

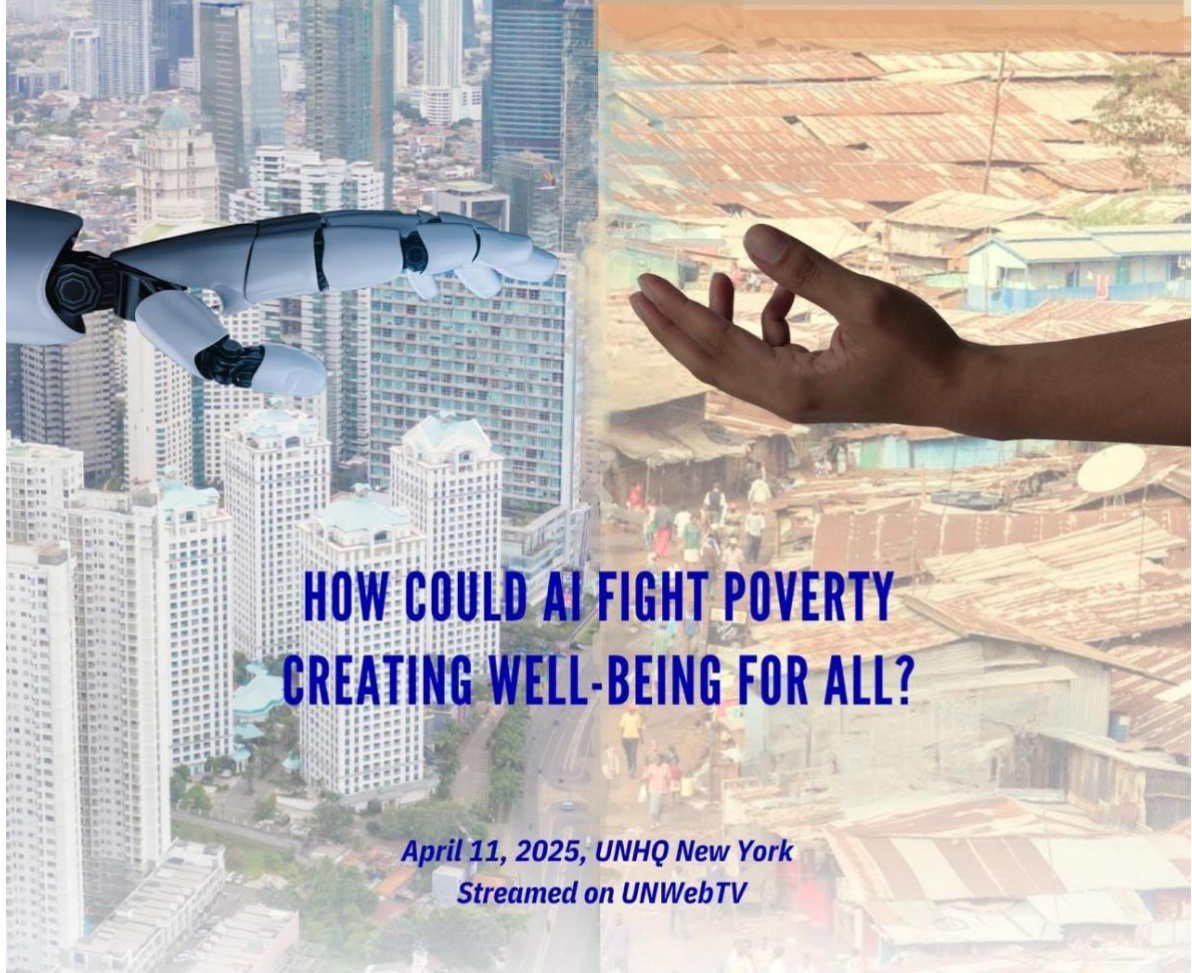
UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF



