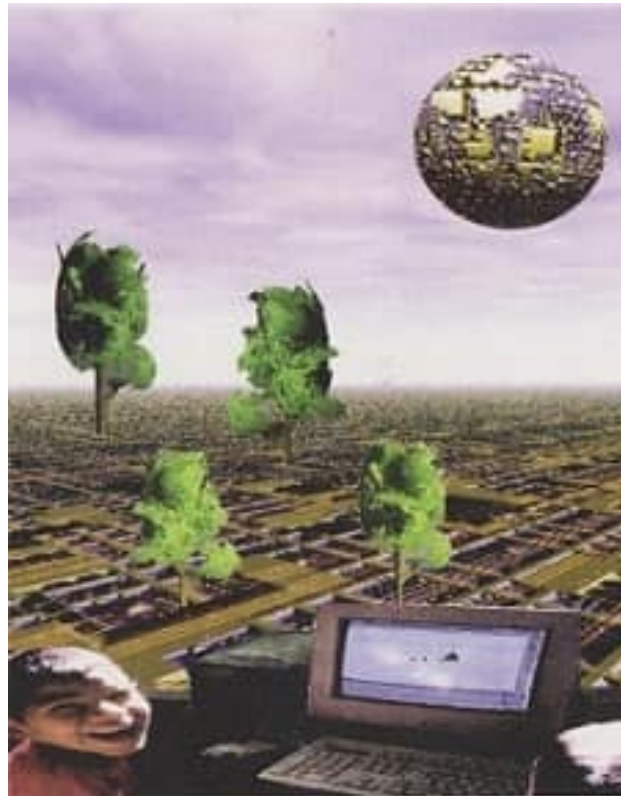# II Infopoverty World Conference

Infopoverty: from Possible Solutions to Action

May 13th, 2002

Milan

Agenda

Opening Session and Welcome from the Authorities

Sergio Zaninelli, Dean, Catholic University of Milan
Ombretta Colli, President, Milan Province
Roberto Formigoni, President, Lombardy Region
Staffan de Mistura, Personal Representative of the UN Secretary-General

First Session: *Fight Infopoverty to accelerate development*
Chairman: Mario Mauro, Vice-President, European Parliament Commission on Culture and Media
Francesco Fiori, European Parliament Delegation for the Relations with South America and Mercosur
François Bossolo, General Directorate for Taxation, Republic of the Congo
Pedro Nel Medina Varon, Scientific Coordinator, CCR – Catholic Universities International Federation
August B. Kowero, ICT National Coordinator, Government of Tanzania
Leroy Walzer, Education and Grants Director, Oklahoma University
Alessandro Ghisalberti, Medieval Philosophy History Professor, Catholic University of Milan
Pierluigi Malesani, International Relations Director, RAI
Jean-Michel Arnold, Secretary-General, Cinemateque Française
Carlos A. Braga, Development Gateway, World Bank

Second Session: *New pioneer realities and best practices*
Chairman: Armida de Lopez Contreras, Vice-President, Republic of Honduras
Gerardo Zepeda Bermudez, Vice President, OCCAM America
Najat Rochdi, United Nations Development Programme
Benkir Kumbul, President, Altin Portakal Foundation
Richard Muscat, Voice of the Mediterranean, Malta
Leticia Soberon, Social Communications Pontifical Council
David Stephens, OnSat Network President, USA
Stefano Agnelli, e-learning Coordinator, Eutelsat
Tom Lapping, JDL President, USA
Shinji Matsumoto, UNESCO Cultural Heritage
Cristina Castelli Fusconi, Development Psychology Professor, Catholic University of Milan
Francesco Beltrame, Biomedicine Professor, Genoa State University
Bruno Musso, President, Gaslini Foundation
Francesco Sicurello, President, AITIM (Italian Telemedicine Association)
Conclusions: Mario Baccini, Undersecretary of State, Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Third Session: *The role of financial institutions and new concrete opportunities for cooperation*

