12ᵀᴴ INFOPOVERTY WORLD CONFERENCE

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Who drives the digital revolution?
Development through innovation

<u>Appreciating</u>

⚔   the continued patronage of the President of the Italian Republic, H.E. Giorgio Napolitano,

⚔   The participation of Jaime Guerrero Ruiz, Minister of Telecommunication and Information Society, Ecuador; Gebremichael Debretsion, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Ethiopia; Fredrick B. Norkeh, Minister of Post and Telecommunications of Liberia; Hannia Vega Barrantes, Viceminister of Telecommunications, Costa Rica;

⚔   The participation of high level representatives from the UN system such as UN Office for Partnership, UNESCO, ITU, FAO, UNICEF, the World Bank;

⚔   The partnership of the European Parliament and Commission, the United Nations Office for Partnership the Infopoverty Institute at the University of Oklahoma and the International Council of Film and Television at UNESCO and the support of the Permanent Mission of Italy;

⚔   the crucial role of OCCAM, founder and main organizer of the Conference;

⚔   The participation of the different stakeholders: International organizations, Academia and universities, Companies, Civil society entities,

Taking into account the results of the proceedings of the Conference on the question posed by its title, the participants converge on the following

DECLARATION

The digital revolution seems four-horse chariot , the steeds are:

<u>Enterprises</u> gave the initial spark, using new technological discoveries as well as promoting research and development aimed at creating hardware and software solutions, which have substituted old products and processes with new ones that have now become pervasive in all social and individual activities

<u>Users/Consumers</u>, as well as civil society institutions and NGOs have willingly adhered to the development of ICTs, mainly through the mobile phone, leading to the creation of almost ubiquitous connectivity infrastructures. New generations are digitally native, thus have made this process irreversible.

<u>Governments</u> at the beginning were passive users of the ICTs for the modernization of their organization, while they now have become more active users, mainly in the developing world, so to extend the benefits of the digital revolution towards the population in need, promoting social development plans for health, education, good governance and food security that spur enterprises to individuate and work with them on suitable.

<u>Financial system</u> has reshaped the markets, defining the new forms of globalization and creating great unbalances, in the move from the old system of trade to the simultaneity of digital exchange, implying the very dematerialization of money. This has led to innovative forms of supranational governance of resources with huge autonomous strength.

The way looks choppy for the prevalence of the different pulses and paradoxically with broken movement: we can mark a precise driver.

How to harmonize it and chart a course that leads to good results for all mankind?

There is need of the **Charter of Guidance**, able to guarantee consumers, reassure the financial system, strengthen the Governments for social development policies, harmonize concurrent enterprises with far sighted strategies, granting jobs for all. In this process, crucial could be the role of the United Nations, already involved in the internet governance and in the individuation of the financial mechanisms to support ICT for Development policies, and which has launched the MDGs, as well as that of the European Parliament, as inspirer of the European vision towards development.

The Charter of Guidance of the digital revolution will synthetize needs with most effective solutions, integrating science and technology with their social effects and economic implications, and lead the four tier system towards the targets of the human right and a prosperous and peaceful future.

Besides, some clear trends have emerged, namely:

The need to have timely and accurate **data** able to allow decision making based on facts and figures to strengthen governance, knowledge, networking, transparency and accountability, as suggested, among the others, by **Fredrick B. Norkeh,** Minister of Post and Telecommunications of Liberia, **Hanif Rahemtulla**, the World Bank Institute's Innovation Team, **Giorgia Sambunaris**, Senior Advisor to Director, Office of Economic Growth, USAID, **Steven Davenport**, Development Gateway, **Umar Amjad**, Enabler Project, focusing in particular on the consumer, and his needs, also taking into account the Bottom of the Pyramid theory, as indicated by **Roland Rich**, Executive Head, UN Office for Partnership and the need to transform the Action Paradigm among the International Development community to utilize the full potential of ICT to "Leap Frog" past old paradigm organizations and structures; to empower and support local people and programs to reach development goals, as presented by **John Steffens**, Infopoverty Institute, University of Oklahoma.

