



Infopoverty World Conference 2013

Final Declaration

The participants of the 13 Infopoverty World Conference

Appreciating

- the continued patronage of the President of the Italian Republic, H.E. Giorgio Napolitano,
- the participation of high level representatives from the UN system: DESA, UNESCO, ITU, FAO, UNICEF, the World Bank, IDLO, UNCDF, UNCTAD, WMO.
- the partnership of the European Parliament and Commission, the United Nations Office for Partnership, the Infopoverty Institute at the University of Oklahoma, 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 results of the Infopoverty conference 2012 follow-up, with the wide cooperation for the creation of the Global Digital Services Platform, presented to the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (May 2012 in Geneva), the Union for the Mediterranean (June, Barcelona), XVII Euromediterranean Conference (September, Venice) and the African Union meeting (November Addis Ababa) as a focus of the related Infopoverty Program

Taking into account the results of the proceedings of the Conference, the participants converge on the following

DECLARATION

The Arab Spring, burst out with propulsive participation powered by new technologies, risks to implode on ultraconservative schemes, requiring the necessity to empower new generations and to create better democratic conditions for a future of wealth and freedom, engaging all the Euromediterranean countries to share this capacity and competence with a close networking and a more efficient infrastructure of telecommunication., following the ICTs agenda for post 2015.

We have the opportunity to overcome the wide poverty gap by enhancing individuals' capacities with the use of appropriate tools, able to reach the end-users and to give them access to education, health, sanitation, food security etc. in order to allow all vulnerable groups of people to become more and more active in participating in all areas of society that have an impact on the well-being of the society. able to be protagonists of economic and social growth, accelerating the achievement of the MDG by increasing efficiency, accountability, transparency, competitiveness and by opening up new opportunities.

In order to build efficient and democratic nations it is crucial to take advantage of the many solutions offered by the digital revolution and to apply them to population development, according to the Charter of Guidance that emerged at the United Nations, during the Infopoverty World Conference 2012.

It is necessary to create a new set of relationships between governments and the private sector, civil

society and citizens, in a horizontal pattern, where the basic needs of the population drive the decision process to find adequate solutions, stressing the market to provide related services or products, and promoting the realization of broadband infrastructures accessible to all.

The global digital services platform becomes a crucial tool, able not only to share best practices in all the fields of application (e-health, food security, e-learning, etc.) but to link services providers and users directly in a continuous interaction, where the high competence of the main organizations and centers of excellence furnish capacity building to the emerging countries, assuring basic health assistance, education and food security to all, thanks to smart and low cost technologies.

Drive the process of innovation from basic users' needs means allowing the MDG achievement to accelerate and strategize successfully the SDG agenda to all the 6 billion that now are substantially excluded.

In order to achieve these tasks the participants appreciate and approve these proposals and projects made by:

In general terms: **Navid Hanif**, Director, Office for ECOSOC, presented the 3 aims for the 2013 Economic and Social Council: to place ICTs and technologies at center stage in the Post 2015 Agenda, to come up with initiatives on partnerships essential for both sustainable development and Post 2015 Goals, and to mobilize all UN agencies and the private sector to a strong follow up of the Declaration. **Cecilia Piccioni**, First Counselor, Italian Mission to the UN, stated that the Conference has served as an important platform for best practices sharing and activity convergence, insuring a comprehensive and holistic approach to the promotion of global awareness of ICT-related issues, and monitoring approaches to fighting poverty and empowering people of the digital revolution, with special attention to democracy. **Neelie Kroes**, Vice President of the European Commission in charge of the Digital Agenda, suggested that ICT application should include rich local content targeted at needs and preferences of local users, offering consumer protection without blocking the business' innovation through open and interactive platforms to stimulate user friendly ICTs on a larger scale and with lower cost, ensuring ICT literacy and enjoyable benefits. **Janis Karklins**, Assistant Director, UNESCO, suggested transforming participation into knowledge, i.e. put information into action through the creation at a national level of public policies for knowledge application and promotion of international cooperation to reduce the knowledge divide and for the better sharing of knowledge. **Pierpaolo Saporito**, founder of the Conference and president of OCCAM, underlined the Infopoverty vision that for 13 years has involved the major stakeholders in finding ICT smart and low cost solutions, applying these at ground level. Now, considering the increasing flux of innovations, he proposed adopting the large scale use of the global platform of digital services able to facilitate direct interchange between all, simplifying the complexity of traditional forms of cooperation, and where each one can manage directly his own actions in an intensive synergy. **John Steffens**, director of the Infopoverty Institute says that it is essential to make a paradigm shift from the way we have operated in the past and from outdated structures to the paradigm of 21st century ICT4dev support for sustainable development. Effectiveness is realized when end users receive information, knowledge, and content virtually from primary sources directly and in Real Time, so empowering them.

