**PRESS RELEASE**

**THE PACT FOR THE FUTURE, ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON SEPTEMBER 22, 2024 ((A/RES/70/1), AND THE GLOBAL DIGITAL COMPACT, APPROVED AS AN INTEGRAL COMPONENT OF THE PACT, TESTIFY TO A RENEWED COMMITMENT BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO MOVE DECISIVELY IN THIS DIRECTION AND TO ACT TO LEVERAGE DIGITAL INNOVATIONS TOWARD THE FULFILLMENT OF THE SDGS. THE INFOPOVERTY WORLD CONFERENCE IS COMMITTED TO MAKING A DISTINCT CONTRIBUTION TO THIS CRUCIAL EFFORT**.

XXIV Infopoverty World Conference “*How could AI fight poverty creating well-being for all*?”

**April 11, 2025**

UNHQ (CR5) New York & online

Streamed live on UN Webcast

New York, April 2025 – The 24th Infopoverty World Conference, organized by OCCAM at the United Nations Headquarters, will gather leading experts, policymakers, and innovators to explore the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The rapid acceleration of AI poses both opportunities and risks. While its military applications continue to grow, the Infopoverty World Conference aims to shift the focus towards leveraging AI for social good. The event aligns with the principles outlined in the UN's Pact for the Future and the Global Digital Compact, demonstrating the international community’s commitment to using digital innovation for sustainable progress.

Held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York since its launch in 2001, the Infopoverty World Conference has been at the forefront of advocating for the role of digital technologies in poverty alleviation. Over the past 25 years, more than 1.000 experts have contributed to the conference’s mission, showcasing innovative solutions that address fundamental issues such as food security, healthcare, education, and governance. One of its landmark achievements, the ICT Village Model, endorsed at the 2005 World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in Tunis, led to the development of the first ICT Village implemented in Tunisia and later optimized in Madagascar, where Sambaina was proclaimed a UN Millennium Village in 2007.

The 24th edition of the conference will once again bring together a distinguished panel of global experts to discuss AI-driven solutions for sustainable development. The conference will open with remarks from prominent dignitaries, including **H.E. Maurizio Massari**, *Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations*, **H.E. Marco Romiti**, *Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Italy to the UN,* and **H.E. Alberto Barachini**, *Undersecretary of State at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of Italy*. **Pierpaolo Saporito**, *President of OCCAM and the Infopoverty Programme*, will provide an introductory overview.

As AI reshapes industries and governance, the First Session will explore how it can be aligned with the UN’s vision for sustainable development. Moderated by **Patrizio Civili**, *Special Advisor to the Director-General of IDLO* and *former UN Assistant Secretary-General*, the panel will feature insights from **Amir** **Dossal**, *President and CEO of the Global Partnerships Forum*, **Ernesto R. Ottone**, *Assistant Director-General for Culture at UNESCO*, as well as an intervention from **H.E. Stan Oduma Smith,** *Permanent Representative of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas to the UN*, and **Niccolò Rinaldi**, *Head of Unit for Asia, Australia and New Zealand at the European Parliament*.

The Second Session will be dedicated to bridging rural-urban communities, examining how AI-driven digital infrastructures can deliver essential services to rural communities, closing the urban-rural divide*.* **Melchiade Bukuru,** *former* *Director of the UNCCD Liaison Office in New York*, will chair the discussion, with contributions from **Remy Sietchiping**, *Chief of Policy, Legislation and Governance Section at UN-Habitat,* who will introduce a video reportage from villages in **Kenya** and **Nigeria** and a pre-recorded testimony from the **Sambaina UN Millenium Villages.** **OCCAM**, the Observatory od digital Communication in Special Consultative Status at UN ECOSOC,will present the Global Infrastructure for e-services welfare. The session will continue with interventions from Ivan Shumkov*, Founder & CEO of Build Academy and Adjunct Associate Professor at Columbia University,* **Emmanuel Amos**, *Founder of the Programos Foundation,* **Hon. Haruna Sani Sani**, *Director General of the Nasarawa State Information Technology and Digital Economy Agency (NASITDEA),* and **Momo** **Bertrand**, *Education Specialist at the World Bank.* A special part of the Session will be dedicated to the topic of clean energy, presented by **Andrea Alessandro Giacomini**, *CEO,***Mariama Samake***, Institutional Relations, and Public Affairs*, and **Andrea** **Bighinzoli**, *Marketing Director, from Giacomini Spa*. The session will close with insights from Dr. **Christabel** **Apholung** **Ngwashi** *Health Specialist at World Bank*, and **Kudzayi Munyaka**, *Data Privacy Specialist at the International Monetary Fund.*

