



XXV INFOPOVERTY WORLD CONFERENCE



WARFARE OR WELFARE: THE AI DILEMMA

17th April 2026, UNHQ, New York
Live-streamed on UN WebTV

CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

The evolution of Artificial Intelligence is surprising in its speed and applications, which progressively modify practices only recently consolidated by the digital solar revolution, into unprecedented options with the advent of high-performance robots, not only in productive structures but also in services.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to keep the helm of financial investments steady, amid the earthquake of tariffs and the volatility of cryptocurrencies, as global arrangements are coming apart, with the crisis of multilateralism and the new monopolists of the web creating profits and social virtuality at the expense of the inhumane conditions of billions of people.

The short-term utilitarian vision that prevails, driven by the instinct for power of a few, creates an epistemological vacuum that opens the abyss to wars fueled by personalistic hysterias, against the values crystallized in the Charter of the United Nations on human rights, reiterating the perverse cycle of technological revolutions which, while tearing open scenarios of progress, in fact operates massive destruction, as occurred with the two World Wars arising from the outcomes of the Industrial Revolution.

The Infopoverty World Conference, born in its title, with the mission of fighting poverty through the use of digital technologies, at a time when the digital revolution was still in its early stages and only beginning to gain momentum, aware of this dilemma, now intends to shed light on possible balances, wherein the profit requirement may be converted into social benefits, reinforcing the tendency of markets to offer increasingly high-performance services, which now, thanks to connectivity and planetary multilingualism, can be extended to all, identifying their needs and providing adequate community and individual solutions to improve their conditions, thus enormously expanding the user base, in light of the pyramid of needs.

Since its inception, the Conference has consistently addressed these issues with coherence and continuity, even at a time when tools such as Google Search and Wikipedia had not yet been created. It continues to pursue this objective and mission by progressively addressing the challenges that emerge over time.

Since its establishment, the Conference has consistently addressed these issues with coherence and continuity, even in a period when tools such as Google and Wikipedia had not yet been developed. Over time, it has remained faithful to its founding mission, progressively confronting the new challenges arising from technological, social, and geopolitical transformations. In particular, the foreseen edition will devote special attention to one of the most pressing concerns of the contemporary global context: "*Warfare or Welfare - the AI dilemma*".

Within this framework, it is possible to readily identify a strategy for the application of AI capable of setting up optimal solutions, both from the perspective of economic, financial, and social sustainability.

If, indeed, traditional welfare is becoming ever more complex to implement, due to the unsustainability of costs and the complexity of delivery, identifying e-welfare models, wherein digital services can cover a large part of needs, relieving emergency components, becomes necessary and useful, above all, by directing current efforts in AI toward concrete objectives aligned with the 2030 Agenda, thus giving a powerful epistemological steering to the uncertainty that animates the current debate and thereby overcoming the dramatic dilemma we face.

From these considerations derives the focus of the conference, which calls together the highest representatives of research, economics, finance, technology, and politics to address the challenge of a future that concerns and confuses languages, beyond moral claims detached from correct

practices, wherein the only eligible judges are the users, public and private, who, once satisfied in their needs, would strongly orient its developments.

AI has all the potential to construct projects to optimize current deficits and gaps that characterize social and territorial imbalance between urban and rural areas, governance inadequacies lacking secure instruments, within a far west of social media that confuses opinions, divides viewpoints, and renders the very democratic ideal an optional and painful moment of a difficult birth: the entelechy of the new is taking shape, a process that will occupy the coming generations, which we witness not inert but actively engaged in ensuring that they may continue along a correct path.

In launching this further challenge that the Infopoverty World Conference addresses in its 25th edition, we are honored to invite you to the conference so that you may inspire the debate and contribute to providing solutions that resolve the dilemma and open a new phase of development, overcoming extreme poverty and generating greater prosperity for all, ensuring a correct and participatory use of AI.

PREPARATORY MEETINGS

EWA-BELT Final Conference 15-17 July 2025, African Union HQ Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

OCCAM participated in the EWA-BELT Final Conference, held on 15–17 July 2025 at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, presenting the results achieved with the PlantHead Platform, developed within the Horizon 2020 EWA-BELT Project (GA #862848), in collaboration with the Center of Desertification of the University of Sassari.

The PlantHead Platform is a digital tool designed to support the early identification and management of crop diseases, contributing to food security and the promotion of sustainable farming systems in Sub-Saharan Africa. Through a participatory and scalable approach, the Platform enables farmers, extension services, and agricultural experts to exchange information remotely and identify appropriate and sustainable responses, including in areas with limited connectivity.

Through this contribution, OCCAM underlined the importance of digital innovation in strengthening agricultural resilience, addressing climate-related challenges, and supporting inclusive rural development across Africa.

The conference, entitled "***Towards an agroecological transition in sub-Saharan Africa: scientific evidence and lessons learned***", brought together researchers, political decision-makers, and institutional representatives of international organizations to reflect on the project's impact and outline future perspectives.