The urgency to create a **new ecosystem** able to share the best practices and e-services to all, especially in the fields of education, health, food security empowered by an affordable broadband satellite infrastructure, and related platform, as tool for education leading to job creation and democracy presented by **Pierpaolo Saporito,** President of OCCAM, **Serge Telle**, Ambassador in charge for the Union for the Mediterranean on behalf of the President of the Republic of France, **Jean-François Bureau**, Director of Institutional & International Affairs, Eutelsat, linking Mediterranean Universities as suggested by **Nicola Paravati**, UNINETTUNO.

The importance of linking innovation to the reinvention of products and processes, able to be transferred online as **e-services,** fit to the needs of end-users in developing countries, as indicated in the interventions, among the others, of **Antônio Jorge De Souza Marques**, Secretary of State for Health of Minas Gerais, **Hill Kemp**, Chairman & CEO, Suns River, creating in the field of ICT 4 Development something similar to the MPEG movement, presented by **Leonardo Chiariglione**, Founder of MPEG,

In particular, Participants support the projects and proposals made in the field of:

α.   **International and national general plans**

the **Equador** National Plans on Broadband (Infrastructure and Connectivity for all Ecuadorians), E-learning (Ecuadorians trained to meet future challenges) and E-Government (Ecuadorians electronically interact with the Government saving time and resources) presented by **Jaime Guerrero Ruiz**, Minister of Telecommunication and Information Society, Ecuador,

the **Costa Rica** National Digital Plan with services such as e-procurement, so to increase the competition and fight corruption, as well as the National Telecommunications Plan to make telecommunications at the service of citizens presented by **Hannia Vega Barrantes,** Viceminister of Telecommunications, Costa Rica, and **Eduardo Ulibarri**, Permanent Ambassador of Costa Rica to the United Nations

Promotion of the use of ICT and in particular of broadband connectivity as a general purpose platform for innovation, knowledge sharing, collective intelligence, and instrumental to sustain economic development, as indicated by **Brahima Sanou**, Director, ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau, **Michael Landau**, MAP International, **Jerome C. Glenn**, Executive Director, The Millennium Project, **Jean François Soupizet**, Advisor, Close the gap, and **Stefano Cacciaguerra**, First Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Italy to the UN, with particular focus on Africa, as suggested by **Musikari Kombo and Louis Michel**, Co-Chairs of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, a field in which, as made clear by **Fiorello Provera and Patrizia Toia**, members of the European Parliament, and by **Domenico Rosa**, representative of the European Commission, it is important to strengthen the contribution of the **European institutions**, that, with Member states, can give an essential contribution in driving the Digital revolution, coordinating policies to bridge the digital divide to promote human and social development.

β.   **Health**

the creation of an integrated system for an immediate medical assistance through the newest technological devices and transports, as proposed by **Roberto Pugno**, President, European Medical Services EMS, that could exploit the use of ultrasound in hospital and rural areas, so to teach to most the different uses of ultrasound as indicated by **Antônio Jorge De Souza Marques**, Secretary of State for Health of Minas Gerais and Vice President of Southeast Region, Brazil and **Luca Neri**, WINFOCUS, as well as GSM coverage to share information from pregnancy to infancy as in Zambia, Malawi, Uganda, Nigeria and Zimbabwe to defeat preventable under 5 deaths, suggested by **Ian Pett**, Chief Health Systems and Strategic Planning Programs, UNICEF, scaling up innovative solutions as the Maternal Health project implemented by OCCAM in Lesotho, as proposed by **Giampaolo Landi di Chiavenna**, Chairman, Alleanza per lo Sviluppo e la Cooperazione

χ.   **Food Security and Safe Water**

The use of ICTs in the agricultural sector, especially focusing on rural communities, providing timely information for farmers on agricultural market and affordable access for all to ICT infrastructures and services as proposed by **Gebremichael**

