

PRESENTATION

On the occasion of its 30th anniversary, OCCAM, The Observatory on Digital Communication, founded in 1996 by UNESCO, marks nearly three decades of continuous commitment to understanding, anticipating and shaping the societal impact as pilot explorer of the digital transformation.

Established by the leading institutions of the Municipality of Milan – through an agreement signed by the Municipality of Milan, the Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Craft and Agriculture, ASSOLOMBARDA, Fondazione Cariplo, and Fiera di Milano—OCCAM was conceived as a forward-looking platform at the intersection of technology, culture, and social development.

The Infopoverty World Conference, launched in 2001, at the dawn of the digital era, has showcased in its 25 years of activity, the key contribution that new digital technologies make to the implementation of the MDGs first and SDGs now. Drawing from the contributions of 60 Ambassadors and 1000 Eminent leaders, over the years, the Conference has shed light and support to deliver concrete e-welfare solutions addressing the key factors of poverty and causes of its persistence.

In this spirit, OCCAM is pleased to announce the XXV Infopoverty World Conference on the theme: *“Warfare or Welfare: the AI dilemma”*, dedicated to the role of Artificial Intelligence in sustainable development and the creation of social value, strengthening the urgency to share innovative forms of welfare to provide the real needs of people, with adequate AI-driven platforms.

As part of the Conference theme, a selection process will be launched to identify outstanding Champions whose work demonstrates leadership, responsibility, and impact in the ethical and human-centered use of Artificial Intelligence, strengthening a global network of leaders committed to ensuring that Artificial Intelligence serves humanity, peace, and sustainable development.

WE THANK THE PREVIOUS SPEAKERS

S. Al Basheer Al Morshid, Director, ITU, Saudi Arabia; **T. Al-Ghanem**, Regional Communication Manager at IFAD, Qatar; **Z. Andrianarivelo**, Ambassador, Madagascar; **C. Azzolini MD**, Insubria University, Founder of Eumedea Telemedicine Platform, Italy; **M. Ayaipoma**, Congress President, Peru; **M. Baccini**, Undersecretary of State to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italy; **M. Bachelet**, President of Chile and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Chile; **A. Barachini**, Undersecretary of State, Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Italy; (in charge) **D. Bas**, Director of Division for Inclusive Social Development, UNDESA, Italy; **P. de Sio Naebo**, RAY Foundation, Italy; **Scott Dulchavsky**, NASA AIUM Project Coordinator, US; **G. Beretta**, Eutelsat Communications SA, Italy; **L. Boldrini**, President of the Chamber of Deputies, Italy; **Terri Hasdorf**, Center for Faith Based Community Initiatives, USAID, US; **Choi Soon-Hong**, Chief IT Officer, Assistant Secretary General, UN, South Korea; **M. Bukuru**, Director, UNCCD Liaison Office in New York, US; **Ibrahim O. Dabbashi**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Libya to UN; **L. Chiariglione**, Founder of Moving Picture Experts Group (MPEG), Italy; **P. Civili**, Special Advisor to the Director General of IDLO, Italy; **S. M. De Badaroux**, Executive Board, UNESCO; **S. De Mistura**, UN Secretary General Assistant and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy; **D. B. Dunn**, Ambassador, U.S. to Togo; **R. Espinel**, Minister of Agriculture, Ecuador; **L. Fernández**, President of the Dominican Republic; **G. Fini**, President of the Chamber of Deputies, Italy; **D. Gebremichael**, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Ethiopia; **C. Garcia**, Ambassador, El Salvador; **G. Gargani**, President of Media and Culture Commission, European Parliament, Italy; **V. Giuseppe**, Director for EU and Industrial Policies, ESA, Italy; **J. C. Glenn**, Executive Director, The Millennium Project, US; **G. Gonzalez**, Ambassador, El Salvador; **A. Hachani**, Ambassador, Tunisia; **C. M. G. Hernandez**, Ambassador, El Salvador; **P. Ferrari**, Founder Fiera Milano, EXPO; Italy; **C. Israel**, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Technology Policy, US Department of Commerce; **G. Jomaa**, Ambassador, Tunisia; **J. Kerry**, Secretary of State, US; **M.K. Khiari**, Ambassador, Tunisia; **N. Kroes**, EU Commissioner for Digital Agenda, The Netherlands; **F. Lobasso**, Ambassador, Italy; **A. Mangstl**, Director of FAO's Knowledge Exchange and Capacity Building Division, Germany; **A. Mantica**, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs, Italy; **K. Matsuura**, Director-General of UNESCO, Japan; **A. J. de Souza Marques**, Regional Minister of Health, Belo Horizonte, Brazil; **A. J. Mohammed**, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Nigeria; **H. Mongi**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Tunisia; **L. Moratti**, Minister, Italy; **J. D. Negroponte**, US Permanent Representative to the UN, Italy; **J. A. Ocampo**, Under-Secretary-General, UNDESA, Colombia; **G. Parentela**, Secretary General, ESA, Italy; **I. Pett**, Chief Health Systems and Strategic Planning Programs, UNICEF; **E. Pistorio**, Founder, ST Microelectronics Foundation, Italy; **M. Ravalomanana**, President of the Republic, Madagascar; **N. Rochdi**, UN Deputy Special Envoy for Syria; **G. Sambunaris**, Senior Advisor to Director, Office of Economic Growth, USAID; **B. Sanou**, Director, ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau; **R. Schifani**, President of the Senate, Italy; **K. Schwab**, Founder and President, World Economic Forum, Germany; **P. Sicuro**, Director, Institut de la Francophonie Numerique, Italy; **J. Shirley Jr.**, President of the Navajo Nation, US; **L. C. Sgaier**, Secretary of State IT, Tanzania; **C. Smithers**, C. & A. Smithers Foundation, US; **J. Steffens**, Director Infopoverty Institute; US; **S. Telle**, Minister of State of Monaco; **H.E. Amb. G. Terzi di Sant'Agata**, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Italy to the UN; **H. Touré**, ITU Secretary-General, Mali; **E. Ulibarri**, Ambassador, Costa Rica; **C. Williams**, Director, UN-Habitat, US; **D. Yohannes**, Ambassador, Ethiopia; **J. Yonga**, Ambassador, Kenya; **P. Zampolli**, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Dominica to the United Nations; **G. B. Zepeda**, Minister, Honduras; *And others* (cf. [Infopoverty e-book](#))



