PRESENTATION

The Infopoverty World Conference has reached its 15th consecutive edition at the UN Headquarters, setting itself as an annual appointment for high-level participants to confront themselves, and to evaluate the progress of the current digital dividend and the best solutions to defeat poverty through the new ICTs. Conceived to coincide also with the observance of the European Year of Development, the Conference is intended as a contribution to the ongoing processes of reflection within the UN, leading to the adoption of a new Development Agenda and of a new set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at a Summit in New York next September, rooted in a more holistic approach to development - an approach that seeks to integrate and achieve a more sustainable balance among priorities in the economic, social and environmental spheres and strives for growth and prosperity within a new, inclusive vision that leaves no one behind. The aim is to truly "transformational" and the principles of universality and inclusiveness that will guide the new Sustainable Goals and the "road to dignity by 2030" - advocated by the Secretary General in a recent report for "ending poverty, transforming all lives and protecting the planet" (UN document A/69/700) - are also key characteristics of ICTs and of the unique contribution that these technologies can make to poverty alleviation and the sustainability of development. Communication and digital tools are the panacea of us all. A renewed compact - a new dedicated global partnership among governments, the private sector, civil society, and indeed the UN system - is necessary to see that the unique potential of these instruments to end poverty and transform the world to better meet human needs, and the requirements of sustainable development is fully exploited. This is not only possible, it is a duty of us all: it is incumbent on all of us to contribute to ensuring that these new instruments of equitable progress are drawn upon in delivering the universal agenda that truly places people and the planet at the core.

This will not however happen by itself. Previous editions of the IWC, exploring such subjects as “Who drives the Digital Revolution?” and “Building Nations”, have drawn attention to a major dichotomy between goals and practices in this area. They have also reminded us of the great potential of the WEB for good but also of the WEB increasingly serving as an ocean where everybody - good but also evil - is being dumped. They have pointed to ICTs' key contribution to extending the reach and the knowledge base for the delivery of primary social services for education (e-learning), combating diseases (e-health), advancing food security and contributing to job creation, but also to how much more ICTs, if systematically exploited, could do to advance human welfare. New partnerships at all levels, united in a Global Platform for digital services, will need to be formed for ICTs to become the powerful "Means of Implementation" of the new SDGs guided by the United Nations, to gear telematics systems to serve to advance, in a deliberate and purposeful way, sustainable development goals and the targets that the international community will set to reach them. The Global Platform’s key mission should be to harness efforts at all levels towards a common strategic vision firmly set within the commitments that countries will enter into in adopting the new Development Agenda. To that end: to promote increasingly people-oriented applications; to help share competences and innovative approaches, to point out new promising applications and functionalities; and to serve, across these tasks, as a center for global mobilization in gauging ICTs as a key force for poverty eradication and sustainable development. The 2015 edition of the IWC can be a turning point in advancing the vision and objectives that have underlined this initiative from its inception. Building on the insights that previous editions of the Conferences have generated, and seizing the political momentum - but also the space for new answers - that characterizes the ongoing negotiations at the UN towards the adoption of a new, "transformative" sustainable development agenda for the post 2015 period, the 2015 edition of the Conference can strive to achieve its long sought objective of introducing ICTs as an important, integral part of the international community’s drive towards a more just, equitable and inclusive world. This will then be the springboard for designing what it is hoped to be an increasingly inclusive, results-oriented program for the initiative in the years ahead.

WITH THE PATRONAGE OF

SPECIAL THANKS TO

MEDIA PARTNER

CONTACTS

OCCAM
Headquarters
Piazza Duomo, 21, 20121 Milan
Tel. +39 028591392
Fax +39 028575193
occam@occam.org
www.occam.org
facebook.com/occam.milan
twitter.com/occam_milano

Government Liaison and Protocol
Glenn Kies
131 E 64th Street, New York
Tel. +1 212 6281745 Kiesgroup@aol.com

Representative to UN hq
Toshikatsu Murato
Tel. +1 917 8805326jm@murato.org

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
Information Office in Milan
Carlo Magno, 59
20133 Milan
Tel. +39 024344171
Fax +39 02434417500
Email: opec米兰@europarl.europa.eu

INFOPOVERTY INSTITUTE
John L. Stephens
cy/o the University of Oklahoma Norman Oklahoma
Tel. +1 405 325 1428
Fax +1 405 325 7776
jstephens@ou.edu

INVITATION

9-10 APRIL 2015
New York, UN Headquarters · Conference Room 12
in videoconference with:
Milan, European Parliament Information Office · Sala Conferenze

www.infopovverty.net
Live streamed on
11.30am - 12.30pm Second Session

HOW THE ICTS CAN TRANSFORM THE WORLD TO BETTER MEET THE HUMAN NEEDS?

The dialogue of this session will seek to illustrate the vast opportunities that ICTs carry to advance the new SDGs to which states and government will commit in adopting the post-2015 Development Agenda. The idea is to highlight the importance of the “digital divide” and how operators aim to reduce it in the next ten years. The session will focus on the role of ICTs in achieving the SDGs.

Chair: H.E. Ms. Heidi Schroeder-Fox, Ambassador/Director, UN Office of the High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs’ and SDCs

H.E. Mr. A.K. Abdul Momen, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the UN

Frank Williams, Director, UN Office of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development

Susan Altmann, Office in Charge, UN Non-Governmental Urban Services

Yamina Djejka, Director, UNESCO/NY Office

Jean-Louis Sarib, CEO, Development Gateway