

PRESENTATION

Can Smart Cities effectively win the fight against poverty? The race towards smart cities often brings to mind a distinctly over the top science fiction imagery, but it doesn't have to lose its main perspective: ensuring well-being for all and keeping the fighting poverty as a priority, together with the elimination of slums – a problem that affects a large number of megalopolises.

More than half of the world population is urbanized, while the gap between urban and rural areas is constantly increasing. Large pockets of poverty remain, with the paradoxical consequence that, in urban areas, edibles must be imported from great distances while famines are more likely to occur in fertile but not adequately exploited territories.

The disparities, mostly due to informal socio-economic assets, produce growing urban masses in complete disarray, a source of desperation, emigration and violence: empowering cities with modern technologies, capable of providing decent living and welfare conditions for all, means taking a large step towards the achievement of the objectives of sustainable development indicated by the UN.

This is the topic that will be discussed in the XIX edition of the Infopoverty World Conference, on April 12th in New York at the UN headquarters in videoconference with the European Parliament Liaison office in Milan.

The Infopoverty Program, created by OCCAM in 2000, has been fighting poverty for 18 years creating digital solutions and innovative models such as ICT villages founded in various countries, including the Millennium Village of Sambaina in Madagascar in 2006, empowered by platforms able to provide telemedicine, food security, e-learning services to the poorest rural communities, through the World Health & Food Security e-Center, that operates in collaboration with over 20 universities and centers of excellence, including Italian ones. In its XIX edition, the Infopoverty World Conference focuses on the dynamics of formation and management of megalopolises – where poverty is endemic and puts civil coexistence at risk – placing it in relation to the precarious conditions of rural communities, in order to find solutions that lead to a balanced and supportive development.

In Africa the demographic pressure, which has not had adequate development capacity in the agricultural field, pours masses of deracinated people in urban areas that feed increasing migratory waves towards the Mediterranean, destabilizing local structures of very fragile governance and causing imbalances even in developed countries.

The digital revolution, where everyone is connected and there are virtual frontiers, has to a certain extent accelerated these dynamics - albeit not having bothered to extend these new opportunities to everyone, having oriented its solutions towards the wealthy classes. Now that even the poorest people use mobile phones as a tool for work and emancipation, the Conference wants to demonstrate, through the best practices, how these immense potential can translate into terms of education, health and food security services capable of transferring skills to create jobs to alleviate the conditions of the most disadvantaged communities. Smart Cities have now become the center of the digital revolution, subject to very strong investments in research and innovations in various fields: mobility, home automation, clean energy, clean water, climate change, e-governance. It will therefore be the task of the Conference to debate on how appropriate it would be to extend these solutions to the whole territory and, in particular, to the rural populations in order to implement agricultural production and feed the cities, giving way to win-win processes of circular economy.

The agenda will not be the apotheosis of the new super technologies for cities inhabited by ever richer classes, but a commitment to the ideal of safeguarding environmental values and the promotion of human rights, in the assumption that no city can ever proclaim itself a Smart City if it does not have concrete solutions in its plans to combat poverty and eliminate slums.

This is the challenge that the XIX Infopoverty World Conference faces, involving the best thinkers and operators (innovators, managers of public and private institutions, universities and research centers, large companies) to focus on convergent and easily applicable solutions at minimum costs, as a concrete contribution by the digital world in order to accelerate the achievement of the UN's sustainable development goals.