In the ambit of the new Euromediterranean vision: **Patrizio Civili**, Former UN Assistant Secretary General, Permanent Observer of the IDLO to the UN, stated that ICTs revolutionized the governing of the Mediterranean and that at the UN ICTs are at center stage in the elaboration of the Post 2015 MDG Agenda. **Imad Hobalah**, CEO Telecommunications Regulatory Authority, Lebanon, presented the Lebanon National ICT Agenda, based on 4 ICT strategic pillars (Restructuring, Ecosystem Development, Digitization and Sector Governance) to leverage ICT as a major engine to accelerate economic growth, enable social equity and strengthen Lebanon's brand and competitiveness. **Cristiana Muscardini**, Member of the European Parliament, suggested implementing the use of ICTs to fight social poverty and gender inequality and to overcome the lack of credit, and stated the importance of rules and regulation towards sustainable development for everyone. **Salmane Tariq El Allami**, Rhmana Foundation for Sustainable Development, Morocco, invites joining the Morocco National Human Development Initiative designed to foster and complement public policies with the main goal of fighting poverty through a tri-axial vision: the political consolidation of human rights, reforms and job generating projects, investing in social, economic and cultural dimensions relying on good governance. **Serge Telle**, Head of the Interministerial Delegation to the Mediterranean, France, considering the importance of ICTs in the acceleration of social reaction at a local level, synchronizing the actions of various groups and bringing transparency to the world, emphasizing the need to use the e-platform as a tool of convergence between North and South, **Francesco Laera**, Press Officer, European Commission Office in Milan, presented a project of cooperation in the Mediterranean area

between the African Union and the European Union based on the development of a society of knowledge, to make access more available, involve more citizens in the country's democratic life and increase the supply of new services and technologies. **Tiziana Vicario**, Focal Point for reduction of Disaster Risk and Environment, presented how data collection and management, through satellite images and the collection of geo-reference information, promotes the setting of priorities and fosters coordination techniques at a Mediterranean level in a disaster risk-reduction policy. **Roberto Santaniello**, director of International Relations, City of Milan, which hosts the Expo 2015, underlines this opportunity to launch new solutions, assuring the full engagement of Milan Municipality in supporting the UN actions.

In the ambit of Innovations for the Empowerment of People: **Daniela Bas**, Director of DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development, UN, suggests empowering people using the power of ICTs for the improvement of the living conditions of all vulnerable groups, finding innovative approaches and solutions to social development and sustainability, by building infrastructures within Nations and creating a broadband network of participation to better the understanding and management of wellness. **Shanu Hinduja**, Chairperson, Hinduja Foundation, presented the use of technologies in narrowing the digital divide between rural and urban populations: the Hinduja Foundation provides rural areas with cash withdrawal ATMs transferring money systems, mobile local units including remote consultation, diagnose, monitor and treatment, mobile knowledge kiosk offering technological solutions and has created a bio database to ensure underprivileged populations access to employment, education, healthcare and banking. **Gary Fowlie**, head, ITU Liaison Office to the UN, suggested including ICTs and broadband internet access as a key pillar of Post 2015 Development Agenda as the basis of sustainable economic growth, social inclusion and environmental sustainability. **Judith Payne**, e-business Advisor, USAID, presented the use of ICTs to increase the reach and impact of agriculture development through low-cost videos, radio and sms to teach farmers better practices, m-money and m-vouchers to aggregate demand, help savers and avoid borrowing, and mobile phone applications to inform farmers on market prices. **Hiroshi Kawamura**, Daisy Consortium, explained how to share knowledge of information for people with disabilities through a system of electronic publishing named Daisy Reader, and through a disaster risk reduction technology providing survival knowledge to disabled and vulnerable people. **Axel Leblois**, Director, G3ict, presented M-enabling program on empowering persons with disabilities with mobile solutions enabling communication, enhancing autonomy and breaking up isolation to reduce vulnerability and increase economic and education activities. **Jon Fredrickson**, Innocentive, presented purposes for governments to enhance freedom and entrepreneurial genius to engage the world and face the biggest problems of society.