New York, UN Headquarters
April 17th, 2026, Streamed by UN Webcast

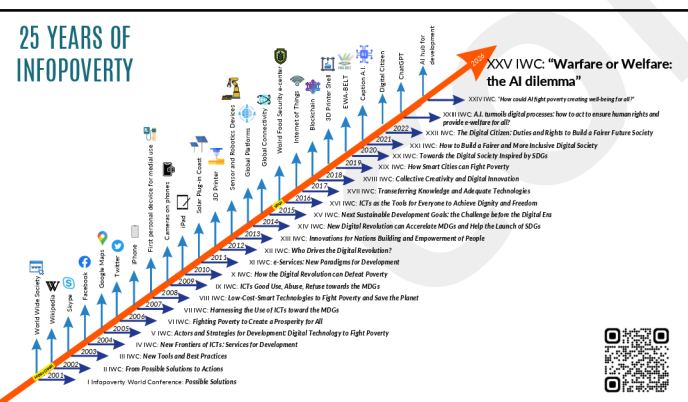
INVITATION

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www.occam.org - www.infopoverty.net - Wikipedia: "OCCAM Observatory"



at UNESCO

10:00 am (EDT) - Opening Session BUILDING SOCIAL BENEFIT WITH AI

Institutional Greetings

H.E. Giorgio Marrapodi, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations

H.E. Alberto Barachini, Undersecretary of State, Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Italy

H.E. Amandeep Singh Gill, United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology

General Introduction

Arch. Pierpaolo Saporito, President of OCCAM & Infopoverty Programme, Italy

Celebration of 30 years of OCCAM, Observatory on Digital Communication founded by UNESCO in 1996 & 25 years of Infopoverty World Conference

Eminent Representatives from the Milanese Community

11:30 am (EDT) - First Session NEW POLICY FOR DEVELOPMENT AND IPV6 PLAN FOR AFRICA

Nigeria is leading the AI strategy to generate social profit. How can a rural community benefit from the e-welfare services empowered by the IPv6 Plan? The Gudi Project, a winning strategy of best-practices.

Moderator: Patrizio Civili, Special Advisor to the Director-General, IDLO, Former UN Assistant Secretary General, Italy

Hon. Haruna Sani Sani, Director General, NASITDEA, Nasarawa State Government, Nigeria

Mr. Chris Uwaje, Coordinator, Nigeria Task Force, IPv6 Plan for Africa

Mr. Emmanuel Amos, Founder, InnovationbedAI

Testimonies from the villages - Video Presentation By OCCAM

12:00 pm (EDT) - Second Session BRIDGING URBAN-RURAL LINKAGES WITH E-SERVICES FOR DEVELOPMENT

In light of the longstanding collaboration with UN-Habitat, established at the 22nd Infopoverty World Conference, the parties will present the results achieved in bridging the urban-rural divide through ICTs and digital best practices, further strengthening efforts toward scalable interventions.

The Bridging Urban-Rural Linkages global program, in collaboration with UN-Habitat, aims to rebalance development dynamics by strengthening urban-rural linkages and fostering inclusive, sustainable systems across Africa.