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SPECIAL THANKS



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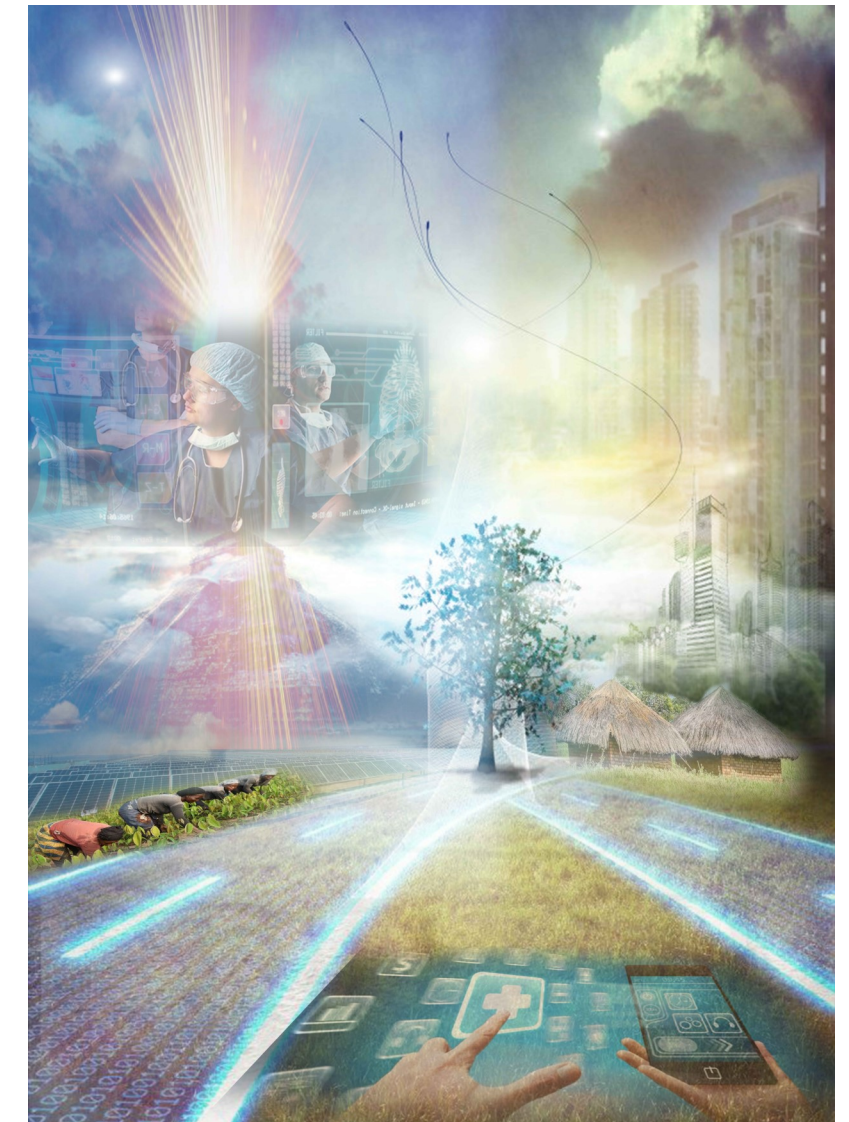
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HOW SMART CITIES CAN FIGHT POVERTY ELIMINATING SLUMS AND PROMOTING ICT-VILLAGES FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT



INVITATION

APRIL 12th, 2019

New York, UN Headquarters - Conference Room 12

in videoconference with Milano:
European Parliament Liaison Office
live streaming on :



UN WEB TV
The United Nations Live & On-demand

www.occam.org

www.infopoverty.net

PROGRAM

New York, United Nations Headquarters,
Conference Room 12

10:00-10:30 (NYT) – Opening Session

Alison Smale, Under-Secretary-General for Global
Communications Department of Public Information

H.E. Angela Zappia, Italian Permanent Representative to UN

H.E. Manlio Di Stefano, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs and
International Cooperation, Italy (Videomessage)

H.E. Hesham El Nakib, Ambassador Extraordin. of Egypt in NY

H.E. Toshiya Hoshino, Japanese Ambassador to the UN

General Introduction:

Pierpaolo Saporito, President of OCCAM and Infopoverty

10:30 - 12:00 (NYT) – First Session

Next development plans as an aid or an investment?

