VIII INFOPOVERTY WORLD CONFERENCE

Under the High Patronage of the President of the Italian Republic

16-17-18 April 2008
UN HEADQUARTERS - NEW YORK

FINAL DECLARATION

Considering:

1. The Conference underlines the need to stress smart solutions at low cost for the application of new technologies to fight poverty in emerging countries, by all the stakeholders, public and private, compatible with new models of sustainable development through the transformation of the best pilot projects into widespread practices also thanks to the important role of the UN Global Alliance for ICT and Development in coordinating efforts to converge the predominant policies aimed at the bridging of the digital divide.

2. Reaffirm the call of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and the recent Africa Connect Summit to provide connectivity and services to all disadvantaged communities of the world considering their low income, thus calling for smart technologies at low costs.

3. The successful outcomes of the Infopoverty World Conference 2007, whose Final Declaration, as per the report that was submitted by OCCAM – founder of the conference - has been widely implemented in regards to:

   (i) The worldwide capacity to assure low cost satellite broadband connectivity through the Infopoverty Platform, and delivery of e-services for development by the Infopoverty Community of Expertise (CoE), created in the ambit of UN Global Alliance for ICT and Development,

   (ii) The realisation of the Infopoverty Exhibition, whose II edition was held at the Triennale di Milano, and the Infopoverty web-tv (www.infopoverty.tv) to extend the knowledge of the new technical solution and best practice, of the Infopoverty Programme and mobilize a larger public

The participants in the VIII 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 participation of H.E. Rafael Alburquerque de Castro, Vice President of the Dominican Republic

Appreciate the constant support of the European Parliament; the participation of the EU Commissioner for the Information Society Viviane Reding and that of LLuis Riera Figueres, DD Development and Relations with ACP Countries high level directorate

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;

Appreciate the International Telecommunication Union and the European Space Agency that have decided to co-organize the 2008 edition of the Infopoverty World Conference 2008, and the suggested issues of disaster prevention and management.

Appreciate the constant efforts of the Infopoverty Institute – University of Oklahoma, Politecnico di Milano and Università Cattolica who have greatly contributed in convening high level representatives of major stakeholders

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):

> (iii) In Madagascar *to support* the project aimed at scaling up the ICT village project in the Country under the patronage of H.E. Mr. Marc Ravalomanana, President of Madagascar;
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> (iv) In the Dominican Republic *to implement* the project promoted by the local Infopoverty Commission, established under the direct supervision of the Vice President of the Dominican Republic.
>
> (v) In Angola *to launch* a plan for ICT for development activities;

Thank the Infopoverty CoE for sharing with all social stakeholders the use of the first low-cost satellite platform for poor communities, able to provide e-services in telemedicine, e-learning , e-government, and e-commerce and **invite** all participant organizations to be part of this Infopoverty CoE in order to improve this network of e-service providers and centers of excellence and to realize new low cost products for renewable clean energies, safe water, waste collection and management.

Encourage the suggestion jointly emerged from representatives of the European Parliament, the Millennium Challenge Corporation and US-Aid and EU Commission to launch a privileged bridge for a deeper interaction between their prominent policies, in order to converge their efforts for a rapid development in Africa and emerging countries, giving mandate to OCCAM and Infopoverty Institute (Oklahoma University) to facilitate its activation.

Support i)the proposal emerged from the e-learning workshop to launch a cooperative network of Universities to specifically create Regional Infopoverty Institutes ii) the proposal formulated by the indigenous workshop to reinforce the indigenous platform created in the ambit of ITU, with an E-Academy of native cultures, iii) the proposal put forward by the faithful people workshop to create a permanent caucus able to integrate and maximize their actions in emerging countries using the best practices and smart technologies presented during the conference, iv) the aims indicated by the telemedicine parallel workshops in order to create a specialized e-centre, able to share e-health services through the Infopoverty satellite platform, v) the individuation of possible suggestions for legislators in developing countries so that they could directly reap the benefits of the Information Society in their development strategies aimed at poverty reduction and MDGs' related efforts vi) the project ville-village – launched in 2005 in Turin and already active between the City of Lodi (Italy) and Sambaina (Madagascar) –   for the digital twinning between developed towns and poor villages, tutoring their development with the active cooperation of both communities, vii) the proposal advanced by the Milan parallel session in order to establish a Permanent Forum, where to converge all the stakeholders and the UN family to promote and facilitate the MGD results for EXPO 2015.

Support the appeal launched by Staffan de Mistura, Personal Representative of the UN Secretary General to Iraq, to extend the application of e-services and Infopoverty actions to Iraqi communities and also the call made by Stefano Cacciaguerra, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Italy, on all stakeholders, to re-launch the first ICT Village created in 2000 in the community of San Ramon (Honduras)

Recommend the constitution of the Infopoverty Programme, led by OCCAM, as International Governmental Organization in the UN Family and invite all interested Countries to adhere in the light of the long-lasting and successful work conducted since 1999, which has brought significant results in fighting poverty, jointly involving the most important and innovative stakeholders with advanced technological solutions to benefit disadvantaged communities.

Invite OCCAM, with the collaboration of all stakeholders and organizations, to prepare – through a permanent consultation – a report to the IX Infopoverty World Conference, to be held in April 2009, on progress achieved in mobilizing support and its impact on the identified countries for partnership.