**DIPARTIMENTO
PER LA TRASFORMAZIONE
DIGITALE**



XXIV INFOPOVERTY WORLD CONFERENCE



**HOW COULD AI FIGHT POVERTY
CREATING WELL-BEING FOR ALL?**

*April 11, 2025, UNHQ New York
Streamed on UNWebTV*

WE THANK FOR THE SUPPORT



FINAL DECLARATION & ACTION PLAN

The participants to the 24th Infopoverty World Conference “*How could AI fight poverty, creating well-being for all?*”, held on April 11th, 2025, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York and streamed worldwide on UN Webcast,

H.E. Marco Romiti – *Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations*; H.E. Alberto Barachini – *Undersecretary of State, Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Italy*; Pierpaolo Saporito – *President, OCCAM and Infopoverty Programme, Italy*; Patrizio Civili – *Special Advisor to the Director-General, IDLO; Former UN Assistant Secretary General, Italy*; Amir Dossal – *President and CEO, Global Partnerships Forum, UK*; Ernesto R. Ottone – *Assistant Director-General for Culture, UNESCO, France*; Stan Oduma Smith – *Permanent Representative of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas to the UN*; Niccolò Rinaldi – *Head of Unit for Asia, Australia and New Zealand, European Parliament, Italy*; Sarbuland Khan – *Senior Counsellor, UNWTO Liaison Office, USA*; Melchiade Bukuru – *Former Director, UNCCD Liaison Office in New York, USA*; Remy Sietchiping – *Chief, Policy, Legislation and Governance Section, UN-HABITAT, Kenya*; Emmanuel Amos – *Founder, Programos Foundation, Nigeria*; Ivan Shumkov – *Founder & CEO, Build Academy; Adjunct Associate Professor, Columbia University, Bulgaria*; Hon. Haruna Sani Sani – *Director General, NASITDEA, Nasarawa State Government, Nigeria*; Momo Bertrand – *Education Specialist, World Bank, USA*; Mariama Samake – *Institutional Relations and Public Affairs*; Andrea A. Giacomini – *CEO, Giacomini Spa, Italy*; Andrea Bighinzoli – *Marketing Director, Giacomini Spa, Italy*; Paolo Arrigoni – *President, GSE (Gestore dei Servizi Energetici), Italy*; Christabel Apholung Ngwashi – *Health Specialist, World Bank, USA*; Kudzayi Munyaka – *Data Privacy Specialist, International Monetary Fund, USA*; Claudio Azzolini – *MD, Founder, Eumeda Telemedicine Platform; Advisory Council of e-Health and Telemedicine, Insubria University, Italy*; Donald J. D’Amico – *Professor and Chair, Weill Cornell Medical College; Ophthalmologist-in-Chief, New York Presbyterian Hospital, USA*; Francesco Oggionni – *ITS, CDAOS.cat; Sanofi Global Data AI Platform, Spain*; Andrea Falco – *PEng, CEO, Alfa Design Studio, Italy*; Claude Boscher – *Former Surgeon, Hôpital Américain de Paris, France*; Simone Donati – *Associate Professor, Department of Medicine and Surgery, Insubria University, Italy*; Antonio Capone Jr. – *MD FACS, Associated Retinal Consultants, USA*; Anat Loewenstein – *MD, MHA, Tel Aviv Medical Center; Faculty of Medicine, Tel Aviv University, Israel*; Antoine Geissbühler – *MD, Dean, Faculty of Medicine; Head of eHealth and Telemedicine, University Hospitals Geneva, Switzerland*; Valter Santarossa – *Attorney; Former Regional Council Member; President, INSIEL, Italy*; Aliye Çelik – *Chair, Consortium for Sustainable Development (CSU), USA*; Jude Elie – *President and CEO, Jude Elie Foundation, Haiti*; Jean Nathan Letang – *President, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Haiti, Haiti*; Elizabeth Jeanty – *Executive Director, Haitian American Historical Society, USA*; Guy Meleance – *President, Ayitek Corp, Haiti*; Andre Dzikus – *Director, New York Office, UN-HABITAT, Germany*; Liberato Bautista – *President, CoNGO, The Philippines*; Basudeb Pal – *Founder, AI Ethics Advisory Group; Chairman, Palif Foundation, USA*; Subir Saha – *Chairman, National American & Indian Chamber of Commerce*; Toshiaki Mitake – *President, Variety M-1 Inc, Japan*; Gloria Starr Kins – *Editor in Chief & Publisher, Society Diplomatic Review, USA*; Kujtim Çashku – *Director, Akademia Filmit Multimedias Marubi, Albania*; Rizwan Ahamd – *Director, Instructional Media*

