

XVII Infopoverty World Conference

*Transferring knowledge and adequate technologies:
the way to combat poverty and make the world safer*

April 21, 2017

New York, UN Headquarters - Conference Room 12

Milan, European Parliament Information Office



Agenda

Milan, European Parliament Information Office

14:30-16:00 (CET) – Preliminary Session THE WORLD FOOD SECURITY e-CENTER as a Legacy of EXPO2015

Chair: Barbara Forni, Official Representative of the European Parliament Information Office in Milan

Giuseppe Enne, NRD-UNISS, Steering Committee, WFSec

Vicenzo Gerbi, President of AISSA

Claudia Sorlini, President of Scientific Committee, City of Milan

Rita Pizzi, Department of Computer Science, University of Milan

Ruggero Tozzo, President of Alisei NGO, QUA-TELA NGO

Giuseppe Virgilio, President of Telespazio

Francesco Sicurello, President of the International Institute of Telemedicine

Bruno Finzi, President of the Order of Engineers, Milan

Cristiana Fiamingo, Coordinator SHUS, University of Milan

Carmine Pacente, President of the Commission of International Affairs Post EXPO, City of Milan

New York, United Nations Headquarters

10:00-10:30 (NYT) – Opening Session

Navid Hanif, Director, Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination, DESA

Adriano Monti, on the behalf of H.E. Amb. **Sebastiano Cardi** Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative of Italy to the UN

H.E. Amb. Yasuhisa Kawamura, Ambassador of Permanent Mission of Japan to the UN

Daniela Bas, Director, Division for Social Policy and Development, UN-DESA

General Introduction: **Pierpaolo Saporito**, OCCAM and Infopoverty President

First Session

How ICTs Can Contribute To Tackle Climate Change And Rural Development: The World Food Security e-Center

Co-Chair: Melchiade Bukuru, Chief, UNCCD, Liaison Office in New York

Co-Chair: Barbara Forni, Official Representative of the European Parliament Information Office in Milan

Carmine Pacente, President of the International Affairs Post EXPO Commission, City of Milan

Carla Mucavi, Director, FAO Liaison Office in New York

Giuseppe Enne, Steering Committee, WFSec

Kohsuke Hara, Programme Manager, Alliance Forum Foundation

Pasquale Pistorio, Honorary President of STMicroelectronics

Brando Benifei, European Parliament Deputy

Toshihiko Murata, OCCAM Representative to the UN reading a statement from Ambassador

Inoussa Ousseini, ICFT President

Claudia Sorlini, Scientific Committee, City of Milan

New York, United Nations Headquarters, Conference Room 12

12:00-1:00 pm Second Session Health For All: The Role of ICTs in Transferring Skills to Villages

Chair: Patrizio Civili, IDLO Permanent Observer to the UN

Christopher B. Smithers, President, The Christopher D. Smithers Foundation

Milton Wainberg, Scientific co-director, Global Mental Health Program, Columbia University

Ryadh Ben Sliman, Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the UN

Asahi Ota, Programme Officer and Nutritionist, Alliance Forum Foundation

H.E. Amb. Robert Van Lierop, Former Ambassador of Vanuatu to the UN

Ambassador Henry MacDonald, Permanent Representative of Suriname to the UN

Britnee N. Timberlake, President of the Board of Chosen Freeholders in the Essex County

1:30-2:00 pm *Special Event*

UNAFF, OCCAM and IFTC-UNESCO in the ambit of: 7th sign of change / 14th

UNAFF TRAVELLING FILM FESTIVAL Presents Non assistance *Director: Frédéric Choffat – Producer: Nicolas Wadimof Introduced by Jasmina Bojic, Founder and Director, UNAFF/UNAFF, Stanford University*

2:30-4:00 pm *Third Session The Digital Revolution: Moving From Smart Cities To Ict Villages To Empower People's Lives*

Chair: Sarbuland Khan, Former Executive Coordinator, UN-GAID

Aliye P. Çelik, President, Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization

Toshiko Murata, OCCAM Representative to the UN

Eugene W. Grant, Mayor of Seat Pleasant, Maryland

Giovanna Bottani, Operations Senior Consultant, STMicroelectronics foundation

Rehan Chaudhry, Principal Peak XV Advisors

Makoto Goda, CEO, Nippon Biodiesel Fuel Co.

H.E. Amb. António Gumende, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Mozambique to the UN

H.E. Lot Dzonzi, Deputy Permanent Representative of Malawi

4:00-5:30 pm *Fourth Session Building A Platform For The Sharing Of Knowledge And Technologies*

Chair: Maria Grazia Cavenaghi-Smith, Former Director, EU Parliament Office in Milan and Marseille, OCCAM, Liaison Officer

Cheryl Wills, NY1News Anchor and Author

Dominika Žak, Leader of 1 Billion Voices Team

Sabrina Bertucci, One Billion Voices

Saideh Browne, President National Council of Women

Robert St. Thomas, Smarter Solutions

David Neely, President & CEO, Affecting Change International

Robert Cipriano, CEO ALLHumanity

Lidwine Meffo, Founder and Executive Director, The Smiling Foundation

Federica Scala, IDLO Legal Officer

5:30 pm *Fifth Session - Conclusive Roundtable*

Chair: Pierpaolo Saporito, President, OCCAM and Infopoverty

With the Chairpersons of all the Sessions to formulate the results of the Conference and define them in the traditional Final Declaration, which will be delivered to the entire UN-System and the Governments.