Debretsion, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Ethiopia, and by **Claudia Sorlini**, former dean of the Faculty of Agriculture of Milan University, exploiting solutions such as the project of FUDA, Food for All, presented by **Prince Suldan**, Ambassador at Large, Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, to reduce the yield gap to help farmers to manage their fields best for economic and ecologic benefits through the continuous development of the already existing satellite's technologies by **Heike Bach**, Managing Director, Vista .with a particular focus on women, as indicated by **Lila Ratsifandrihamanana**, FAO and on the active involvement of local organizations, as mentioned by **Caroline Figuères**, Managing Director, International Institute for Communication and Development, evolving the Aidmatrix Technology as suggested by **Scott McCallum**, Aidmatrix founder

As for water, the diffusion of the solar still process to provide fresh water from salty water to needy people, as indicated by **Hill Kemp**, Chairman & CEO, Suns River; to enlarge the project of Drinking Water Treatment, involving local communities and preventing diseases caused by infected water as presented by **David Sabatini**, Executive Director, Water Technologies for Emerging Regions, to provide widely accessible, inexpensive and sustainable water solutions as the manual drilling system, which helps to fight against the world water crisis, supporting locals to develop their own solution and stimulate their economy as proposed by **Richard C. Greenly,** Water4 Foundation,

δ.   <u>**Education**</u>

to help Liberia build ICT centers to be build in Liberia that link Universities and Community Colleges, which will help to expose the students of Liberia, especially the girls, to the new trend of communication that is critically essential for economic development as well as enhancing the postal administration as indicated by **Fredrick B. Norkeh**, Minister of Post and Telecommunications of Liberia and could include the "World Ahead Program" presented by **Melanie Fekete**, Strategic Public Sector Manager, INTEL

To support joint efforts such as the one promoted by the Infopoverty Institute in the Dominican Republic as cooperative model of all stakeholders (governments, academia, companies, civil society), as presented by **John Steffens,** Executive Director, Infopoverty Institute**, Sofia Perrazzo**, Cisneros Foundation, **Timothy Anderson**, President, World Computer Exchange, **David Neely**, ACI

Particular focus should also be put on job creation, training and soft education, as indicated by **Stefania Pigozzi**, head, Center of Studies, UCIMU and **Ronald Bruder**, Founder and CEO, Education for Employment, not forgetting that digital literacy should also be given to minorities in developed countries, as suggested by
Frank Gallagher, Executive Director, Cable in the Classroom

The participants appreciating the spirit of intensive cooperation emerging from the discussion,

Adhere to the proposal to continue to work in close interaction as a **Coalition of the willing**, in order to share best practices and competences, to empower actions particularly when participants in the Conference operate on similar tasks and in the same countries.

Give mandate to a working group ad hoc to
⚔   **Map** the most relevant best practices regarding e-services in fields such as health, agriculture, education, trade, job creation, food security.
⚔   **Activate** the **UN Forum** for **EXPO2015** 'Feeding the planet', established in october 2008 by the Delegates of the UN Secretary General at the Milan Food Summit and constituted by representatives of UN agencies and experts, aimed to monitoring and supporting EXPO2015 in order to make it coherent and in synergy with the MDGs.
⚔   **Launc**h an operative **Consortium,** as stated by IWC10, open to all stakeholders in order to create a critical mass to scale up the best practices with the emerging countries governments, in the framework of the Infopoverty Program
⚔   **Reinforce** the **Signs of Change Film Festival**, the parallel event focused on the best doc-movies devoted to the UN mission, enlarging the partnership with UN agencies

Adopt the **Infopoverty Platform** as tool able to organize the service providers and service users in a holistic ecosystem endowed with its own satellite low cost broadband infrastructure, as innovative way for an easy and speedy way of cooperation between subjects.

Give mandate to
OCCAM as acting agency of the Infopoverty Programme to continue its action as Permanent Secretariat, to present this Declaration at the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development, to be held in May in Geneva and redact the report on its outcomes to be submitted to the 13th Infopoverty World Conference and to make operative the decisions taken.

<u>**Approve**</u>
To hold the 13th edition of the Infopoverty World Conference in March 2013 at the UN Headquarters