

PRESENTATION OF THE CONFERENCE

We are living now in an interlude, suspended between a future not yet manifest and an oppressive past, due to paralyzing inequalities and complexities, with fear of wars and a planetary crisis, AI rises like a spring of hope for humanity. The acceleration of Artificial Intelligence appears to be focused more on empowering military capacity rather than on the benefits for humanity in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), building peace, and promoting social development.

It is crucial to avoid the missteps of the Industrial Revolution, the protagonists of which used technological advancements for military purposes, leading society towards two devastating World Wars. The United Nations, born from the ashes of these tragedies with the mission of preventing them in the future, must be significantly strengthened through the commitment of all the actors involved – governments, civil society, and private companies – also by orienting AI applications toward achieving this supreme goal, as outlined in the Pact for the Future proclaimed on September 22, 2024 (A/RES/79/1), aimed at leveraging digital innovations toward the fulfillment of the SDGs.

In this context, the Infopoverty World Conference – created in 2001 at the dawn of the digital era to support the MDGs and, subsequently, the SDGs, continues its endeavor to fight poverty, making full use of new technologies. Thanks to the contribution of over 1,000 eminent speakers, the Conference has consistently provided performative solutions, highlighting that the greatest cause of poverty is the lack of essential services such as healthcare, food security, and training, launching the e-welfare4all project as part of the Infopoverty Program, endorsed at the World Summit on Information and Society (WSIS) 2005, where the ICT Village model realized in Borj Touil (Tunisia) was applied, later optimized in Sambaina (Madagascar) proclaimed UN Millennium Village in 2007.

This 24th edition aims to select the best practices and endorsed projects ready for implementation and intends to discuss how Artificial Intelligence could accelerate their process of realization, optimizing their governance with less costly and efficient new procedures by applying the rules of Occam's Razor to ensure a general benefit. In this regard, AI could identify positive premises for a great alliance between users and providers, ensuring freedom and sustainability for all, leveraging the immense potential of young natives' resources and skills, and operating on a fully connected planet with instantaneous relationships and digital monetary assets, with the final aim to create new paradigms to deliver compatible social benefits together with sustainable private profit. We urge major corporations and public and private institutions – especially those adhering to the new Global Digital Compact – to align with the UN vision for development, stressing AI applications to address the SDG challenges.

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 Eumed Telemedicine Platform, Italy; **M. Ayaipoma**, Congress President, Peru; **M. Baccini**, Undersecretary of State to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italy; **A. Mangstl**, Director of FAO's Knowledge Exchange and Capacity Building Division, Germany; **M. Bachelet**, President of Chile and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Chile; **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. Chiarigione**, 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. García**, 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**, Foudner 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. 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; **G. B. Zepeda**, Minister, Honduras;

And others for participating to the conferences (cf. [Infopoverty e-book](#))

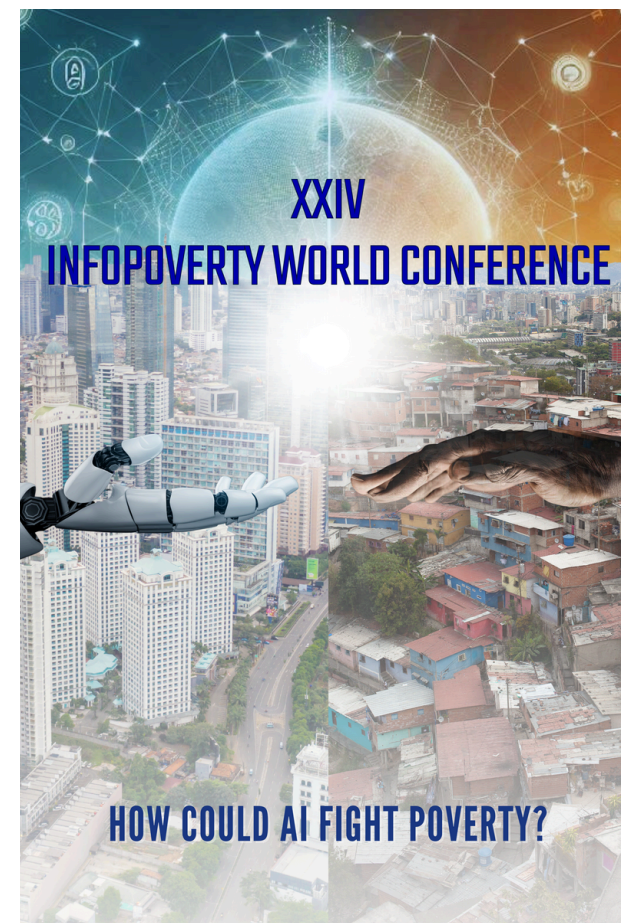
Messages from Presidents of the Italian Republic

Carlo Azeglio **Ciampi**, Giorgio **Napolitano**, Sergio **Mattarella**

Plate received from the President of the Italian Republic Sergio Mattarella celebrating the XVIII Infopoverty World Conference



Medal received from the President of the Italian Republic Giorgio Napolitano celebrating the Infopoverty Programme