Final declaration

The 17th Infopoverty World Conference

Thanking

- The president of the Italian Republic, H.E. Sergio Mattarella, for his high merit gave to the Conference;
- The President of the Italian Chamber of Deputy, Ms Laura Boldrini, and the Prime Minister, Mr Paolo Gentiloni, for the High Patronage;
- The deputy of Committee on Employment and Social Affairs to the European Parliament, Mr Brando Benifei, for his message;
- The representatives of the Governments: Mr Adriano Monti on behalf of Amb. Sebastiano Cardi for Italy, Amb. Yasuhisa Kawamura for Japan, Amb. Zina Andrianarivelo-Razafy for Madagascar, Mr Lot Dzonzi for Malawi, Amb. Antonio Gumende for Mozambique, Amb. Henry MacDonald for Suriname, Amb. Ryadh Ben Sliman for Tunisia and Amb. L.V. Lierop for Vanuatu, for the active participation;
- The representative of the UN system: Mr Navid Hanif from ECOSOC Ms Daniela Bas from UN-DESA, Mr Melchiade Bukuru from UNCCD, Ms Carla Mucavi from FAO, Mr Patrizio Civili from IDLO, Mr Sarbuland Khan from UN-GAID; and numerous non-governmental stakeholders active in the process of sustainable and digital development.
- The European Parliament information office in Milan for having welcomed the Italian session of the conference.

Taking in consideration the statements resumed in the attached Report

Adopt the following declaration

Reaffirm the determination to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), being aware that ICTs and new technologies can play a crucial role in fighting poverty and go beyond the wider gap created by the exclusion from development of a still too large part of population.

The ICTs are generating the current digital era, they should necessarily be open to all, for a more democratic and inclusive society, that assumes a strong commitment from all the stakeholders (governments, industries, civil society, academia, international institutions) involved in this process.

Therefore, it is fundamental that the transferring of knowledge and adequate technologies becomes a consolidated practice, in order that developing countries may benefit from suitable digital services (e-learning, e-health, e-governance, food security and so on) able to empower their infrastructure and developing policies in an economic, efficient and rapid way.

The conference aims to promote a great alliance between the main stakeholders in order to enhance the most effective applications on a large scale, to solve the basic needs of disadvantaged communities, using the best technologies and providing adequate infrastructures.

To this end the Conference, noting the urgency to realize these issues, advocates the accomplishment of the projects approved during the discussion:

- The “World Food Security e-Center,” illustrate by Claudia Sorlini, president of the Scientific Committee of Milan Expo2015, is designed to strengthen the e-agriculture services through remote diagnostics of plants and animals diseases, food preservation, hygienic quality, human nutrition, the training of human capital, job creation. The digital services are addressed to rural communities in need, thanks to a platform which connects the service providers (R&D, laboratories) to the service users located in the emerging countries. The Center, organized as a Consortium is open to academia, NGOs, companies and public and private institutions and is promoted by OCCAM.
- The “Digital Unify Program”, realized by the STMicroelectronics Foundation, aims to share e-learning and distant training in remote areas, facilitating job creation women and the young

generation. The key tool of the DU program is the Informatics and Computer Basics Course (ICB), which has managed to reach twenty-six countries since 2003. It is proposed to be installed in the Sambaina UN Millennium Village as a contribution for the relaunching plan.

