



# Intervention by President Pierpaolo Saporito at the 26 Commission on Science and Technology for Development

Palais des Nations, UN Geneva

27 - 31 March 2023

“ Excellencies, Honorable Chair of the Commission, and eminent colleagues,

Thank you for inviting me, as President of OCCAM, the Observatory on Digital Communication.

We live in a chaotic period transitioning to the digital era where algorithms lead to more and more complicated and often contradictory platforms.

The need for intelligence, even if artificial, must coincide with the common good established by the principles of the UN Charter, as the **Golden Algorithm Award** will promote selecting the most innovative digital solutions that are ethical and ensure human rights.

In such palingenesis of algorithms, mostly profit-driven, the individual as a Global Citizen risks being expropriated of their rights.

This is why during the **XXII Infopoverty World Conference** – held annually since 2001 at UNHQ in New York, and streamed by UNTV – last December the **DECLARATION** on “The Digital Citizen: duties and rights to build a fairer future society” was endorsed with new projects launched to create e-welfare for all through services of e-learning, food-security, and telemedicine, with adequate infrastructure directed to marginalized and disadvantaged communities in Africa and Central America, like the UN Millennium Village of Sambaina in Madagascar.

To give our contribution to Priority theme A, I’m pleased to illustrate the results achieved by the **EWA-BELT Project**, a Horizon 2020 EU project, co-led by OCCAM, with 16 Academic partners, operating in 60 villages in Ethiopia, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso, Ghana, and Tanzania, to promote sustainable e-agriculture merging new technologies with traditional practices.

The experimentations on the field confirm that farmers using a remote diagnostic e-platform and portable DNA extraction tools applied to their local knowledge, have their productions significantly improved and increased, especially concerning Neglected Underutilized Crop species. This in turn means considerable agricultural surpluses and amelioration of their living standards.

OCCAM is now acting its **Infopoverty Programme** on smart villages linked to smart cities and is preparing the next **XXIII Infopoverty World Conference** in October at the UNHQ in New York that, focused on the “Asynchronisms in the Digital Transition”, will discuss how to harmonize the processes to develop a fairer society, to which I am honored to invite you all.

Thank you. ”