INVITATION

11 April 2025

New York, UN Headquarters
Streamed by UN Webcast

CONTACT

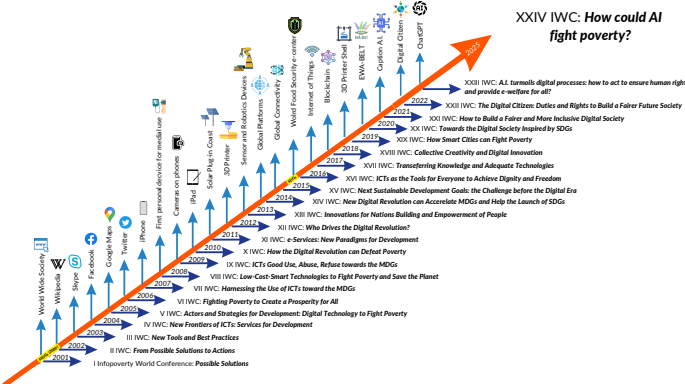
OCCAM Headquarters

Via Duccio di Boninsegna 21, 20145, Milano - Italy
occam@occam.org • +39 3774170296

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

HISTORY OF THE CONFERENCE

The first Infopoverity World Conference was organized by OCCAM in June 2001, on the momentum of the signature of the Millennium Declaration of the United Nations, where the joining States were committed to the achievement of the eight **Millennium Development Goals**. The Conference represents, for its continuity, operational capability, and strong interoperability with the UN System, a unique global forum, gathering leading experts, academics, opinion leaders, managers, government officials, and philanthropists. Working in collaboration with the European Parliament Liaison Office, various UN bodies, the C. Smithers Foundation, and other scientific and academic institutions, the Infopoverity World Conference rallies leaders worldwide to operate for the realization of the ICT4D tasks. Since 2001, the Conference has continuously addressed the advancements brought about by the Digital Revolution and has progressively discovered and launched best practice models in the fields of telemedicine, e-learning, e-agriculture, and e-finance, followed by their successful implementation in many African and Latin American remote villages and disadvantaged communities.



This e-Book, edited by OCCAM, is a precise synthesis of each year's conference, with posters, agendas, main contributions, and final declarations. The work represents a helpful and significant synthesis of the cooperation's experience between the United Nations and OCCAM.

This Book constitutes a unique point of reference for the digital revolution since 2000, discussing the increasing flow of innovations, with an evaluation in terms of capacity to accelerate the achievements of MDGs and SDGs with concrete ICT solutions experimented on the ground in the ICT Villages, in synergy with more than two thousand high-level speakers, expressing the mood of these crucial twenty-one years.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Opening Session

AI IS CHANGING ALL THE PARADIGMA: HOW IT CAN ACHIEVE SDGS

The rapid advancements in Artificial Intelligence are reshaping traditional paradigms across various sectors, holding the potential to accelerate progress toward achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); as AI evolves, it is crucial to understand how it can be effectively guided and applied, in line with the UN values and human rights.

First Session

WHO DRIVES AI?

The UN's regulatory role and decision-maker policies ensure that the benefits of progress are shared from the few to the entire society. As we navigate the transition from old to new practices, new approaches to effectively manage this shift need to be identified, avoiding conflicts and promoting welfare for all.

Second Session

BRIDGING RURAL-URBAN COMMUNITIES: HOW AI COULD ENSURE E-WELFARE4ALL

The development of rural villages inspired by urban models could be a way to alleviate poverty. In this context, new strategies elaborate with UN-HABITAT are empowered by new Global Platforms to deliver essential services such as healthcare, education, food security and e-governance to the most disadvantaged communities.

Third Session

NEW FRONTIERS OF TELEMEDICINE TO ENSURE HEALTH ASSISTANCE FOR ALL

In this moment of transition, telemedicine is playing a significant role, as it is expanding its capacity to assist a larger number of the population and enhancing existing facilities.

Fourth Session

SUN, WATER AND H2: CHALLENGES FOR A CLEAN PLANET

Renewable energies, including solar, water, and hydrogen, represent a great hope for overcoming the current impasse with fossil and the lack of energy resources for all. In this context, AI is accelerating processes to provide affordable and sustainable solutions to the communities in need.

Fifth Session

AI AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION: THE ROLE OF COMMUNICATION

Considering that every generation creates its own social models, we are facing a period of significant change due to the expansion of interpersonal relationships thanks to global connectivity.

FINAL DECLARATION

MAIN ACTIONS: FIGHT POVERTY THROUGH ICTS

Infopoverity Program: ensure e-welfare for all

The Infopoverity Programme was established to concretely help more disadvantaged communities through the use of ICTs, operating as the executive arm of the deliberations stated in the Final Declarations of the **Infopoverity World Conferences**. It puts into practice the guidelines issued by the Conference through the launching of *ad hoc* projects and services in various fields, including healthcare, education, food security and e-governance.

ICT Village Model

The ICT Village Model follows a process of intervention that is flexible and easily replicable in many areas of the globe, providing various services designed to promote an endogenous and sustainable development process. The ICT Village of Sambaina in Madagascar was proclaimed Millennium Village by Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the UN Millennium Project in 2007.



EWA-BELT Project

Ethiopia • Kenya • Sierra Leone • Burkina Faso • Ghana • Tanzania

EWA-BELT is an EU Horizon2020 project (GA 862848) aimed at developing sustainable intensification of agricultural productions in organic, agroforestry and mixed crop and livestock farming systems in 38 study areas of 6 countries in East and West Africa.



Digital services to provide e-welfare for all

- **E-LEARNING**
Providing tools and infrastructures to the existing school structures in disadvantaged communities.
- **TELEMEDICINE**
e-Health services are incorporated in existing local medical facilities or in other locations fit to host the first nucleus of health structures.
- **WORLD FOOD-SECURITY CENTER**
Providing digital services to support agricultural development and food security through a high connectivity digital Platform.
- **COMMUNITY ACCESS CENTER**
Providing internet connectivity to disadvantaged communities.