



# 14th InfoPoverty World Conference

10th-11th April 2014, United Nations Headquarters, New York

**“How the digital innovations can accelerate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and help launch the Sustainable Development Goals”**

## **DECLARATION**

### **The participants of the 14<sup>th</sup> InfoPoverty World Conference**

#### *Appreciating*

the continued patronage of the President of the Italian Republic, H.E. Giorgio Napolitano and support of the Permanent Mission of Italy;  
the participation of the UN representative of the governments of Bangladesh, Benin, El Salvador, France, Italy, Japan, Maldives, Morocco, Palau, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Kenya; and the UN organizations: DESA, ECOSOC, FAO, ITU, UNAFF, CICT- UNESCO, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries;  
the partnership of the European Parliament and European Commission, in the person of its Vice-President Neelie Kroes;  
the crucial role of OCCAM, the Observatory for the Digital Revolution, founder and main organizer of the InfoPoverty Conference, with the InfoPoverty Institute at the University of Oklahoma,

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

## **INFOPOVERTY DECLARATION 2014**

Approaching 2015 at the conclusion of the MDGs plan, it appears evident that the new technologies, and in particular the digital ones, have played an important role in changing our societies and could accelerate even more the achievement of these goals.

Facing the post-2015 Agenda elaboration, the information and communication technologies (ICT) could have a determinant capacity in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), if the innovations will be empowered as key social players, and not only as market goods for consumers.

The social complexities that digital technology helps to make fluid are at risk of congealing and halting democratic processes

New paradigms are imposing that are producing new practices involving progressively all population, in particular the youngsters, who will be protagonists of the next digital era, where the existing poverty gap will overcome by global connectivity, able to interact values, culture, goods and resources, of the people, in a horizontal process, which can revitalize the decline of the ancient regime, lighting a new global challenge.

The Conference put in evidence, through best practices and projects, the new strategic solutions based on the social use of ICT, beyond the stage of mere information, as tools for a real development, for both the supply of essential services, such as education, e-health and food security, and for the creation of infrastructure for the exchange of proficiency, knowledge, products, and economical and financial resources, facilitated by the use of the Digital Services Global Platform (DSGP) elaborated in the 13<sup>th</sup> Conference and validated at ECOSOC AMR last July.

A clear vision emerge from the Conference: reduce poverty empowering the people capacity, supplying the needed services to everyone, with ICT devices, in order to ensure an adequate level of health care and food security, and start the process of social inclusion by an interactive system of communication

As we are living in a world where almost all people are interconnected, it is necessary that national and international institutions take in charge this opportunities, with new strategic plans, encouraging inclusion,

exclusion, making citizens active, creating jobs, overcoming the traditional barriers of languages, territories, economical and financial hegemonies, with open and sharing platform of global cooperation

The Infopoverty Program 2014-2015, taking in charge all this suggestions emerged from the debate, will transale it in actions, thanks to the collaboration expressed by the countries, UN, academia, NGOs and companies, representatives, acting as a real operational community, sharing experience, applying the solutions, elaborating new project tailored on the need of the poorest populations, in the spirit of the UN mission, forwarding the challenge of post 2015 agenda: the Sustainable Development Goals.

## REPORT

This strategic challenge is the result of a large convergence of all participants who have stressed the importance of the role of ICTs in the fight against poverty. Approaching to the conclusion of the 2015 MDGs, the use of ICT4D, focused on delivery e-services through the Global Platform for Digital Devices open to all "users or providers", can be a significant solution able to help the launch of the new sustainable development agenda (SDGs);

### 1. the UN vision

The main tasks of the UN vision are highlighted by **Navid Hanif**, *Director of the Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination (UNDESA)*. ICT has been instrumental in accelerating the achievement of the MDGs, for example in fighting HIV by sharing preventions and care practice to a large population low cost. Or monetary transfers through mobile phone has revolutionized life in remote areas, as in Haiti, where the mobile banking service became essential, in the wake of the 2010 earthquake, and in Kenya where farmers were helped in tracking their milking schedule through SMS.

All these technologies are already shaping the way SDGs will be designed and implemented. Reshaping public services and policies in ways that address more closely the needs and aspirations of people, such as public health, food security, unemployment, rising inequality, environmental degradation, and climate change.