Centre – MANUU, India; Salmane Tariq El Allami – Professor, Faculty of Educational Sciences, Mohammed V University; Founder, ISCA Film School, Morocco; Jasmina Bojic – Founder & Executive Director, UNAFF & UNAFF Traveling Film Festival, Stanford University, USA;

Thanking

the *United Nations* for hosting, the *Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations* for supporting, and *OCCAM, the Observatory on Digital Communication*, for organizing the 24th edition of the Infopoverty World Conference.

for the Patronage, the *Presidency of the Council of Ministers of Italy* and the *Department of Digital Transformation of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of Italy*.

Recalling

The important contributions presented during the preparatory meetings of the conference:

- *UN-Habitat Expert Group Meeting*, April 17-19, 2024, Jinja, Uganda - online
- *International Youth Day Conference 2024*, August 24th, 2024 - online
- XXIV Euromediterranean Conference on Cinema “*Mobile cinema: a new koine for young Euromediterraneans to foster peace and tolerance?*” September 6th, 2024, 81. Venice International Film Festival, La Villa, Lido di Venezia.
- *EWA-BELT General Assembly*, September 24, 2024, Spazio Cairoli, Milan, Italy
- *World Food Forum 2024*, October 14-18, 2024, FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy

Appreciating

the results achieved by the Infopoverty World Conference, organized by OCCAM since 2001 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in orienting strategies on how to drive the digital revolution to fight poverty (*SDG n.1*), elaborating solutions applied in numerous pilot projects such as the ICT Village model, established in 1999 in Honduras, endorsed at the WSIS 2005, referred to as the UN Millenium Village of Sambaina; identifying and sustaining best practices to assure a basic welfare service for all and giving continuity to the Plan of Action endorsed after the previous edition of the conference, focused on the application of AI-empowered digital technologies in accelerating a safer, more inclusive and equitable system transformation promoting the overcoming of inequalities and fostering long-term sustainability.

Considering

the commitment of Italy in implementing Artificial Intelligence in remote communities with the *AI Hub for Sustainable Development*, promoted by the *G7 Italian Presidency* in collaboration with *UNDP*, and reinforcing the Italian-African partnership through the *Mattei Plan*.

Expressing full support for:

the *United Nations General Assembly Resolutions:*

- Resolution (A/RES/79/1), *UN Pact for the Future*, with the related *Global Digital Compact* and the *Declaration on Future Generations*;
- Resolution (A/RES/70/259), *Decade of Action for Nutrition*.

Convene on the following:

FINAL DECLARATION

1. Artificial Intelligence and virtual environments constitute the primary forces behind the ongoing transformations that are redefining socio-economic paradigms. In the present era, individuals equipped with mobile devices are globally interconnected, capable of overcoming spatial, temporal, and linguistic barriers, as humanity may have lived before the mythical Tower of Babel.
2. A new dimension is emerging, drawing from the computational discoveries of private corporations that steer international development to their own interests, excluding the broader social framework and eluding government and international institutions' prerogatives. Being increasingly considered as a technological innovation aiming at exerting geo-political influence, AI replaces more traditional policies used in foreign affairs such as humanitarian aid and cooperations being conceived as a tool for political influence and/or financial advancement.
3. Evoking ethics without having the keys that rule the processes, risks becoming a circular reasoning, particularly in such a competitive market where financial imperatives result in dominating and driving towards the Artificial Intelligence application within the weapons industry.
4. The need for the development of strategic alternatives within the economic framework – alternatives that can only be initiated, effectively launched by the international community and governments.
5. The early developments of Artificial Intelligence have long been active in the financial sector, giving rise to systems such as blockchain that generate virtual currencies without tangible equivalents, dematerialize money, and automate stock market transactions. This has led to the establishment of a kind of financial speculation, where virtualized assets now exceed the value of the global GDP by a factor of twenty. Such a situation indicates the existence of a vast financial mass suspended in digital clouds, which, if not anchored to real economic value, poses the risk of triggering a collapse of the entire globalized system.
6. In light of these developments, national governments and international institutions appear largely powerless, lacking effective tools to regulate these processes due to fragmented legislative frameworks that are ill-equipped to confront emerging hegemonic entities. It is therefore essential to bridge this gap in order to reclaim governance capabilities and drive the use of Artificial Intelligence towards social goals, rather than speculative interests.

