INFOPOVERTY WORLD CONFERENCE

SOTTO L'ALTO PATRONATO DEL PRESIDENTE DELLA REPUBBLICA
CON IL PATROCINIO DELLA PRESIDENZA DEL CONSIGLIO DEI MINISTRI

Institutions and participants to the III Infopoverty World Conference propose, and hereby approve, the adoption of the following Declaration:

Bearing in mind that:

- New communication technologies are deeply changing peoples' lives, creating new opportunities as well as new disparities
- Reaching the UN Millennium Development Goals is the first target in order to guarantee human rights, freedom , democracy and well-being to our society
- The new Information Society must be focused on Citizens and their Communities
- The plurality of different cultures assures a balanced development of our civilization, in full respect of the environment
- The right to education is at the basis of social and economic growth
- Most of the population of the world is still at the edge of this growth, afflicted by poorness and diseases, and cannot take advantage of the opportunities arising from the technological development

Affirm:

- The necessity to improve the jointed work to grant to these communities, through the best existing technologies, a free, universal and cheap access to the world wide web, in order to participate to the technological, social and economic development
- The urgency to find applicative solutions for web services, strictly useful for the socio-economical and cultural development, as, for instance, the e-learning, the tele-medicine or those service which attempt to promote the handicraft and the e-commerce on wider range, to facilitate the conditions of disabled people and to increase the value of different kinds of cultural identities
- The interest to participate and sustain the INFOPOVERTY NETWORK, launched by OCCAM, as a tool for working to multiply effects of single actions or programmes and translate them into a global vision, promoted through this Conference
- The necessity to promote and advertise the values, which affirm the human dignity and give the society a unity, without which it is not possible to have a renewed social peace
- The necessity, as for the other instruments of mass communication, to establish rules for the Internet able to guarantee democracy

Recommend:

- To favour jointed actions by international institutions, both public and private, governments, NGOs, research foundations and Universities, considered as an alliance which joins ethical and market instances, as foreseen by the Global Compact, launched by the UN General Secretary
- To receive the call of Staffan de Mistura, Personal Representative of UN General Secretary to South Lebanon, for the development of initiatives aimed at widespread diffusion of new technologies in Palestinian Refugee Communities
- To sustain the e-communidad programme undersigned by the Forum of Vice-Presidents of Central America, planning the creation of more than 500 telematic villages
- To strongly sustain similar experiences launched, or under consideration, in other African, Asian, Latin American and Oceania countries
- To support research and information activities promoted by the Observatory for a constant evaluation of the most innovative and effective projects in order to fight Infopoverty, supported by an analysis of the practical results

Appeal:

- To the President of the Italian Republic, Mr. Ciampi, who honoured us with his Patronage, so that, during the six-months Italian Presidency of the European Union, Italy could pilot initiatives to strongly aid developing countries in fighting the digital divide
- To the World Summit on Information Society, which will be held in Geneva at the end of 2003 and of which this Conference represent a preliminary meeting, to solve the problem of disparities in records and copyrights related to connectivity, transmissions, sw and hw systems, so that communication, wealth of the humankind, could be free and accessible to all
- To the European Commission, in order to improve its efforts to fight digital divide, with adequate support actions, appropriate to overcome the existing gap and revitalize the European technological market through the empowerment of exchanges and investments with developing countries
- To the G8 countries, in accordance to the Evian summit's guidelines, in order to develop concrete and helpful policies toward emerging economies, and destining a relevant quote of these funds to the diffusion of new technologies in these countries

It gives mandate to the Promoting Committee to put into effect these principles and to transmit this declaration to the President of the Italian Republic, to the Italian Prime Minister, thanking them for their Patronage, to the United Nations Secretary General, to the UNESCO General Director, to the IFAD President, to the FAO General Director thanking them for the support from their institutions, to the Heads of State and Government, to the responsibles of public and private Organisations and Foundations, which are involved in the fight against the world Infopoverty

It proposes the convocation of the IV Infopoverty World Conference on April 29th and 30th, 2004, with the title: **"New Frontiers of the ICTs: Services for Development"** hoping that next year the participation of partner institutions could be improved and ameliorated by hosting some videoconference sessions.