It is fundamental to understand the link between ICT and sustainability that will integrate the green economy with the digital economy to save our planet and hand over a secure future to the coming generations, taking in mind that the post-2015 agenda is about transforming societies.

Is necessary to speed up our progress through the Information networks and people-led innovation, in a way that make possible to take the wind of the new digital revolution.

**Gyan Chandra Acharya**, *Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States*, emphasized that the world's most vulnerable countries stand to benefit the most from the digital innovation. MDGs and SDGs intertwine with access to digital technology and all of the vulnerable countries are keenly aware of the potential that access to these technological advances can provide. Use of ICTs in the fields of health services, education, agriculture and information have already demonstrated their clear impact on the lives of the common people. National leadership will be crucial for that and it will be necessary to realize a national broadband policy, as well as an ICT plan and supportive regulatory providence, integrated with universal access in order to cover all areas. Making ICTs accessible to all, will be considered a success and it is crucial to give support to government policies. As we are approaching the conclusion of MDGs and the launch of SDGs, it is important to concentrate efforts on the idea that all the dimensions of SDGs are intrinsically related to a transformation opportunity made available through ICTs. The responsibility of the International Community is to ensure that ICTs and broadband are embedded in universal goals and national targets, to be defined by the post-2015 global agenda.

**Daniela Bas**, *Director of Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) of the UNDESA* focused the attention on vulnerable groups- people with disability, indigenous, youth and elderly- marked how is important to stress the attention on social inclusive policies that promote social integration in a sustainable manner.

New technologies are powerful tools for 3 pillars for sustainable development- economic, social and environmental dimension, and can help people preventing falling or being trapped into poverty. New technology can help people with disability, can empower young people to connect, share knowledge and find new jobs. New technology can support indigenous people create networks and foster their political participation. Ms. Bas encouraged to increase efforts to ensure that all social groups have access to new technologies, strengthening the global partnership in the achievement of this objective. Millennium development goal number 8, Global Partnership for Development, needs to be developed further because we have to work us one. A global partnership is extremely important, with the help of new technologies as well, in our fight against poverty and we cannot talk about eradication of poverty without pressing inequality. We need to ensure that the post-2015 Agenda will empower all people, will reduce the persisting inequality and will help build inclusive and

sustainable society through the use of innovations and technologies.

The fundamental role of ICT in bringing genuine improvements in the lives of citizens everywhere is, also, highlighted by **Hamadoun Tourè**, *ITU Director General*. Digital inclusion is a transformative tool that provides key solutions in the fight against poverty by generating growth and prosperity and a better future for all. ICTs can contribute to achieving food security by improving tracking and delivering systems, providing food where it is most needed while reducing waste, spoilage and pilferage. ICTs can assure a larger health assistance, and education to all. Mr. Tourè stressed the point on the engagement that the society has to take in the fight against poverty, remembering that helping people who suffer from hunger is not to be considered an option but a must.

**Sharon Brennen-Haylock**, *Director FAO Liaison Office with the UN*, declared how FAO is in the forefront in the new frontiers of e-agriculture by engaging stakeholders at all levels from many different territories. The aim is to improve the policies in the use of ICTs in agriculture development. The remaining challenges are: access to ICT at a reasonable price for the most vulnerable, persistence of a gender based digital division and a lack of conducive ICT policies integrating agricultural and rural development. In the field of food security nowadays are available devices able to offer support to the farmer during all the phases of the food cycle, multiplying both the productive capacity and the quality of food.

## 2. The European Commission Vision

**Neelie Kroes**, *Vice-President of the European Commission and Supervisor for the European Digital*, underline how every country is looking for opportunity to assure better lives for more people and how it can be done with ICT, because new tools enable, energize and empower everyone.

ICT can target particular sectors: better healthcare, Education, Government services, cutting bureaucracy, cost and corruption. ICT empowers every person to get involved and take control, reach a new frontier of freedom, provide the right environment and foster incredible innovation, energize entrepreneurs, generate jobs.

Europe became a broadband connected continent: with a competitive telecoms market: open, secure, inclusive, with a dynamic range and tailored choices.

European Commission launched Horizon 2020, with 80 billion euro investment in research and innovation, and created *digital champions* in every EU country, leading the way to get every citizen online. So why not have a digital champion in every country in the world, with a unified global platform?

