



**FIRST INFOPOVERTY WEBINAR REPORT**  
**29<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

OCCAM, the Observatory on Digital Communication, with special consultative status at UN-ECOSOC has organized, since 2001, the Infopoverty World Conference held at UNHQ, NY. These conferences have the purpose to present the best innovative ICT practices and digital services while involving prestigious institutions, experts, and personalities to fight poverty and accelerate the achievement of SDGs.

In light of these considerations on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020, OCCAM has organized its first Infopoverty Webinar to officially launch the XX Infopoverty World Conference, entitled “Towards the Digital Society inspired by SDGs”, to be held on December 4, 2020 at the UNHQ, NY,

Considering the moment we are all experiencing, we are living in a new paradigm where courage and fear coexist as two faces of the same coin while also experimenting with the “next digital way of life” and evaluating its advantages and dangers, the webinar has hosted important speakers who have shared their concerns on how the current situation has impacted humanity as a whole opening new windows to the digital society

Introduced by Arch. Pierpaolo Saporito, *President of OCCAM* – who highlights how the Covid-19 has impacted the life of many all around the world and how it has accelerated the process towards the digital society presented in the past Infopoverty World Conferences, the discussion was enriched by :

- Mr. Toshihiko Murata, *OCCAM’s permanent representative to the UN*; he underlines how the current pandemic has hit the United Nations and its agenda, forcing to postpone or in some cases cancel the interesting conferences scheduled thus physically constraining the activities of the major International Organization, introducing at large scale new digital practices to continue the activity

- Mr. Makoto Okubo, *Nippon Life Insurance Company, General Manager, International Affairs* – Innovation and SDGs with implications of Covid-19: an observation from Japan and the Asia Pacific - drawing from the Japanese language, he states how the crisis caused by Covid-19 and the entire dramatic situation all around it, is a danger, but it also constitutes an opportunity to change the world towards the society presented by SDGs, to collaborate among each other with a common goal. He adds how Artificial Intelligence can minimize the impacts a pandemic like the one we are living now may cause. In particular, he focuses on supporting the education of the children, thus empowering e-learning using virtual reality technology, on promoting diversity and empowering women and finally on protecting the environment.

- Prof. Francesco Sicurello, *President of the Telemedicine Institute* – How could telemedicine assure a “Healthy Society” for all? - he highlights how telemedicine can be a great tool in helping people health



care. Promoting the most innovative tools, he states how telemedicine can bring easy and inexpensive instruments and insights within the field to ensure basic health standards across the world. Given the current situation, which has seen the collapse of the traditional systems of sanitary assistance, he underlines the need to empower the telemedicine practices in providing basic sanitary tools not only to the disadvantage communities but also to ensure a health security in the most advanced countries .

- Mr. Ivan Shumkov, *CEO & Founder Build Academy* – Are Smart Cities projects prepared for Coronavirus’ impact? – he speaks on how to improve the houses, communities and cities we all live in in order to make them more resilient to pandemics. He gives an architectural insight to the discussion, affirming that homes must be designed to accommodate the needs of their residents in cases of pandemics and quarantines. Kids will need space to learn and study from home and similarly, adults will need to work remotely, if possible. Accessibility and safety are two of the main features the future home needs to integrate.

- Mr. Djorje Djordjevic, *PHD, International Development Law Organization (IDLO)* – UN’s role in promoting a new approach to digital solutions after Covid-19 – he explains the connection between the digital connection and SDGs, the eradication of poverty into a broader framework of United Nation engagement in light of new trends and in light of COVID-19 pandemic. He also emphasizes how multilateralism and not building two different worlds in terms of information and communication technology is essential in bringing about global convergence that is much needed. Significant public resources are being put aside for social and economic recovery and that in many ways provides an opportunity to look at structural transformations and at building digital technology solutions for instigating development and for global convergence in terms of an equalizing effect on sustainable development. Finally, he adds how new strategies to recover from the widespread shock it has been the pandemic.

All the discussants agree on the

#### **FINAL DECLARATION:**

“The pandemic has accelerated the development of the digital society, very much anticipated throughout the past Infopoverty World Conferences. Even though the current situation has led to the improvement of e-learning, homeworking and e-commerce services, telemedicine has been extensively neglected. This, in turn, constitutes a great risk as the virus has not been defeated yet. We, as humanity, thus need to accelerate at maximum speed towards the best solutions and appeal to the most effective strategies. Furthermore, there is also the need to reconnect all human activities under the new digital paradigm where nobody can be left behind. In this respect, the role played by the UN is

This Webinar - with an audience of 967 people - opens formally the XX Infopoverty World Conference, to be held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020 at UNHQ, in New York and launch an appeal to join us in the elaboration of the best new digital practices able to establish a right Digital Society, inspired by the SDGs.”

***We welcome all goodwill people and institutions to empower their effort and to actively participate to the XX Infopoverty World Conference, at UNHQ New York***