7. While Artificial Intelligence has strengthened the influence of global powers, it also holds the potential to curtail them, provided that new, decisive strategies are implemented across technical, scientific, legislative, and financial domains. These strategies should aim to return operational control to public institutions, enabling the rebalancing of widening social inequalities, which pose serious threats to justice, well-being, and peace across society. In this regard, it should be noted with interest, that the European Union Artificial Intelligence Act, is the first comprehensive regulation on Artificial Intelligence by a major regulator anywhere.
8. By embracing the epistemological framework introduced by the United Nations through the *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)* – and enhancing it through AI-driven applications – a new era of shared prosperity can be envisioned. This becomes especially feasible considering the minimal costs associated with the new generation digital services for e-welfare for all, and the vast financial capital currently immobilized in speculative activities, controlled by autocratic elites. Redirecting this wealth could support inclusive development, rather than benefiting only a privileged minority.
9. This conference, therefore, underscores that the fight against poverty (*SDG n.1*) can fuel the engine of sustainable development – if genuinely embraced by governments, institutions, and the financial system. It is both possible and necessary to provide universal access to welfare services, as presented by the various speakers, and now fully deployable.
10. Finally, the Conference trusts that the United Nations will take a leading role in the process of AI evolution, in order to make these huge financial resources more available towards social goals, with initiatives and projects that, while reasonably profitable, improve the standard of living of the entire population, activating new human resources and consequent wealth. In this way, markets would expand with new consumers, pushing the global economy towards a flourishing digital era, thus avoiding the current risk of increasing war investments, which will only produce destruction and death, as well as the productive saturation in the face of decreasing demand, which historically marked the entelechy of the industrial revolution with the crisis of the 1930s and the World War.
11. It will be therefore essential to direct Artificial Intelligence so that it becomes a useful tool for identifying forms of investment that produce the best social benefits together with economic ones.

In light of these premises, discussed during the 24th Infopoverty World Conference, the participants have endorsed the following projects and best practices to be realized thanks to the operative convergence of the panels:

1. Promoting Artificial Intelligence and a Human-centered approach

The deployment of Artificial Intelligence shall be oriented towards social objectives and guided by a human-centered approach, addressing the existing gaps that involve large masses, primarily rooted in the lack of access to quality education, healthcare services, and food security. As skepticism toward AI is growing in many communities, driven by concerns about surveillance, job loss, or misuse of personal data, this fear becomes a barrier to adoption. In this regard, we are committed to creating digital infrastructures for e-welfare within the framework of integrated and balanced Systems.

The Conference, therefore, agrees on following a holistic approach that is essential to ensure ICTs and AI develop their full potential for combating poverty and supporting socio-economic progress.

2. Bridging the Rural-Urban Gap with AI tools for development

In a world where current Artificial Intelligence's knowledge is largely centred around the urban centers and rural communities are lagging behind, the digital divide that continues to hamper such a paradigm is not just a matter of distance, but it represents gaps in access opportunities and, at times, even voice. The call for the promotion of integrated urban-rural development strategies supported by knowledge sharing, targeted advocacy, and capacity-building efforts ensures that the deployment of AI effectively bridges geographical inequalities and contributes to an inclusive digital society, where humans are not driven by technology, but the technology serves the needs of the people.