Developing countries, free of vested interests and legacy sectors, have now a huge opportunity to leap ahead.

In Africa, which has more mobiles than Europe, the EU Commission is offering more than € 120 million in different programs to help this development.

All African leaders saw the power of digital technology and agree to harmonize rules between Africa and the EU, able to interconnect research networks, and improve ICT capacity, with better access for all, more inclusive governance, and full recognition and respect for human rights.

'We're on the brink of a big change: technological, social, economic. People everywhere get it, Many of these national leaders get it. We can share and promote that vision, in order to deliver the digital dream on every connected continent.

**Bruno Marasà**, *Head of the Information Office in Milan of the European Parliament*, highlighted the strong connection between European Parliament and the Infopoverty World Conference, being, since the beginning, the co-organizer of this event. The theme of ICT4D is year strongly related with the future EXPO that the City of Milan will host in 2015, focused on "Feeding the planet, energy for life" with the task to make a significant contribution to the global development.

## 3. Infopoverty vision:

**Pierpaolo Saporito**, *President of OCCAM and founder of the Infopoverty Conference and Program*, illustrated the itinerary that made the Conference, born in the wake of the declaration of MDGs in 2001, able to develop, in its 14 editions, able to create a course full of solutions, operations on the field, projects and initiatives, all focused on the role of ICT in the fight against poverty, that made possible to achieve some important results. To mention a few examples: the first ICT Village in Honduras, Sudan, Lebanon, Ethiopia (2001-2004), the Borj Ettouil ICT Village (Tunisia, 2005) UN millennium ICT Village of Sambaina (Madagascar, 2006), the leadership of UNGAID-CoE in the field of e-services (2007-2011) able to link emerging service providers to service users, offering new solutions and services such as telemedicine, maternal care, food security, job creation, e-learning and e-governance with the aim of improving the standards of disadvantaged communities and improving the living conditions of all those in need in a practical and efficient way.

The activity of analysis and promotion of digital innovations for development, conducted by the Conference through the participation of 930 speakers and more than 500 institutions, and by the Infopoverty Program that realized more than 100

projects and countless coordination actions, allow us now, during this moment of passage from MDGs to SDGs, to build a valid and competent point of view, at the service of the UN, the emerging countries, the disadvantaged communities and the civil society.

It is an ecosystem ready to play a top-level role able to let that the digital era could build herself on human rights, democratic and social inclusive values, through concrete operations on the field where develop a large convergence between public and private stakeholders in order to achieve a sustainable and common development.

#### 4. e-Governance strategy

**Mohamed Loulichki**, *Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Morocco to UN*, emphasized the role having ICT in the implementation of MDGs, and the engagement to make the SDGs to go beyond this stage of only delivering but delivering with sustainability, in order to share to all humanity of this highest technology. Showing the duty of solidarity, with copyleft agreements, towards these hundreds of millions of people that not only cannot have access to food but also cannot have access to basic healthcare.

The E-MedMed project is a good example about having partnership between the North and the South Mediterranean to be followed, underlining how useful, efficient and far reaching is the use of ICTs and how it is really important to go more and more to those who are really in need, implementing this practices to be available and affordable in synergy with the public policy of the country.

**Antoine Tristan Mocilnikar**, *Director of Sustainable Development at the Union for the Mediterranean Mission, France*, talking about the E-MedMed project, stressed the importance of working with all layers, public sector, private sector and society. France is engaged in the Mediterranean area with a global approach on the different layers, supporting very strongly e-learning and e-health which consider very critical issue in fighting poverty with ICT.

To promote democratization and push the reforms of the e-governance systems open data are a clear tool which create new opportunities for growth.

**A. K. Abdul Momen**, *Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to UN*, reported how all the main areas of national income: exports, remittances and the agricultural sector have been highly benefited by the use of ICT, and dramatically changed the situation of marketing, overall in rural areas. ICT used to improve governance, reduce corruption, inclusion of individuals, provide better services. As our people are not rich, not everyone can afford to buy a laptop or television, so we set up a unit information service center in every corner of the country

**Caleb Otto**, *Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Palau to UN*, gave testimony on the usefulness of technology to eradicate poverty in the pacific island applying them in telemedicine for training physicians and nurses, giving consultation with the main hospital, monitoring medical diseases in order to prevent migrations. To help the economic development the ICT are used for reporting tuna fish stocks, assists the vessels, increase the agricultural yields of products, and promote local food. A great application is also registered in the field of national emergencies and disaster management. Now without ICT there is no development, but this development must be respectful of the rights of the most vulnerable people and oriented to a social aim.

