

## PRESENTATION

The Infopoverity 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 devolution 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 to be 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 patrimony 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 a new 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" (2012) 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 telematic 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 competencies and innovative approaches; to point out new promising applications and functionalities; and to serve, across these tasks, as a center for global mobilization in gearing 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 search for new answers - that characterizes the ongoing negotiations at the UN towards the adoption of a new, "transformational" 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 incisive, results oriented program for the initiative in the years ahead.

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*Under the Patronage of:  
the Italian Chamber of Deputies  
the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation*

## XV INFOPOVERTY WORLD CONFERENCE

## NEXT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: THE CHALLENGE BEFORE THE DIGITAL ERA



## INVITATION

9-10 APRIL, 2015

New York, UN Headquarters - Conference Room 12

*in videoconference with:*

Milan, European Parliament Information Office - Sala Conferenze

www.infopoverity.net

live streamed on



# THURSDAY APRIL 9, 2015

## PLENARY SESSIONS

New York, United Nations Headquarters  
Conference Room 12  
10.00 - 11:30

Milan, European Parliament Offices  
Video Conference Room  
16.00 - 17:30

### Opening Session

**H.E. Mr. Sebastiano Cardi**, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Italy to the UN

**Amina Mohammed**, Special Advisor of the UNSG on post-2015 Development Planning, message delivered by  
**Joe Colombano**, Economic Advisor, Executive Office of the Secretary-General

General Introduction

**Pierpaolo Saporito**, President, OCCAM and Infopoverity Programme

### First Session

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND EUROPEAN YEAR FOR DEVELOPMENT: TWO CONVERGING VISIONS

2015 - proclaimed by the EU the European Year for Development - marks the conclusion of the MDGs cycle. The international community is poised to adopt in September a new Development Agenda for the next 15 years. Freeing humanity from poverty remains the overriding priority. Are visions converging as to new ways for delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that will be at the core of the post-2015 Development Agenda? The first session of the conference is intended to launch a dialogue on this basic question, engaging, by live stream, officials and experts from the EU Offices in Brussels and Milan. They will interact with development partners in New York contributing to setting the directions of the new Development Agenda.

**Co-Chair: Sharon Brennen-Haylock**,  
Director, FAO Liaison Office in New York

**Valentina Aprea**, Regional Minister to Education,  
Training and Employment, Regione Lombardia  
**H.E. Mr. Zine Andrianarivelo-Razafy**,  
Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Madagascar to UN  
**Noboru Sekiguchi**, Minister, Permanent mission of  
Japan to the UN

**Gary Fowlie**, Director, ITU Liaison Office to the UN  
**Akiko Ito**, Chief, Secretariat for the Convention on the  
Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Division, DPA

**Co-Chair: Bruno Marasà**,  
Director, European Parliament Offices in Milan

**Eleonora Evi**, Member of European Parliament,  
Commission for environment, health and food security  
**Ruggero Gabbai**, President, Municipal Commission  
EXPO 2015 Milano  
**Claudia Sorlini**, Chairperson, EXPO 2015 Scientific  
Committee  
**Livia Pomodoro**, President, Milan Center for Food  
Law and Policy  
**Maria Grazia Mattei**, Cariplo Foundation  
**Silvia Costa**, Member of EP, President of the Commission  
on Culture and Education

New York, United Nations Headquarters  
Conference Room 12

### 11,30am - 12,30pm Second Session

#### HOW THE ICTs CAN TRANSFORM THE WORLD TO BETTER MEET THE HUMAN NEEDS?

The dialogue at this session will seek to illustrate the as yet largely unexplored potential that ICTs carry to advance the new SDGs to which heads of state and government will commit in adopting the post 2015 Development Agenda. What is the place/role of ICTs among the “investments in innovations” and the “global platform” for “technology facilitation initiatives” that the UN Secretary-General is calling for in his report on “The road to dignity for all (A/69/700)” ? This session will set stage for a review, at subsequent sessions, of concrete experiences in a range of countries and regions of the impact that ICT applications can have in different economic sectors, from health to food to education, and of the key contribution they can make, across these sectors, to poverty eradication and the sustainability of development.

**Chair: H.E. Ms. Heidi Schroderus-Fox**, Ambassador-Director, UN Office of the High Representative for LDCs, LLDC's, and SIDS

**H.E. Mr. A.K. Abdul Momen**, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the UN  
**Patrizio Civili**, IDLO Permanent Observer to the UN  
**Frank Williams**, Director and UN Representative, World Vision  
**Susan Alzner**, Officer in Charge, UN Non-Governmental Liaison Services  
**Yamina Djacta**, Director UN-HABITAT NewYork office  
**Jean-Louis Sarbib**, CEO, Development Gateway

## PLENARY SESSIONS

New York, United Nations Headquarters  
Conference Room 12

### 2,30pm - 4,30pm Third Session TOWARD A DIGITAL GLOBAL PLATFORM

The session will review ongoing experiments and projects in developing countries that seek, through ICT applications, to extend the reach and depth of social services and reduce their costs in key development sectors (telemedicine, food security, eLearning, job creation), and will explore the concept and feasibility of a global platform of digital services geared to enhancing their overall impact on poverty alleviation and the sustainability of socio-economic progress. Food security will be highlighted with MILAN EXPO 2015 in view.