In the ambit of Nation Building process: **Gary Bagger**, Technical Innovation Team, UNICEF, presented the U-Report in Uganda which empowers people to respond by sms to policy changes in real time, and the Youth Digital Mapping Process in Brazil for the identification of environmental risks. **Abraham Joseph**, Former Advisor of the Government of Timor-Leste, presented the use of ICTs in post conflict nations, the case of Timor-Leste, to establish and enforce ICT regulatory regime, to build national capacities to operate and maintain ICT services and to improve telecom infrastructure and connectivity, with the potential for the development of non-oil economy, human development, national reconciliation and reunification and governance. **Jean Philibert Nsengimana**, Minister of Youth and ICT, Rwanda, presented the investments that Rwanda has made in building world class infrastructure and nurturing the best environment for doing business in Africa are transforming the country into a regional ICT hub for the East and Central Africa. **Marc Bichler**, Executive Secretary, UNCDF, indicated how to support local government development programs through finance to deliver basic social services and to benefit from the implementation of ICT tools and high quality ICT services which, coupled with green energy, enhance economic opportunities, jobs and wealth creation. **Naomi Halewood**, ICT Policy Specialist, World Bank, presented the African specific e-commerce platform Ali Baba to connect users and suppliers and the African Alliance for e-commerce to coordinate and connect single trade windows. **Marisa Handerson**, Officer in charge, UNCTAD, urges governments in developing countries to take an active role in sourcing software capability, working in close partnership with private sector, university and software development in the community to make the transition from passive adopters of imported software technologies to developers of local applications. **Palitha Kohona**, Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka at UN, explained the Rural tele-centre Network implemented in Sri Lanka in collaboration with governments, individual entrepreneurs and civil society organizations and the use of ICT tools in improving digital communication facilities, population databases, online payment systems and supply chain management. **Alexandru Cujba**, Former Ambassador, Moldova, presented the e-transformation process to increase transparency and improve the efficiency of public service delivery by using the power of information technology, with the foundation of an e-Government Center offering among its services: local document registry, mobile signature, open data platform, e-licence application platform and electronic fiscal records. **Toshihito Murata**, Liaison and Executive Officer, FAO, indicated the wide use of ICTs by FAO. Strong linkages between agricultural research and extension are essential for the agricultural and rural development. Potential stakeholders of these knowledge and communication systems are agricultural researchers and advisory services, extension agents, small farmers, farmers' groups, non-governmental

organizations, private and public agricultural service suppliers, communication professional and the media, such as rural radio stations. The Virtual Extension and Research Communication Network (VERCON) is a model that FAO has been testing for years in various countries and is a practical application of ICTs for linking research and extension institutions with rural stakeholders/partners.

In the ambit of Best Practices: New Tools for Global Cooperation: **Michel Jarraud**, Secretary General, World Meteorological Organization, presented the use of ICTs to support population vulnerability and strengthen capability by providing weather information services in the frame of climate disaster reduction policies. **Andrew Trevett**, Senior Advisor, UNICEF, presented the use of ICTs in the Water Sanitation Program to increase procedures, guarantee equity of access and implement water point and sanitation mapping. **Naram Daraman**, US Representative, Barhi Foundation, presented Barhi School Program to deliver quality education into rural areas aiming to create employable children, committed to society and involved in economic and social development, including computer education and training of teachers. **Mitch Roberson**, Board Member, Affecting Change International, presented the Life Box education model delivered in remote areas to become the organizational community center: a wireless hub and a distributional point for connectivity, with pre-cashed contents suitable for the specific community. **Amjad Umar**, UN eNabler Project, presented the eNabler Project developed for UN GAID to distribute know-how quickly, globally and economically for eServices in health, education, public safety, public welfare and other vital sectors --- the outputs can be generated within an hour instead of months for ICT planning activities.