**Palitha Kohona**, *Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka*, strongly believe that the ICT must be a central plank in the developing strategy of developing countries in the eradication of poverty, and a huge source of employment, highlighting that the use of ICTs is transforming Sri Lanka in the most developed country in the South Asian Region.

Ambassador Recommended that Infopoverty World Conference will convince the Stakeholders of SDGs of the importance of ICTs.

**Carlos Garcia Gonzales**, *Ambassador and Permanent Representative of El Salvador to UN*, insisted on the importance of connecting the ICT revolution with reality of human development and power in Africa, Latin America, Asia: provides new tools to reshape the concept of education reconsidering the roles of teachers, students, and public officials, empowering the information received through the devices in order to have kids who know to think, who have their own criteria to make the good or the bad, as well to be more assisted in the field of health, the public services. The Social pillars that must be included in the post 2015 development agenda

**Masato Usui**, *Counselor, permanent Mission of Japan to UN*, focused on the importance of ICTs in disaster risk reduction. In Japan where there are a lot of natural disasters immediate action can make difference between life and death. ICTs help collecting and announcing the information to public and significantly helps the chances to

survive, and present the project of early alert.

**Jean-Francis Zinsou**, *Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Benin to UN and Chairperson of the UN Coordination Bureau for the Least Developed Countries Group*, underlined that the LDCs have a weak technological capacity and weak scientific knowledge, Africa have most LDCs, 24 African countries and globally the LDCs are 49. So the situation is very serious in that continent, where there is a lack of access to food, health, education and other basic services but also to financial services and are deprived from key ingredients of productivity and income innovation like information, knowledge to improve agricultural practices, small businesses and services. Main issue relating the eradication of poverty is the access able to accelerate the development of human capacity, securing the well-being of the poor, by transforming education and health services through e-learning and e-health, and transforming public services making them more accessible. Share proper digital services related to the need of people become a strategically priority.

**Amhed Sareer**, *Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Maldives to UN*, considers the 14<sup>th</sup> Infopoverity World Conference a timely initiative considering that the international community is again working on the review of MDGs. We are all aware that the intensive negotiations are currently taking place in search for the new development goals that put transition in Post-2015 development Agenda with SDGs. In this era dominated by interconnectivity the Maldives government is working together with UN to bring technology to every islands even the most remote; “the technology keeps going forward and our job is to make sure we won’t be left behind”. The government explored new method of teaching and training teachers and standardized e-governance system across all government offices. Government is more accountable and population is more educated. “

**Deepak K. Srivatava**, *Indian researcher*, shown all the initiatives taken by Indian government in the field of ICTs. It has declare the 2010 as the “decade of Innovations” and set up a National Innovation Council (NInC) to prepare a roadmap for Innovation 2010-2020. The council would drive the Innovation Agenda in the states with local talents, resource and capabilities. Several project will be implemented in particular in the field of e-governance.

**Alline Kabbatende**, *Senior Official of Rwanda Government*, stated that the government has recognized the importance of ICTs in the development of the country. The access to broadband is now considered as primary as the access to water and the “Smart Rwanda Agenda” aims at it. The objective of this project is to work with the community in order to see how empower them using ICT in all sectors (especially education) and from the lesson learned replicate across the project the country. The idea is that the creation of several “smart villages” will bring to the creation of a “smart country”.

