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Observatory for
Cultural and Audiovisual
Communication



Mediterranean Programme



Università Cattolica
del Sacro Cuore

II World Infopoverty Conference: “from possible solutions to action”

May 13 2002, Aula Magna, Università Cattolica, Milan, Italy

FINAL DECLARATION

In the light of the global situation in fighting Info-poverty almost a year away from the 1st Infopoverty World Conference, held in Milan on June 18, 2001

the 2nd Infopoverty World Conference proposes to adopt the following Declaration:

Considering that:

the Digital Divide continues to expand, creating more inequities between developed and developing countries, and within other countries themselves;

Internet access continues to be reserved for a minority of the world population;

the Digital divide is spreading social and economic differences within countries and populations.

The 2nd Infopoverty World Conference:

Affirms the need to define a global strategy in fighting info-poverty, based on convergent actions of international institutions, governments and local authorities, private institutions and non-governmental organizations.

The Alliance will be based on the following pillars:

- Open collaboration between those who are rich in technology and those who do not;
- Knowledge sharing to maximize access;
- Coordinated actions to meet a broad digital literacy;
- Development of innovative technological products (INFO-KIT) oriented as necessary for disadvantaged communities;
- Development of appropriate management skills;
- Pilot projects of communication models in integrated technology disadvantaged communities, mainly rural, based on positive experiences in Honduras.

Recommends:

- The creation of an internal coordination and operational alliance: the Info-poverty Programme, sponsored by OCCAM, by asking to all those who work following these same principles to participate in the Program.
- The need to support the initiative of the Government of Honduras to expand the model villages solar.net in a more advanced program COMUNITEC in the border region TRIFINIO, as means of improving, at low costs and in a short time, the social and economic conditions of a third of the country;
- The promotion of international participation to create an investment fund to finance specific Infopoverty programs and projects in the border regions of Central America;
- The urgent participation and technical and financial support, of multilateral international organizations, including the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI);
- The massive support to similar projects in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Oceania.

Invokes:

- The World Summit on the Information Society, which will be held in Geneva in 2003, to find out a solution to the problems of disparities and inconsistencies in the field of copyright and protocols regarding connectivity, transmissions, software, hardware, wireless, aiming to make communication a good open and accessible to all;
- The European Commission, in order to intensify its efforts to bridge the Digital Divide;
- The next EU-Latin America & the Caribbean Summit, to be held on May 17-18, 2002 in Madrid, ensuring that this Final Declaration is the basis for its decision on the new strategies in the fight Info-poverty in the region.

Decides to promote the implementation of these principles and to transmit this Declaration to the Italian President of the Republic, the Italian President of the Council of Ministers, the Secretary General of the United Nations, the Director-General of UNESCO, the President of the Parliament, the European Commission and IFAD, to Chiefs of States, Governments and public and private institutions involved in fighting Info-poverty.

Approves the proposal made by the US delegates to hold the next Conference Infopoverty 2003 in Washington DC (USA).