In the ambit of Civil Society facing digital revolution : **Rima Salahm**, stressed the role of technology in preventing and stopping violence against women and girls, with reference to the Awareness campaign carried out in Chad which protected women and girls in refugee camps from violence and brought them out of exclusion by giving them mobile phones to report incidences of violence, triggering an immediate response. **Liberato Bautista**, Former CONGO President, advocates the full employment and involvement of civil society and NGOs in a multi-stakeholder approach to dealing with multiple challenges of development and sustainability. **Timothy Anderson**, Founder and President, WCE, presented the basic volunteering services provided in developing countries: building capacity, content, technology, specific services and local recycling. **Terry Hasdroff**, Vice President, Convoy of Hope, indicated the use of ICTs in agricultural techniques in Haiti to test the soil conditions at the computer, with community outreach programs in the US and in disaster relief with satellite and warehouse and wi-fi connections. **Richard Niemeyer**, President, Youth Outreach International, presented the project Peanut Butter Clinic, immediate therapy for children suffering from malnutrition in many villages. the formula of which is effective, ready to use and empowers mothers. **David Neely**, President & CEO, Affecting Change International, explained community development projects run in Kenya through the use of technology in education and supplementing instructions using wireless connectivity . **Gloria Kins**, editor Society and Diplomatic Review, suggested the use of technologies to document orphans in Russia and Romania with the aim of tagging all the orphans in the world. **Lola Poggi Goujon**, Secretary General, International Council of Film and Television, UNESCO, mentioned the results of the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) where multiple stakeholders discussed the opportunities of the new information and communication environment. **Jasmina Bojic**, Founder and Director of UNAFF, presents the 3th "Signs of Change film festival", organized with OCCAM, as a parallel event of the Conference, which opens today afternoons in the Dag Hammarskjold UN Auditorium with the movie "Inocente" Oscar 2013 award. **Sarbuland Khan**, Former Executive Director, UN-GAID, notes the richness of the content and the proposals emerging from the conference that reveal that Infopoverty has become a true and world-wide movement that has uncovered an institutional gap: there exists to date no institution that is focusing primarily on Digital Innovation for Development. There is an urgent need for an institution that is devoted primarily to digital innovation services that benefits the under served sectors of our society instead of making the life more comfortable for people who already are enjoying very comfortable lives. We need to build a new Intergovernmental Institution that is completely devoted to Digital Innovation for Development . This institution will bring together governments, private sector, civil society and the academic world. Specifically, it will a) provide a platform for an intergovernmental institution, b) act according to the new paradigm that is user-oriented instead of infrastructure-oriented, and c) adopt a multi-stakeholder approach to policy making that explicitly includes the poor at the table.

Considering the richness of the discussion the participants recommend:

- 1 .To cooperate closely for the realization of the Digital Services Global Platform, the new practical tool where each, with his own competence and resources, can share services to those requiring these, for social use, the provision of this global digital tool being open to all. In order to reinforce this global digital tool,
2. To start the process of institutionalization based on the Infopoverty conference and program: as a 21st century organization with a mission that is aligned to people welfare and not to market welfare, to sustainable development for future generations and not consumption for the current generation. The

proposed organization is future-oriented, people-oriented, technology based, and able to capture principles of differentiation, subsidiarity and clearly delimited responsibilities. In short, it will be a hybrid organization with a “feet on the ground and heads in the cloud” approach.

3 .To establish this it is decided to create an **Executive Advisory Board** open to the participants who sustain this process and eminent figures who can inspire and further this task. The first meeting will take place in Geneva at the Ecosoc High Level Segment the 4th July.

Give mandate

to OCCAM as acting agency of the Infopoverty Programme to assure the function of Secretariat, monitoring the preparation of Milan Expo2015 for the application of food security best practices and services, redact the report on its outcomes to be submitted to the 14th Infopoverty World Conference.