**George Mulamula**, *Chief Executive Officer and Senior Government Advisor for ICT in Tanzania*, shown some Government initiatives to deal with the challenges of the country as the Tanzania Open Data Initiative under OGP (President’s Office) that through technology & innovation create entrepreneurs utilising machine readable open data for transparency, citizen participation, accountability and integrity. The government also started a “Skills Programme” (COSTECH, WB) that bringing together universities students, the public and private sector, develop and create sustainable enterprises that are ICT-based solutions in real-life settings. Tanzania Government dedicated to creating a viable innovative & sustainable entrepreneurship ecosystem to achieve MDGs and unleashed the creativity and innovation of our youth & nationals in order to find solutions for Tanzania’s pressing socio-economic problems through the lens of viable and sustainable entrepreneurship

##### 5. E-health best practices and projects

The **E-MedMedproject**, create by **OCCAM** with partners: **Telespazio**, **B! ICT Company**, **International Institute of Telemedicine**, **Uninettuno**, telematic university, **Nile Badrawi Foundation**, **National Diabetes&Endocrinology Center**, **National Center for Disease Control**, **APPA**, **Faculty of medicine of Fes**, **Moroccan society for telemedicine and e-health**) aiming to enhance the performance of the national health-systems of the Mediterranean region by providing digital services for medical activities, based on the new portable wireless unit (ArchiMed) which allow to have an ample spectrum of diagnosis linked to the hospital, to empower the local midwives and nurses to assist the remote communities using **the Infopoverity Digital Services Global Platform** (DSIGP). This project, applied in **Egypt**, **Libya**, **Moroccan ad Tunisia**, and sustained by **Italy and France** Governments in the ambit of the **Union for Mediterranean**, is finalized to build new sustainable development model for the health system;

The e-health practices applied in Brazil by **Winfocus**, through the use of ultrasound devices in streaming in an area of 1.5 million people with the training of more than 400 doctors and the use of this kind of methodology in

the ambulances, emergency departments, and primary care units, which can be implemented worldwide by the DSIGP; The complementary Solutions presented by **i-Medcare** to the Chinese government to promote the use of ICT for medicine and for making hospitals able to face the disasters emergency through medical services; and the practices of **Ems Areu** for the pre-hospital emergency system in Lombardy region, Italy, focused on the 118 call. The 118 handles all the pre-hospital management taking the call, delivering the medical information to the hospital, organizing the transport and, since 2008, implementing the e-health technologies and specifically telemedicine regarding cardiac monitoring. The Initiatives of **Medic Mobile** on improving health in under-served communities by harnessing technology to connect people to care and to improve care delivering in challenging settings. They support a wide range of programs from infection diseases in rural Kenya to emergency response to maternal care in Nepal, and these programs cover 6 million people. Now there are planning to use mobile technology to help people to access to care, to stay in care and to improve quality of cares; and the actions of **Convoy of Hope** in feeding program and disaster response through the use of ICT and its vision to connect poor people to the rest of the world as a new innovative way to assist what they do.

**Shanu SP Hinduja**, *Chairperson of Hinduja Foundation (US)*, presented the Hinduja hospital in Mumbai. This hospital has continued Hinduja rural help program by expanding Mobile Health Units operation. Hinduja Hospital has launched the 'Serve with Passion' Hinduja rural health program in the state of Maharashtra where accessibility is the major concern. ICT is essential to help deliver these services to patients. The project consist in advanced mobile health unit along with basic mobile health units. The Advance Mobile Unit cover several villages, there are equip with diagnostic facilities and use ICT to deliver services from hospital with telemedicine consultation, electronic health records and real time diagnostic reports viewing by radiologist and specialist, The Basic mobile units treat patients in remote locations the Advance Unit cannot reach.

## 6. E-learning →

Bedrock of sustainable development is a solid education extended to everyone and orientated to empower people through better condition of life, and better use of the local resources, providing communities competence and capacities and making them able to manage autonomously their development.

The e-learning process is keystone of this policy in order to make the new generation able to utilize the technologies to solve their own needs and collective needs.

The Universities are in the forefront providing on-line education worldwide.

**David Neely**, *President ACI International*, presented the ACI program to delivering technology for education to disadvantaged communities with LifeBox. LifeBox is a cost-effective classroom solution that can be placed in remote locations. It is constructed from recycled shipping containers so it does not require local building materials. Its design includes solar panels for the generation of electricity. It can also become a Wi-Fi hotspot for connecting to the Internet through a wireless network or satellite. Once there is access to the Internet, an entirely new paradigm can be introduced for education.