The Third Session will be dedicated to Telemedicine and will be chaired by **Professor** **Claudio** **Azzolini**, *Founder of the Eumeda Telemedicine Platform*, featuring experts such as **Dr. Donald J. D’Amico**, *Professor and Chair of Ophthalmology at Weill Cornell Medical College*, **Francesco Oggionni**, *Advisory Board Member of CDAOS.cat non-profit Data & Digital Health Innovation*, **Andrea Falco**, *CEO of Alfa Design Studio*, **Claude Boscher**, *Former Surgeon, Pôle Tête et Cou, Hôpital Américain de Paris,* **Simone Donati**, *Associate Professor of the Department of Medicine and Surgery at Insubria University,* **Antonio Capone Jr**, *Associated Retinal Consultants at Royal Oak*, **Dr. Anat Loewenstein***, VP Ambulatory Services, Head of Retina Tel Aviv Medical Center, Sydney Fox Chair in Ophthalmology Faculty of Medicine, Tel Aviv University, Euretina President,* **Antoine Geissbühler,***Dean of the faculty of medicine, Head of the division of eHealth and telemedicine* *at University Hospitals,* and **Walter Santarossa**,*Attorney and former regional Council member dealing with healthcare and President of INSIEL.*

The Fourth Session will be dedicated to the topic of nation-building. Chaired by **Aliye** **Çelik**, *President of the Consortium for Sustainable Development*, the session will present the study case of Haiti as a potential country for e-welfare structure implementation with intervention from **Jude Elie**, *President of the Jude Elie Foundation,* with contributions by **Jean** **Nathan** **Letang**, *President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Haiti,* **Elizabeth Jeanty**, *Executive Director of the Haitian American Historical Society,* **Guy** **Meleance**, *President of Ayitek Corp IT,* **Joseph** **George** **Duperval**, *Entrepreneur,* **Andre** **Dzikus**, *Director at UN-HABITAT*, and **Julia** **Haart**, *Entrepreneur.* The session will close with interventions from **Basudeb Pal**, *Chairman of the Palif Foundation,* **Subir Saha**, *Chairman of the National – American & Indian Chamber of Commerce,* **Toshiaki****Mitake**, *President of Variety M-1 Inc.,* and **Gloria Starr Kins**, *Editor in Chief & Publisher of the Society Diplomatic Review.*

The Closing Session, on the topic “New Global Languages: Rebuilding the Babel Tower?” will explore its impact on global culture. Chaired by **Pierpaolo** **Saporito** as *President a.i. of the International Council for Film and Television (CICT-ICFT),* it will feature video messages from **Rizwan** **Ahmad**, *Director of the Instructional Media Centre at MANUU*, **Kujtim Çashku***, Director of AKADEMIA FILMIT MULTIMEDIAS MARUBI,* and **Prof Salmane Tariq el Allami***,* *Founder of the ISCA Film School.* The session will be also dedicated to the upcoming celebration of the Centenary of the ICE Institute and will close with the projection of the documentary “Mattew Modine’s Ripple Effect”, presented by **Jasmina Bojic**, *Founder of the UNAFF & UNAFF Traveling Film Festival at Stanford University.*

The conference will conclude with a final declaration reaffirming the commitment to guiding AI toward ethical and inclusive development.

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**Find out more on:** [**https://www.occam.org/xxiv-infopoverty-world-conf**](https://www.occam.org/xxiv-infopoverty-world-conf)

**For more information, please contact:** [**occam@occam.org**](mailto:occam@occam.org)