Endorsed project(s):

2.1. Strengthening Urban-Rural linkages with e-services4dev – UN-HABITAT with OCCAM

The project, developed under the framework of collaboration between OCCAM and UN-HABITAT, in line with the *SDGs n. 1, 2, 12*, aims to promote sustainable territorial development through a replicable model integrating Rural and Urban needs, encompassing the transfer of knowledge, guaranteeing accessible and affordable connectivity, and defining sustainable ways of providing e-welfare services from urban centers in selected rural villages in Kenya (Kenton Village and Muchorwi Village) and Nigeria (Labozhi Village and Lamba Nikuchi Village).

2.2. Platform for Food Security – by OCCAM

The upscaling of the platform will be included as an integral part of the “Strengthening Urban-Rural linkages with e-services4dev” project and will be ready to deliver assistance to train farmers to prevent crop diseases and increase production in the targeted project villages.

2.3.E-Learning for Job Creation - OCCAM in collaboration with the School District of Manjankadrina

Delivering E-learning tools for job creation is essential to rebalancing the rural-urban gap, as it empowers individuals in remote areas with skills, knowledge, and opportunities that are otherwise concentrated in urban centers. The ICT Village Model of Sambaina, Madagascar, proclaimed UN Millennium Village in 2007, represents a successful example of how fostering opportunities for job creation can empower individuals to become skilled ICT professionals within their own communities.

3. Implementing Healthcare and Digital Medicine

Recognizing the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence and digitalization of healthcare, telemedicine represents a viable and powerful integration to traditional medicine. Particularly, given fragile contexts where people do not have access to health assistance, digital platforms could be implemented to allow healthcare assistance, ensuring equitable and high-

quality services for all, because telemedicine can move information and expertise instead of moving people. As Artificial Intelligence is a key component of this process, we must foster the capacity of doctors to deliver healthcare, taking into consideration the transparency, allowing patients to be informed about how their data is being handled and what rights they have regarding their privacy.

Endorsed project(s)

3.1. EUMEDA® Digital Platform - By Professor Claudio Azzolini

The project intends to improve the EUMEDA® Platform, active since 2001, by developing new features on the Web-accessible personalized electronic health record databases, in coordination with various institutional levels of access for storage and follow-up, sharing data and images between health facilities to give better and timely care. The expected results are the simplification of healthcare thanks to digital medicine and AI, by promoting remote care to alleviate the admission burden to healthcare facilities, even in developing countries, to improve “patient engagement” and adherence to therapy, as well as scientific research.

4. Ensuring Clean Energy for Disadvantaged Communities

Decarbonization is a complex process that requires a global approach and a joint commitment of the entire international community with a systemic, pragmatic, non-ideological framework. Acknowledging that the lack of energy still remains a major barrier to sustainable development and digital connectivity, innovative and decentralized energy solutions, such as hydrogen-powered systems, must be implemented. Synergies between Artificial Intelligence and clean hydrogen technologies, being cost-effective, hold significant potential to power essential services, reduce infrastructure gaps, and lay the foundation for digital inclusion in underserved regions.

Endorsed project(s):

4.1. H2ydroGEM® - by Giacomini S.p.a.

H2droGEM® represents a real device for carbon-free Heating and Hot Domestic Water Production, and it is developed by Giacomini S.p.a., with the technical partnership of the Energy Department of Politecnico of Milan. This device can be connected in cascade, or it will be available in different power sizes for each application, and includes an AI electronic module, currently under testing. Hydrogen currently represents a resilient, affordable, and sustainable energy production technology, especially in African countries as the villages selected by UN-HABITAT in the project “Strengthening Urban-Rural linkages with e-services4dev” to guarantee to the communities an autonomous source of clean energy.