- The “eMedMed” project, has been developed by the Infopoverty Program 2015 with IITM, the International Institute of Telemedicine, in order to provide e-health services through specialized innovative mobile devices that link both local and peripheral hubs in South Mediterranean countries, aims to assure basic support to the population, solving a large number of healthcare problems. Moreover, the project is also devoted to face the health security challenges that the migrant and refugees’ emergency is provoking.
- The “renewable energy solutions”, presented by Rehan Chaudhri, Principal Peak XV Advisor, involves three trends of emerging energy: i) wind, solar, geothermal and biomass renewable energy technologies; ii) battery, the prices of which are declining and capacities improving; iii) natural gas, which is becoming a cheap cleaner fossil fuel source for global base load electricity generation. The evolution of the energy source can lead to a decentralization that benefits emerging market countries as they achieve greater energy independence, having a dramatic impact on global economic development, poverty alleviation, and improvement in the quality of life.
- The “Mental Health Program”, promoted by the Christopher D. Smithers Foundation, designs a new model, based on a comprehensive and integrated community mental health care, with a major role played by new technologies. To implement this model a project in Mozambique, presented by Milton Wainberg of Columbia University, has been carried out, preparing trainers and technicians to cope with the epidemic of HIV; the same method has been followed with mental health, providing training for 120 psychiatric technicians. Considering the success of this action the Smithers Foundation proposes to organize an African Forum in order to share best practices.
- “E-money services”, by Nippon Biodiesel Fuel Co., serves the operators of tablet and smartphone based on the android system, through these devices they can purchase agricultural products from farmers, record how much money each farmer employees, check their consumption, record the money given by donors. This project is ready to be applied in the villages.
- The “Improving the agricultural productive capacity”, a project launched by the government of Sao Tomé Príncipe and led by NGO Alisei and Por Qua Tela, works to allow accessibility to quality agricultural products, promoting the use of innovative technologies and reducing risks linked to food insecurity.
- “1Billion Voices Digital Expo” Project introduced by Dominika Žak, is creating a direct link with people with disabilities from all corners of the planet, permitting them to virtually participate and make their voices heard through communication technologies and the engagement of young people.
- The National Council of Women operates on different projects, addressing the women heads of households and leaders of communities. It enables access to broadband to permit the growth and progress of women, children and families across the country.
- The “Smiling Foundation project” headed by Lidwine Meffo, teaches the women of the villages how to write and how to take better care of children, developing the ‘Mobile Money’ system to transfer money, and preventing the corruption concerning the telemedicine complex in Africa.
- The “Idili and Sustainability and Food Security” Project (ISFSP), by Affecting Change International, has been developed in Kenya, directed by Michael Barton who is working to find solutions for the wide diffusion of lack of sanitation and HIV/AIDS. The goal is the growth of agricultural productivity, to be achieved thanks to a modern permanent agricultural system characterised by technical improvement and implementation of farm management. Thus, youth will be empowered to associate their energies through participatory demo sites and design workshops.
- The mayor of Seat Pleasant, Eugene W. Grant, underlines a new approach to a better strategy through the tools of ICT, in order to create sustainable opportunities for the Seat Pleasant

community. Namely, focus will be on empowering villages as smart villages - and effect the conversion of smart cities into smart villages - by offering adequate services, microgrids, creating jobs and supporting entrepreneur in order to provide more healthy food for the urban population.

- The “Spirulina Project”, on which Asahi Ota is working as a nutritionist, providing what is needed for an undernourished population in powder form that needs no cooking, the simplicity of which can lead to sustainability.

The Conference endorsed all these projects in a convergent action in the ambit of the Infopoverty Program 2017-2018, to be applied by the Governmental institutions and through the UN system as a practical contribution to accelerate the achievement of SDGs.

In particular, the 17th Infopoverty World Conference, thanks to the Representatives to the UN of the Governments of Tunisia, Malawi, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Suriname, Vanuatu, Zambia, Madagascar, Italy and Japan, appreciating the statements, grant the request and decide to consider as a priority the application of the above-mentioned projects in:

- **the South Saharan Countries** affected by heavy poverty, the principal cause of the alarming exodus, in order to allow a greater support for a rapid development, transferring knowledge and adequate technologies to stimulate a widespread job creation, following the Migrant Compact and the Addis Ababa Agenda;
- **Sambaina**, in Madagascar, to relaunch the UN Millennium Village, created by the Infopoverty Program in 2006, empowering it and providing new e-services on health, education and food security. Specifically, it will be implemented by renewable energy, job creation and e-money solution, following the appeal from the Mayor Mr Razakatoanina Mamisoa and the Madagascar Permanent Representative to the UN, as a model for a new policy of rural development for the whole nation.
- **Borj Touil**, in Tunisia, the ICT village of WSIS 2005 (World Summit on the Information Society), where a Hub for school, dispensary and community was created to share basic services. As stated by the Tunisian Permanent Representative to the UN, it will be necessary to implement it through a wider application of telemedicine and e-training on food security. The objective is to update the model to be reproduced in many other rural communities to help them to join development processes.
- **Mozambique**, which has the potential to address the challenge to eradicate poverty, being determined in the use of ICT as an important key for education, health and agriculture.
- **Malawi**, to empower the Millennium Village, which brought a lot of benefits for the rural community improving their level of food security and improving their ability to store food without damage it.
- **Vanuatu**, enhance the appeal to the international community for international property laws, underlying the role they play in denying people in the developing countries equitable access to broadband and to ICT.
- **Suriname**, to create an adequate infrastructure for communication, able to reduce Wi-Fi cost, enabling people to use their smartphones and to be connected to a broadband international connection system, considered as the priority for ICT development
- **Zambia**, to implement the successful experimentation where the diet of one community was investigated by the Key Food survey, under the frame of the “Spirulina Project”. Thanks to the above-mentioned survey it was possible to design a nutrition activity plan shaped on community inhabitants needs.

Considering the dramatic conditions of the poor population, the practical solutions shared and the will of the project owners to share their capacity in concrete applications, the Conference,

Invites

the Countries Representatives and the Delegates of the UN system ,

- to seize the opportunity to use on the ground the above solutions, adopting in their program these innovative experimentations,
- to give mandate to OCCAM, as the acting agency of the Infopoverty Program, to continue serving as the Permanent Secretariat of the Conference, in order to realise what has been decided.