*Helping endogenous development means transferring know-
ledge and technologies, providing e-services, and transfer-
ring capital for productive investments in the medium to
long term, overcoming the psychological block created by
financial parameters: money no longer creates money, but
only social hardship, increasing migrations and poverty.*

New York, UN Headquarters

Conference Room 12

10:30 - 12:00 (NY)

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

Aliye P. Celik, Vice President,
Consortium for Sustainable
Urbanization

Alberto Padova, Chief, Stra-
tegic Engagement and Policy
Integration Branch

George Hara, Chairman
Alliance Forum Foundation

Milan, European Parliament

Liaison Office

16:30 - 18:00 (CET)

Co-Chair: **Bruno Marasà**,
Director, European Parlia-
ment Liaison Office in Milan

H.E. Brando Benifei, EU
Parliamentary

Stefano Boeri, President
Triennale of Milan

Mauro Decca, Board Mem-
ber, ST Foundation

Cesare Casati, Director,
ARCA

Special Tribute to:

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

New York, United Nations Headquarters,
Conference Room 12

12:00-13:00 (NYT) – Second Session

How urbanization can be sustainable

*LDC are growing fast, and need to preserve his environ-
ment by a massive rural development, in order to feed the
incumbent Smart Cities, with sustainable models for infra-
structure planning territorial harmonization.*

Chair: **Chris Williams**, Director, UN Habitat

Nikki Smithers, President of Smithers Foundation

Jimmy Roback, Advisor of the President of Congo

Naroa Zurutuza, Applied AI and Information Poverty Lead,
UNICEF Innovation

James Yusef Huggins, President American Global Trading
Group Dept. For Africa

Eugene W. Grant, Mayor of Seat Pleasant, Maryland

H.E. Hipolito Arriaga Pote, Gobernador Nacional Indigena,
Mexico

H.E. Inoussa Ousseini, Niger Permanent representative to
UNESCO

14:30-16:30 (NYT) – Third Session

The Digital Revolution allows the Smart Cities and the ICT Villages to improve the country

*Integrating villages with the facilities of Cities is now
possible thanks to digital solutions, in order to share to all
population the opportunities offered by the new
technologies, expanding education, social welfare and
businesses.*

Chair: **Patrizio Civili**, IDLO Permanent Observer to the UN

Nasir A. Mogul, President of Sterling Global Investments

Ivan Shumkov, President of AcademyBuild Association

Joseph Di Pasquale, PhD Milan Politecnico and "OCCAM
ArchGroup" Delegate

Lise Nathalie Beaulne Nasim, Representative of IFI

Saurabh Dani, Senior Disaster Risk Management, World Bank

Makiko Tagashira, Officier of Division for Inclusive Social

Development

Shinichi Yamanaka, N High School Kadokawa Dwango Co.

Ricardo de Guimarães Pinto, Liaison Officer UNESCO in NY

Rehan Noor Chaudhry, Global investor and Analyst, Altrinsic

New York, United Nations Headquarters,
Conference Room 12

16:30-17:30 – Fourth Session

Which digital services are useful for a balanced rural and urban communities?

*The services, such as schools, hospitals etc., make citizens
life well and prosper. At the same time they require
competences and qualified personnel, who can be trained
quickly with digital solutions, which make localisation and
territorial interconnections equitable, in the contemporary
spirit of "ruralising towns and urbanising the countryside".*

Chair: **Maria Grazia Cavenaghi-Smith**, Former Head of
European Parliament Information Office in Milan

Hassan Ghazal, President of Moroccan Society for
Telemedicine and eHealth

Manuel Gurrola Flores, Council President of Quimica Lucava

Mikio Kimura, CEO, TORUS, Inc.

Makoto Goda, CEO, Nippon Biodiesel Fuel Co., Ltd

Makoto Okubo, General Manager International affairs
Government Relations Dept

Pietro Piccinetti, Director, Fiera Roma

17:30 (NYT): Fifth Session - Round Table

General Discussion

*The results of the Conference are going to be defined in the
Final Declaration, which will be delivered to the entire UN
System and to the Governments.*

FINAL DECLARATION

13:00-14:30 (NYT): Special Event

**UNAFF, OCCAM and IFTC-UNESCO in the ambit of:
The 9th Signs of Change and the 15th UNAFF Traveling
Film Festival**

Slums: Cities of Tomorrow

Director: Jean-Nicolas Orhon - Producer: Christine Falco
Today, one person in six lives in a slum, a squat, or any other precarious
dwelling. Slums: Cities of Tomorrow seeks to address the housing pro-
blem in the age of urban overcrowding by looking at structures built on a
human scale from a sociological and philosophical perspective.
Introduced by Jasmina Bojic, Founder and Director of
UNAFF