Art & Tech for a Sustainable Future (ATSF) Program August 28th 2025 - Expo Osaka, Japan

In celebration of the 20th anniversary of the UNESCO 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, OCCAM, participated in a landmark event organized on August 28th, 2025. Organized under the Art & Tech for a Sustainable Future Program, this gathering brought together global policymakers, cultural leaders, artists and technologists to reflect on the Convention's impact and explore new intersections between digital communication, technology and sustainability.

Within this framework, OCCAM, in partnership with CICT-ICFT reaffirmed its commitment to promoting dialogue at the intersection of culture, technology, and sustainability.

OCCAM's contribution highlighted the importance of digital innovation as an enabler of cultural expression, international cooperation, and sustainable development, in line with UNESCO principles. The event at Expo 2025 Osaka marked the international launch of the ATSF Program as a global platform for cross-sector collaboration, reinforcing the central role of culture as a foundation for sustainability and technology as a catalyst for positive social impact.

37th CICT-UNESCO "Enrico Fulchignoni" Award September 4th, 2025 - 82° Venice International Film Festival

Within the framework of the long-standing partnership between OCCAM and the International Council for Film, Television and Audiovisual Communication (CICT-ICFT), Official Partner of UNESCO, OCCAM took part in the 37th edition of the CICT-UNESCO "Enrico Fulchignoni" Award, held on 4th September 2025 during the 82nd Venice International Film Festival.

The jury, which included Arch. Pierpaolo Saporito, President of OCCAM and President a.i. of CICT-ICFT, awarded the 2025 "Enrico Fulchignoni" Award to: "***The Voice of Hind Rajab***" by Kaouther Ben Hania, in recognition of its strong ethical message and its profound reflection on the human consequences of conflict.

The UNESCO Fellini Medal was presented to the film's producers during an official ceremony at the Venice Lido, reaffirming the role of cinema as a powerful instrument for cultural dialogue, peace, and international understanding. Through this joint initiative with CICT-ICFT, OCCAM reaffirmed its

commitment to promoting cultural diversity, human rights, and intercultural cooperation through audiovisual and creative expressions.

International Dialogue on Urban-Rural Linkages (IDURL) 2025

3–6 November 2025, Songyang County, China

OCCAM participated in the International Dialogue on Urban-Rural Linkages (IDURL) 2025, held from 3 to 6 November 2025, in Songyang County, China. The event, themed “**Advancing Urban-Rural Linkages: Culture, Housing and Basic Services**”, was co-organized by **UN-Habitat**, **PLGS** and the China International Communications Group (CICG), bringing together international stakeholders to discuss inclusive and sustainable territorial development.

During the Dialogue, participants explored integrated approaches to strengthening urban-rural linkages through cultural heritage preservation, housing improvement, and access to basic services, supported by digitalization, sustainable mobility, and innovative governance models. Field visits and thematic sessions highlighted practical examples of heritage-led regeneration, urban acupuncture, and intelligent transport systems as tools to enhance service delivery and climate resilience. Within a parallel session on Urban-Rural Green Transportation and Sustainable Development, OCCAM's delegation presented the organization's mission and shared experiences from the Horizon 2020 EWA-BELT Project (GA #862848), focusing on digital solutions to support smallholder farmers through early disease detection and sustainable agricultural practices. Through its participation, OCCAM reaffirmed its commitment to fostering international cooperation and digital innovation for sustainable urban-rural development.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

10:00 am (EDT) – Opening Session

Building Social Benefit with AI

Institutional greetings

H.E. Giorgio Marrapodi, *Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations*

H.E. Alberto Barachini, *Undersecretary of State, Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Italy*

H.E. Amandeep Singh Gill, *United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology*

General introduction

Arch. Pierpaolo Saporito, *President, OCCAM and Infopoverty Programme, Italy*

Celebration of 30 years of OCCAM, Observatory on Digital Communication founded by UNESCO in 1996 & 25 years of Infopoverty World Conference

In liaison with Milan, a center of knowledge, with the participation of representatives of civil society.

11:30 am (EDT) - First Session

New policy for development and IPv6 plan for Africa

Nigeria is leading the AI strategy to generate social profit. How can a rural community benefit from the e-welfare services empowered by the IPv6 Plan? The Gudi Project, a winning strategy of best-practices.

Moderator: **Mr. Patrizio Civili**, *Special Advisor to the Director-General, IDLO, Former UN Assistant Secretary General, Italy*

Hon. Haruna Sani Sani, *Director General, NASITDEA; Nasarawa State Government, Nigeria*

Mr. Chris Uwaje, *Coordinator, Nigeria Task Force, IPv6 Plan for Africa*

Mr. Emmanuel Amos, *Founder, InnovationbedAI*

Testimonies from the villages - Video Presentation By OCCAM

12:00 pm (EDT) - Second Session

Bridging Urban-Rural Linkages with e-services for development

In light of the longstanding collaboration with UN-Habitat, established at the 22nd Infopoverty World Conference, the parties will present the results achieved in bridging the urban–rural divide through ICTs and digital best practices, further strengthening efforts toward scalable interventions.