5. Applying AI for modernizing the Nation-building process through AI

Nearly 1.1 billion people are situated in countries experiencing violent conflicts: in Haiti the 58.5% of the population lives below the poverty line, and the country stands at a critical crossroads facing unprecedented challenges that have steered its development and impacted the well-being of its citizens. Humanitarian efforts offered by the international community often provide temporary solutions to deeply rooted problems and need long-term implementation strategies. In this fragile context, Artificial Intelligence can play a pivotal role in addressing

these challenges and serving as an implementation tool for new and more effective nation-building solutions.

Endorsed project(s):

5.1. A new vision for the future of Haiti - by Jude Elie

The goal of the new vision for Haiti aims at calling upon the United Nations and the global community to take urgent and coordinated action to:

- a. Invest in digital infrastructure and AI access for developing nations, so that innovation is inclusive.
- b. Use AI to support humanitarian response and security coordination in fragile states like Haiti.
- c. Promote ethical AI standards that protect vulnerable populations from surveillance abuse, manipulation, or exclusion.
- d. Empower local developers and Haitian technologists, because true progress happens when solutions come from within.

Invest in long-term development, not just emergency aid—supporting education, healthcare, infrastructure, and job creation for the Haitian people engaging in a community-based process fostering well-being for all.

5.2. Global Infrastructure for e-Welfare Services in Nasarawa State, Nigeria - by Hon. Haruna Sani Sani

The implementation of global infrastructure for e-Welfare services presents a transformative opportunity for Nasarawa State through:

- a. E-payment system
- b. Securing funding commitments
- c. Boasting local content creation
- d. Leveraging technology for growth
- e. Harnessing the potential of youth by equipping them with modern digital skills

5.3. AIID: The Future of Mobile Identity - by Variety M-I Inc.

The AIID Mobile ID project gives individuals control of their own identity, even without infrastructure, and it aims to bring recognition, rights, and inclusion to the most disadvantaged people the world forgets. AIID operates offline, and it runs on smartphones and can be made of paper or plastic formats. Furthermore, this tool uses Color QR encryption with facial recognition, enabling offline financial tools and voting via DOTS (Digital Offline Transfer System).

6. Promoting AI for new cultural and communication systems

As many artists and culture professionals, particularly in the Global South, face economic precarity and digital exclusion, Artificial Intelligence can help bridge these gaps by expanding access to creative tools, enhancing the safeguarding of cultural heritage in all its forms, and fostering inclusive growth in the digital economy, including for marginalized communities, the younger generation, and women and girls, allowing people from different linguistic backgrounds to understand, collaborate, and create across the borders, effectively rebuilding the Tower of Babel for peace and common understanding dialogue.

Endorsed project(s):

6.1. Contribution to UNESCO mission and activities, and promotion of MONDIACULT 2025

Institutions such as UNESCO, which is championing a human-centered and ethical approach to AI, recognize how it is having a profound impact across all sectors, including culture. In this context, on the occasion of the MONDIACULT 2025, UNESCO will advance public policies that are future-proofed, ensuring AI serves culture and human creativity, rather than replacing them.

6.2. Organization of the Centenary of the International Educational Cinematographic Institute (1926-2026)

With the advent of the digital age, the *Conseil International du Cinéma et de la Télévision, CICT-ICFT*, official partner of UNESCO, established as the heir to the International Educational Cinematographic Institute, has been able to renew itself, and today it presents its strong innovative capacity and a wealth of experience that makes it ready to face the challenges of the future, continuing to be a point of reference in the field of culture, cinema and global communication. This process constitutes a creative bridge between different areas to explore cinema beyond the simple vision of AI.

In conclusion, considering the results achieved by the Conference, the participants:

1. Propose to form a permanent **Forum** open to the collaboration of all able to facilitate the implementation of the endorsed projects, proposing a follow-up meeting shortly to define the executive Road Map, also with regard to the best dissemination of this Declaration to public and private institutions, operating with the same purposes, in order to strengthen the role of AI in the fight against poverty with the concrete initiatives outlined;
2. Request OCCAM to provide a Secretariat to manage the conference results, activate the Forum, and provide the links for effective collaboration.