**Tomislav Bogdanic**, *President of the World Youth Bank*, developed a project focus on young people with a mandate to establish a group which deal with them on education and equality promotion. The World Youth Bank developed a platform for young mobility for education that is an example of success on use of ICT. Their aim is to educate people worldwide to use technology and about consequences to use it.

**Dwight Davidson**, *Professor Oral Roberts University*, presented his University, a faith based organization with the aim of training people. They have students from 81 countries and the intent is to offer them a high quality education so students can go out to the world and pass what they have learned to others. This students have the potential to act in a beneficiary way for the communities needs they serve convert their potential into real world solution.

**Jasmina Bojic**, *Founder and Executive Director UNAFF*, as a teacher at Stanford University established the UN Association Film Festival (UNAFF) which became Traveling Film Festival in year 2000 and it is focus on increasing information through film to the new generations. During this edition of Infopoverty World Conference, UNAFF presented four films as contribution of the mission of the youngest people to the themes of human rights. Visual presentation is one of the best tools we have and the youngsters represent the future generation that could save and change our world.

## 7. Food Security

**EXPO2015**, presented by **Ruggero Gabbai**, *President of the ad hoc City Commission*, stated that for this important event about 20 million people are going to come to Milan and there will be 60 countries as official participants and other 80 countries that will be represented in clusters. The theme of this EXPO, "Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life" is crucial to the entire planet, that's why Milan wants to be the center-stage these 6 months in 2015 for whoever wishes to develop and expose new and innovative answers to the problem of food security and food safety. This is the first time that EXPO is going to be a Digital EXPO: this allow people that maybe cannot come directly to Milan to assist and live this experience from their own home country and utilize services for increasing their competence to be transfer to improve their alimentation.

**Alberto Martinelli**, *Representative of the Scientific Committee of EXPO Milan 2015*, informed about a couple of important initiatives. First the international call for good sustainable development practices on food security, open to a variety of possible participants, both governmental and non governmental agencies, universities, private contractors etc. The goal is to construct a depository of good practices in the area of food security and the idea is to select the best practices to present them for the EXPO. Another project called WAME, which means World Access to Modern Energy, is related to the idea to select the best practices for access to water and energy and to disseminate this knowledge and to look for policy transferability. Another initiative of the Scientific Committee of EXPO Milan 2015 is to provide a kind of expert counseling using the ICTs for local communities or agencies of various kinds. The initiative will have an office which will filter the demands and contact the right people.

### 8. E-microfinance

**Karen Miller**, *Chief Knowledge and Communication Officer of the Women's World Bank*, stressed the importance of ICT technology to help access to finance to women and men and to build economic security, considering that over 3 billion people do not have access to those, through opening new digital channels, delivering financial products and the creation of new opportunities to deliver financial education;

**Shanu SP Hinduja**, *Chairperson Hinduja Foundation (US)*, illustrated how the Hinduja Bank is promoting the growth of the business of financial inclusion in the entire country of India. The bank also has a microfinance loans program, and costumers are usually women. The goal is to create employment and local formation in less advantage places and in consequence prevent migration to urban areas.

**Hewan Teka Leesse**, *President Bianca Foundation, Ethiopia*, talked about ICT and poverty taking into account the reality where the rich became richer and the poor become poorer. In Africa, there is extreme richness and extreme poverty. So what we have to do is redistribution of income and in this case ICT could be important because we have to create a middle class society able to realize the UN sustainable development programs. ICTs are the tool to fight ignorance

### 9. Technology

**Bruce Baike**, *CEO of Inveneo*, is trying to bring appropriate technology into developing regions and solutions autosustainable. The challenge to achieve is how find the appropriate technologies that work in developing regions.

Inveneo develop its experience in 3 key areas: wireless network, sustainable computing and training local partners operate under 5 principals; appropriate hardware, appropriate software and content, proper training for user, infrastructure (electricity, internet) and support and maintenance.

**Sean McDonald**, *CEO of Frontline SMS*, highlighted that half of world is till be to reach and that is much harder than the one we have. For example in Africa internet penetration rate is below 10%. Frontline SMS focus on SMS for a couple of reason, first there are more than 6 billion active mobile phone connections. And SMS works on all of them (In 2012 there were an estimated 9.4 trillion text message sent), secondly it is the world's most used data channel and it is offline.