The Bridging Urban-Rural Linkages global program, in collaboration with UN-Habitat, aims to rebalance development dynamics by strengthening urban-rural linkages and fostering inclusive, sustainable systems across Africa. The program will be discussed by UN-Habitat's leadership and high-level experts. Special attention will be given to a case study exploring the functional connections between rural villages in Kenya and the urban ecosystem of Nairobi, illustrating how service providers and users interact across geographic and social systems. This urban- rural perspective highlights how coordinated infrastructures, services, and governance models can enhance resilience, accessibility, and shared development outcomes.

Moderator: **Dr. Remy Sietchiping**, Deputy-Director, UN-Habitat Liaison Office

H.E. Philip Thigo, Ambassador, Special Envoy on Technology, Kenya

Ms. Grace Githiri, Programme Management & Capacity Development, UN-Habitat

Dr. Abdul Husaini, Permanent Secretary, Niger State Ministry

*General Discussion and Presentation of the model - By OCCAM
Testimonies from rural villages in Kenya and Nigeria*

2:00 pm (EDT) - Third Session

Platforms as knowledge-sharing tools 4dev

This session explores digital platforms as key drivers of innovation in telemedicine and food-security, emphasizing how knowledge-sharing infrastructures enable new models of service. By facilitating cross-sector collaboration and knowledge sharing, platforms create dynamic ecosystems that accelerate social benefit. The discussion will highlight how platform-based knowledge networks foster scalability as engines of continuous innovation in e-welfare systems.

First Panel: *“How to properly plan, create, and manage useful projects of digital medicine and telemedicine. We need the help of physicians, decision makers and politicians.”*

Moderator: **Claudio Azzolini MD**, Founder of Eumeda Telemedicine Platform, Milano; Advisor Council for e- Health and Telemedicine, Insubria University, Varese-Como, Italy

Antonio Capone Jr MD, FACS, Associated Retinal Consultants, Royal Oak, MI, USA

Andrea Falco PEng, CEO, Alfa Design Studio, Milano, Italy

Ghazal Hassan MD, President of the Moroccan Society for Telemedicine and eHealth; Board member at the international Society for Telemedicine and eHealth, Morocco

Kyle Kovacs MD, Department of Ophthalmology, Retina Service, Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, NY, USA

RV Paul Chan MD MSc, MBA, FACS, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA

TS. Francesco Oggioni, Advisory Board Member, CDAOS.cat non-profit Data & Digital Health innovation, Sanofi Global Data AI Platform & Application Services Lines Manager, Barcelona, Spain

Paolo Asoni Econ, Chief Executive Office at Surge-X, London

Valter Santarossa Attorney, Pordenone; Former Regional Council Member dealing with healthcare and President of INSIEL, ICT company for healthcare IT management, Trieste, Italy

Simone Donati MD, Associate Professor, Department of Medicine and Surgery, Insubria University, Varese-Como, Italy

Second Panel: *“The Planthead Platform: ICTs for Food-security and e-welfare”*

Moderator: **Dr. Aliye Celik**, Chair, CSU

Presentation of the results achieved with the Planthead Platform – By OCCAM

Prof. Giovanna Seddaiu, UNISS, Former EWA-BELT Project Coordinator

Prof. Quirico Migheli, Professor, Director, Desertification Research Center, UNISS, EWA-BELT

Prof. Sheila Okoth, University of Nairobi, (UoN), Kenya, Former EWA-BELT

Representative

Dr. Joseph Adjebeng-Danquah, CSIR-SARI, Ghana, Former EWA-BELT Representative

4:00 pm (EDT) - Fourth Session

AI Capacity-building to achieve the Agenda 2030

Innovative AI applications designed to generate social benefit play a strategic role in advancing e- welfare models and supporting the achievement of the UN 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Moderator: **Mr. Niccolò Rinaldi**, Head of Unit for Asia, Australia and New Zealand, European Parliament

General Introduction: **“AI for Administrative Justice: Innovation and the Future of Governance”**
- By IDLO Representative

Dr. Jude Elie, President and CEO, Jude Elie Foundation, Haiti

Giovana Ingrid Pierre, Haiti Project

Ms. Dame Gloria Starr Kins, Editor-in-Chief & Publisher, Society & Diplomatic Review

5:00 pm (EDT) – Fifth Session

Moving Cinema towards AI: from International Educational Cinematographic Institute (I.I.C.E) 1929 to CICT-ICFT at UNESCO

Centenary Celebration of the international educational cinematographic institute, founded in 1926 under the League of Nations, whose legacy was taken over by UNESCO in 1956

Moderator: **Arch. Pierpaolo Saporito**, *President* of OCCAM and Infopoverty Programme, Italy

Minister of Culture, Italy

Mr. Alberto Barbera, President, Biennale Venezia

Jasmina Bojic, *Founder and Executive Director, UNAFF & UNAFF*

Traveling Film Festival, Stanford University (USA)

Mr. Ahmet Boyacioglu, Artistic Director Ankara Film Festival on Wheels

GENERAL DISCUSSION
FINAL DECLARATION