V INFOPOVERTY WORLD CONFERENCE

Under the Patronage of the President of the Italian Republic
Under the Patronage of the Presidency of the Italian Council of Ministers

FINAL DECLARATION

Considering that:

- Fighting poverty is a priority settled by the Millennium Development Goals;

- In the last 5 years, the Infopoverty Conference has provided solutions which demonstrates that the new technologies, if well employed, can play a pivotal role in solving educational, health, cultural and material community development problems;

- Cooperation between all the stakeholders of the Information Society is a key to distribute best practices and methodologies to optimize future actions;

- The current marketing and research activities still have rich and saturated markets as targets, whereas new products should meet the needs of developing States, often without electricity and connectivity;

- Bringing new products to poor people can give economic benefits to business, and at the same time to improve the social and economic conditions of the most disadvantaged communities;

Remembering that:

- The UN Secretary General Report named "Promoting an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for poverty eradication and sustainable development" (E/2003/51); the consequent High Level Segment Ministerial Declaration (E/2003/L.9); the UN General Assembly Resolution named "Towards Global Partnership" (A/RES/58/129); the UN Public-Private Global Alliance for Rural Development (E/2004/L.32).

The participants of the 5th Infopoverty World Conference,

which includes more than 100 institutions, with about 150 speakers in ten different locations connected in videoconference,

- Decide to potentiate the global partnership support, and in this context to make efforts in particular to promote the UN Public-Private Global Alliance for Rural Development;

- Strongly support, in the context of the Infopoverty programme, the following actions for the 2005-2006 period:

- o Implementation of the Borj Touil ICT Village replicable model for the WSIS, as elaborated by an ad-hoc advisory board and presented at the PrepCom2, following the WSIS 2003 Action Plan guidelines, in particular reference to the achievement of the global connection with adequate services;

- o Creation of a broadband digital platform, able to transform knowledge in effective and accessible services to fight poverty, activating adequate procedures to allow active participation of every stakeholder, as international organizations, NGOs and civil society;

- Advise and support the following initiatives presented during the Conference, aimed at:
  - o Demonstrate the effectiveness of ICTs in fighting poverty promoting institutes in sectors as water-culture, drinkable water, health and prevention on the abuse of substances;

  - o Show how the use of ICTs is closely related with the improvement of life conditions of poor people all over the world, launching specific actions in developing countries such as Cameroon, Ethiopia, Pakistan, Peru, Rwanda, Senegal and others;

  - o Bring politicians, experts and scholars, through the Infopoverty Institute, to share their common goals and to present effective results and best practices in the common interest of fighting poverty;

- Turns to:
  - o The World Summit on the Information Society, which will be held in Tunis at the end of 2005, and of which this Conference is a preliminary meeting, in order to include these actions in the WSIS Stocktaking activities database, as pointed out to reach the MDGs through ICTs. In that occasion, the Infopoverty Seminar will illustrate the results and follow up the activities of the 5th Infopoverty World Conference;

  - o H.E. Zine el Abdin Ben Ali, President of the Republic of Tunisia, offering our congratulations to him and to the Tunisian government for their crucial activity in promoting ICTs for Development and thanking him for the granting of the ICT Village project approved during the 4th Infopoverty World Conference in 2004, making sure that the model can be replicable in other areas of Tunisia;

  - o To the President of the Italian Republic, the Italian Prime Minister, the UN Secretary General, the UNESCO Director-General, the European Parliament and Commission Presidents, the ESA, FAO, IFAD, IRFC, ITU, UN-DESA, UNDP, World Bank Directors, thanking them for their support to the Conference and to the Infopoverty Programme;

- Issue a writ to OCCAM, as acting agency of the Infopoverty Programme, to implement this declaration, and to be available with the interested institutions to work for the realization of these initiatives;

- In the end, decide to summon the 6th Infopoverty World Conference on April 6-7, 2006, with the possible topic: Fighting poverty creating prosperity: ICTs at the service of MDG", promoted by an ad-hoc Committee.