**Robert St. Thomas**, *Smarter Solution Delivery Executive of IBM*, presented the IBM Smarter Planet Initiative. For a Smarter Planet is necessary to follow and implement six imperatives: turn information into insights, drive enterprise operations' effectiveness and efficiency, increase agility, connect and empower people, enable

business service and product innovation and manage risk, security and compliance.

**Abid Shehik**, *Chief Information Officer of Nortec Software*. Every government understands the importance of healthcare in their manifestos, and the same happens internationally with the UN and the 8th MDG. That gives us an idea of how important healthcare is in improving the quality of life and the alleviation of poverty. Electronic health record will play a major role in integrating all future innovations into a uniform system. What E.H.R does is collecting information from the integrated healthcare system (hospitals) and will facilitate information exchanges with the city and the state, that includes patients' health records, with Vertical & Horizontal healthcare programs. Vertical healthcare program is like disease control (malaria, diabetes etc), while the Horizontal one is primary care. In the MDGs there was a prevalence of Vertical programs, but we expect to see that in the SDGs the Horizontal programs are going to play a major role

**Timothy Anderson**, *President World Computer Exchange*, The World Computer Exchange built, over the years, a network of local partners organizations with whom they work directly. A long with local partners they have a global strategic alliances and they work with them in the field of education and environment. The organization work in 79 countries in order to connect youth to the internet, implement sustainable plans, ensure access for girls conducting evaluation for 3 years.

**Jim Poisant**, *Secretary General of WITSA*, explained the mission to fulfill the promise of the digital age ( that every kids on earth get the benefit of ICT) and to be recognized as the leading global voice of the ICT industry. Invited to participate to the event coming up: World Congress on IT, brings together over 2,000 global leaders in business, government and academia from over 80 countries to discuss the impact of ICT on global development. It has become the world's leading ICT networking.

**Dr Amjad Umar**, *Executive Director, Center for Next Generation Enterprises*, proposed and formed an Infopoverty Working Group (IWG) to continue the work of the Infopoverty Conference throughout the year with specific focus on how digital innovations can support and accelerate the Post 2015 UN Agenda. The IWG will initially consist of a few key players from the ICT industry (e.g., WITSA – The Worldwide Information Technology Services Alliance), the academia (e.g., University of Oklahoma, Harrisburg University, and University of Pennsylvania), governments (especially from Africa), and the civil society (e.g., the United Methodist Communications). This Working Group will pay special attention to accelerating the use of digital innovations to support SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) for LDCs(Least Developed Countries) and small and landlocked islands. The IWG will produce a draft report in August that will be hopefully presented at the Third International Conference for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), scheduled to convene from 1-4 September 2014, in Samoa. Our main task will be to formalize a Blueprint for Action that will rely on the Infopoverty Distributed Services Platform, a computer aided strategic planning environment, and other relevant tools to support and accelerate the Post 2015 UN Agenda.

#### 10. Gender and disability

**Francesca Cesa Bianchi**, *Vice-President for Institutional Relation at G3ict*, reinforced the appeal launch by Daniela Bas, highlighting the importance to include on the post 2015 agenda the theme of disability and support the ICTs applications for person with different abilities, considering that the 25% of the world poverty is driven by disability. 1 billion people live with some form of disability and they are usually at the very bottom of the income ladder in most countries. Priority action is training person with disability to use accessible ICTs; rising awareness of what ICT can do to facilitate their economic and social inclusion; getting organizations of person with disabilities in policy making.

**Shanu SP Hinduja**, *Chairperson of Hinduja Foundation*, US, believe that expanding technology and supporting disability inclusion is a fundamental requirement for the private sector that should focus on inclusive approach in the use of ICT in order to build a value chain of profit activities.

**Gloria Starr Kins**, *Editor in Chief and Publisher of Society and Diplomatic Review*, focused on children and education for children. In some way, wherever these children are all over the world, legally we can computerize every single one and if we computerize the wanted children and the unwanted children it will prevent slavery. For example, if we bring ICT in refugees camp, we can teach the children their ABCs, and even their mothers or fathers who are not that literate could also learn at the same time with the children.

