as the acting agency of the Infopoverty Program, to continue serving as the Permanent Secretariat of the Conference and the Program, and to formally constitute the Steering Committee, inviting candidatures.