Chairman: Alberto Quadrio Curzio, Political Science Faculty Dean, Catholic University of Milan

Enrique Murgia, Latin America Supervisor, IFAD-UN

Tullio Chiminazzo, Director and Vice-President, "Ethics and Economics" Foundation

Stefano Maullu, EU Politics Special Commission President, Lombardy Region

Eduardo Membreno, Central American Bank for Economic Integration Director

Danilo Piaggesi, ICT Supervisor, Inter-American Development Bank

Francesco Bertolini, Trust The Forest, Gabon

Leda Martinez, San Pedro Sula Council Coordinator, Honduras

Massimo Baldini, Undersecretary of State for Communication, Government of Italy

Round Table: *For a global strategy in the fight against Infopoverty*

Chairman: Pierpaolo Saporito, President, OCCAM

Staffan de Mistura

Armida de Lopez Contreras

Hisanori Isomura, President, CICT-UNESCO

Mario Zanone Poma, President, Intesa BCI Bank

Mustafà Taysir al Ghanem, Communication Supervisor, IFAD-UN

Bendik Rugaas, General Director for Culture, Council of Europe

Stefano Gatti, Technology and Innovation Diplomatic Counsellor

Final Declaration

In the light of the global situation in fighting Info-poverty almost a year away from the 1st Infopoverty World Conference, held in Milan on June 18, 2001

the 2nd Infopoverty World Conference proposes to adopt the following Declaration:

Considering that:

the Digital Divide continues to expand, creating more inequities between developed and developing countries, and within other countries themselves;

Internet access continues to be reserved for a minority of the world population;

the Digital divide is spreading social and economic differences within countries and populations.

The 2nd Infopoverty World Conference:

Affirms: the need to define a global strategy in fighting info-poverty, based on convergent actions of international institutions, governments and local authorities, private institutions and non-governmental organizations.

The Alliance will be based on the following pillars:

- Open collaboration between those who are rich in technology and those who do not;
- Knowledge sharing to maximize access;
- Coordinated actions to meet a broad digital literacy;
- Development of innovative technological products (INFO-KIT) oriented as necessary for disadvantaged communities;
- Development of appropriate management skills;
- Pilot projects of communication models in integrated technology disadvantaged communities, mainly rural, based on positive experiences in Honduras.

Recommends: The creation of an internal coordination and operational alliance: the Info-poverty Programme, sponsored by OCCAM, by asking to all those who work following these same principles to participate in the Program.

The need to support the initiative of the Government of Honduras to expand the model villages solar.net in a more advanced program COMUNITEC in the border region TRIFINIO, as means

of improving, at low costs and in a short time, the social and economic conditions of a third of the country;

The promotion of international participation to create an investment fund to finance specific Infopoverty programs and projects in the border regions of Central America;

The urgent participation and technical and financial support, of multilateral international organizations, including the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI);

The massive support to similar projects in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Oceania.

Invokes: The World Summit on the Information Society, which will be held in Geneva in 2003, to find out a solution to the problems of disparities and inconsistencies in the field of copyright and protocols regarding connectivity, transmissions, software, hardware, wireless, aiming to make communication a good open and accessible to all;

The European Commission, in order to intensify its efforts to bridge the Digital Divide;

The next EU-Latin America & the Caribbean Summit, to be held on May 17-18, 2002 in Madrid, ensuring that this Final Declaration is the basis for its decision on the new strategies in the fight Info-poverty in the region.

Decides: to promote the implementation of these principles and to transmit this Declaration to the Italian President of the Republic, the Italian President of the Council of Ministers, the Secretary General of the United Nations, the Director-General of UNESCO, the President of the Parliament, the European Commission and IFAD, to Chiefs of States, Governments and public and private institutions involved in fighting Info-poverty.

Approves: the proposal made by the US delegates to hold the next Conference Infopoverty 2003 in Washington DC (USA).