### 11. Urbansustainable development and energy

**Steve Conboy**, *President Eco building*, with his company provide technology for build safe houses (ex. Immune to fire). From the beginning Eco has been focused on the environment, being sustainable. The aim that drives their projects is keeping families around the world healthy and safe in their own home and to help protect the environment for generations to come.

**Firdaus J. Kharas** presented the Solar Campaign to get 2.3 billion people without access to electricity to switch from using harmful form of energy to clean renewable solar energy. The poorest people have paid too much to generate some kind of energy. Appreciating the Signs of Change Film Festival, as a tool to enlarge the participation and capacity to mobilize the media he suggest to empower this collateral manifestation as a important event at UN.

### 12. Philantropy

**Liberato Bautista**, *Unite Methodist Church, Assistant Secretary General to UN*, highlighted the centrality of human person in the development process. Human being are agents of their own development, individually as person and collectively in a variety of association they are related to. Because the development is people center, governments, UN, NGOs should give protection to people and to their dignity. Quoted the Tunis Commitment, the international community reaffirm the “desire and commitment to build a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society, premised on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and multilateralism, and respecting fully and upholding the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, so that people everywhere can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge, to achieve their full potential and to attain the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals”.

**Neelley Hicks**, *Director ICT4D, Church Initiatives (UMCOM)*, shown some products that works as appropriate and accessible tools in country that live in poverty as a simple ruggedized laptop when equipped with an open source software called FrontlineSMS that can send group text messages without the need of Internet or solar lights like this one which also has cellphone charger that can reappropriate the wages of someone living in poverty. The aim is to find solutions “affordable, appropriate, and accessible,”.

**Emmanuel Amos**, *CEO PROGRAMOS (Nigeria)*, told about eNGO, organizations that will boost activities relating to ICT adoption. eNGO aims to provide NGOs a digital or web space - in local languages and/or English -, increasing their visibility and to empower them with useful tools that can facilitate and enhance their daily activities. This in turn solves the following problems of these grassroots NGOs such as communication and outreach, fundraising, partnerships and direct linking with other institutions etc...

**Leila Cetner**, *Chief Financial Officer of Highway Toll Administration*, proposed to use technology to inspire and motivate others, in particular social media. The idea is to create a dedicate social media platform to link like-minded people which care deeply about changing the world. It is time to harness and dedicate social media to fight poverty.

## **DELIBERATIONS**

Adhering to the willingness of all participants to join forces and give continuity to the discussion **we decide:**

1. to change the Infopoverty Conference into a **Permanent Conference** Organization, integrated with the UN system, with the task not only to ‘convince the Stakeholders of SDGs of the importance of ICTs’, but mostly to provide the concrete implementation of the new ICT solutions able to support and accelerate the UN Sustainable Development Agenda (SDGs) and the Last Developed countries (LDC).

2. to elaborate the **Infopoverty Program** as the synthesis of the main practices and projects presented, which constitute a peculiar selection of the best solutions ready to be applied by the UN system and governments to accelerate the MDGs achievement and able to give support to incoming SDGs.

Empowered through the Digital Services Global Platform, this new practices will provide easy access to the basic e-services, illustrated in the Report, with the contribution of all participants, operating as a Community, to express the new digital capacity to solve problems, still unachieved.

3 to start an intense interaction as a **Infopoverty Community** in order to define the Infopoverty executive program that could be centered on following focus:

3.1 ICT for Gender and disability, lead by DSPD- UNDESA, with the convergent applications emerged in the discussion

3.2. E-health: E-MedMed project, promoted by OCCAM, for the South Euro-Mediterranean region, as partnership integrator of advanced ICT stakeholders, ready to be implemented by the participants in other contest like LDC and Small Island Countries

3.3. Food Security: related initiatives for EXPO 2015, following the invitation of the representative of Milano Municipality, The applications of ICT for Africa and developing countries empowered by the network of service providers worldwide aimed at providing assistance to remote centers with a permanent structure that can serve as a *world e-center for food-security*.

3.4. E-learning lead by Infopoverty Institute of Oklahoma University, to empower local universities and educational infrastructures

3.5. Industrial ict sector, lead by WITSA with IWG, to organize the Infopoverty followup at the World Congress on IT on 30 september 2014.

OCCAM is in charged to continue assuring the general secretariat, to sharing this Declaration and providing coordination to realize the Infopoverty Program.