The program will be discussed by UN-Habitat's leadership and high-level experts. Special attention will be given to a case study exploring the functional connections between rural villages in Kenya and the urban ecosystem of Nairobi, illustrating how service providers and users interact across geographic and social systems.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

This urban-rural perspective highlights how coordinated infrastructures, services, and governance models can enhance resilience, accessibility, and shared development outcomes.

Moderator: Dr. Remy Sietchiping, Deputy-Director, UN-Habitat Liaison Office

H.E. Philip Thigo, Ambassador, Special Envoy on Technology, Kenya

Ms. Grace Githiri, Programme Management & Capacity Development, UN-Habitat

Dr. Abdul Husaini, Permanent Secretary, Niger State Ministry

General Discussion and Presentation of the model - BY OCCAM

Testimonies from rural villages in Kenya and Nigeria

2:00 pm (EDT) - Third Session PLATFORMS AS KNOWLEDGE-SHARING TOOLS 4DEV

This session explores digital platforms as key drivers of innovation in telemedicine and food-security, emphasizing how knowledge-sharing infrastructures enable new models of service. By facilitating cross-sector collaboration and knowledge sharing, platforms create dynamic ecosystems that accelerate social benefit. The discussion will highlight how platform-based knowledge networks foster scalability as engines of continuous innovation in e-welfare systems.

First Panel: *"How to properly plan, create, and manage useful projects of digital medicine and telemedicine. We need the help of physicians, decision makers and politicians."*

Moderator: Claudio Azzolini MD, Founder of Eumeda Telemedicine Platform, Milano; Advorsort Council for e-Health and Telemedicine, Insubria University, Varese-Como, Italy

MD. Antonio Capone, Jr MD FACS, Associated Retinal Consultants, Royal Oak, MI, USA

Andrea Falco PEng, CEO, Alfa Design Studio, Milano, Italy

Ghazal Hassan MD, President of the Moroccan Society for Telemedicine and eHealth; Board member at the international Society for Telemedicine and eHealth, Morocco

Kyle Kovacs MD, Department of Ophthalmology, Retina Service, Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, NY, USA

RV Paul Chan MD MSc, MBA, FACS, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA

ITS. Francesco Oggionni, Advisory Board Member, CDAOS.cat non-profit Data & Digital Health innovation, Sanofi Global Data AI Platform & Application Services Lines Manager, Barcelona, Spain

Paolo Asoni Econ., Chief Executive Office at Surge-X, London

Valter Santarossa Attorney, Pordenone; Former Regional Council Member dealing with healthcare and President of INSIEL, ICT company for healthcare IT management, Trieste, Italy

Simone Donati MD, Associate Professor, Department of Medicine and Surgery, Insubria University, Varese-Como, Italy

Second Panel: *"The Planthead Platform: ICTs for food-security and e-welfare"*

Moderator: Melchiade Bukuru, Former Director, UNCCD Liaison Office in New York, USA

Presentation of the results achieved with the Planthead Platform – By OCCAM

Prof. Giovanna Seddaiu, UNISS, Former EWA-BELT Project Coordinator

Prof. Quirico Migheli, Professor, Director, Desertification Research Center, UNISS, EWA-BELT

Prof. Sheila Okoth, University of Nairobi, (UoN), Kenya, Former EWA-BELT Representative

Joseph Adjebeng-Danquah, CSIR-SARI, Ghana, Former EWA-BELT Representative

4.00 pm (EDT) - Fourth Session AI CAPACITY-BUILDING TO ACHIEVE THE AGENDA 2030

Innovative AI applications designed to generate social benefit play a strategic role in advancing e-welfare models and supporting the achievement of the UN 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Moderator: Niccolò Rinaldi, Head of Unit for Asia, Australia and New Zealand, European Parliament

General introduction: *"AI for Administrative Justice: Innovation and the Future of Governance"* - By IDLO Representative

Dr. Jude Elie, President and CEO, Jude Elie Foundation, Haiti

Ms Dame Gloria Starr Kins, Editor-in-chief & Publisher, Society & Diplomatic Review Giovana Ingrid Pierre, Haiti Project

Closing remarks: AI Expert Advisory Panel Member, New Zealand Government

5:00 pm (EDT) - Fifth Session MOVING CINEMA TOWARDS AI: FROM INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL CINEMATOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE (I.I.C.E) 1926 TO CICT-ICGT AT UNESCO

Centenary Celebration of the international educational cinematographic institute, founded in 1926 under the League of Nations, whose legacy was taken over by UNESCO in 1956

Moderator: Arch. Pierpaolo Saporito, President of OCCAM & Infopoverty Programme, Italy

Minister of Culture, Italy

Mr. Alberto Barbera, President, Biennale Venezia

Jasmina Bojic, Founder and Executive Director, UNAFF & UNAFF

Traveling Film Festival, Stanford University (USA)

Mr. Ahmet Boyacioglu, Artistic Director Ankara Film Festival on Wheels

GENERAL DISCUSSION FINAL DECLARATION