**Chair: H.E. Mr. Serge Telle**, Ambassador, Chairman of AVITEM, France

#### On telemedicine:

**Hossam Badrawi**, Badrawi Foundation, Egypt

**Luigi De Vecchis**, Scientific Director, eMedMed OCCAM Project

**Giorgio Moretti**, President, Dedalus, Italy

**Steven Shaha**, Ph.D, DBA, Centre for Public Policy & Administration, USA

**Nata Menabde**, Executive Director, WHO Office New York

**Georgia Sambunaris**, USAID, Retired Senior Adviser and Independent Consultant

**H.E. Mr Mohamed Khaled Khiari**, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Tunisia to the UN (tbc)

#### On food security:

**Luciano Gutierrez**, Director, Desertification Research Centre, University of Sassari, Italy

**Amir Abdulla**, Deputy Executive Director, World Food Program

**Yuvan A. Beejadhur**, World Bank, International Affair Agriculture Global practices (tbc)

**Melchiade Bukuru**, Chief UNCCD Liaison Office, New York

### 4,30 pm - 6,00pm Fourth Session

#### ICT 4 ALL - THE SAMOA PATHWAY - THE TIMOR LESTE PILOT PROJECT - ECENTRES FOR DEVELOPMENT

The dialogue at this session will focus on ICT responses to the special needs of Small Island Developing Countries (SIDS) in areas ranging from health and education to food security, and on the holistic solutions that ongoing experiments with the creation of E-Centers of Excellence can provide for small communities in these countries.

**Chair: John Steffens**, Infopoverity Institute, Oklahoma University

**H.E. Mr. Carlos Garcia**, Ambassador - Founder and CEO, CG Global Consultants, New York

**H.E. Mr. Denis Antoine**, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Grenada to the UN (tbc)

**Amjad Umar**, President of NGE Solutions, Adj. Professor Telecommunications, University of Pennsylvania

**Abraham Joseph**, Special Advisor, NITL Foundation, Timor-Leste

**Peter Kenilorea**, High Level Advisor, UN-SIDS

**Samreen Amir, Abdul S Mohammed**, Systems Engineers, Centre for Next Generation Enterprises, Harrisburg University

**Ben Kazora**, President, Eastern Africa Diaspora Business Council

**Ali Omar**, President, Tanzania Diaspora Council

**Deepak Srivastava**, Professor, NIRMA University, Ahmadabad

# FRIDAY APRIL 10, 2015

## PLENARY SESSIONS

New York, United Nations Headquarters  
Conference Room 12

### 9,30am - 11,00am Fifth Session THE BEST ICT PRACTICES FOR DEVELOPMENT PRESENTED: THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY

NGOs and civil society are often a precious source of innovation - charting the path for innovative, ICT based responses to development needs. They are, as such an essential engine in the formation of ICT partnerships for sustainable development. This session will highlight best ICTs based, civil society-led practices that call for the international community's attention as it seeks to promote new solutions and partnerships to achieve an ambitious post 2015 Sustainable Development Agenda.

**Chair: Coumba Touré**, Chairperson, Advanced Development for Africa Foundation

**Gloria Starr-Kins**, Director, Society & Diplomatic Review

**Neelley Hicks**, Director ICT4D Church Initiatives, UMCOM

**David Neely**, President, Affecting Change International

**Michael Perreau**, United Bible Society, International Literacy and Job Development Programs

**Lauren Woodman**, NetHope

**Firdaus Kharas**, Chocolate Moose Media

**Francis Lorenzo**, President South-South News

### 11,00am - 12,30pm Sixth Session INNOVATIONS: THE FUEL OF DEVELOPMENT. THE PRIVATE SECTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

This session will seek to project companies' perspective of ICTs' potential as a key agent for poverty alleviation and global development - capable, if deliberately geared to these ends, to provide win-win , innovative solutions for market expansion, lowering the costs of social services, and engaging poor communities in the development effort.

**Chair: Naoko Kimura**, Relationship Manager Asia and Oceania, UN Global Compact

**Masahiro Ikeno**, Vice President, NEC Corporation

**Ying Zhang**, President, iMedcare, China

**Doug Reid-Green**, BASF Head Office in New York

**Abed Sheikh**, CEO, Nortec software

**Steve Conboy**, CEO, Eco Building Products

**Robert St. Thomas**, Smarter Solutions Delivery Executive, IBM Global Business Services

**Toshihiko Murata**, OCCAM Representative to UN Hq

### 13.00 -14.30 Special Screening: FROM THE 5<sup>th</sup> SIGNS OF CHANGE FILM FESTIVAL:

**WHITE EARTH** by J. Christian Jensen,

**THE WELL: WATER VOICES FROM ETHIOPIA** by Paolo Barbieri, Riccardo Russo

Presented by UNAFF- Travelling Film F.

Introduced by **Jasmina Bojic**, Stanford University, UNAFF founder and director

### 2,30pm - 4,30pm Seventh Session - General Discussion THE CONTRIBUTION OF ICTs IN DELIVERING THE POST-2015 AGENDA: INITIATIVES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This session will seek to draw conclusions from the Conference's discussions and develop recommendations on ways in which ICTs applications can contribute to an effective implementation of the new SDGs that will feature in the post 2015 Development Agenda; and on institutional arrangements and practical initiatives that can serve to maximize such contribution. It should also serve to provide direction for the design of the Infopoverity Programme for 2015-2016.

### 4,00pm - 4,30pm CONCLUSIVE ROUNDTABLE

To formulate the results of the Conference and define them in the traditional final declaration, which will be delivered to the entire UN-Systems and the Governments.

### 5,00pm - Endorsement of the Final Declaration of the 15<sup>th</sup> IWC