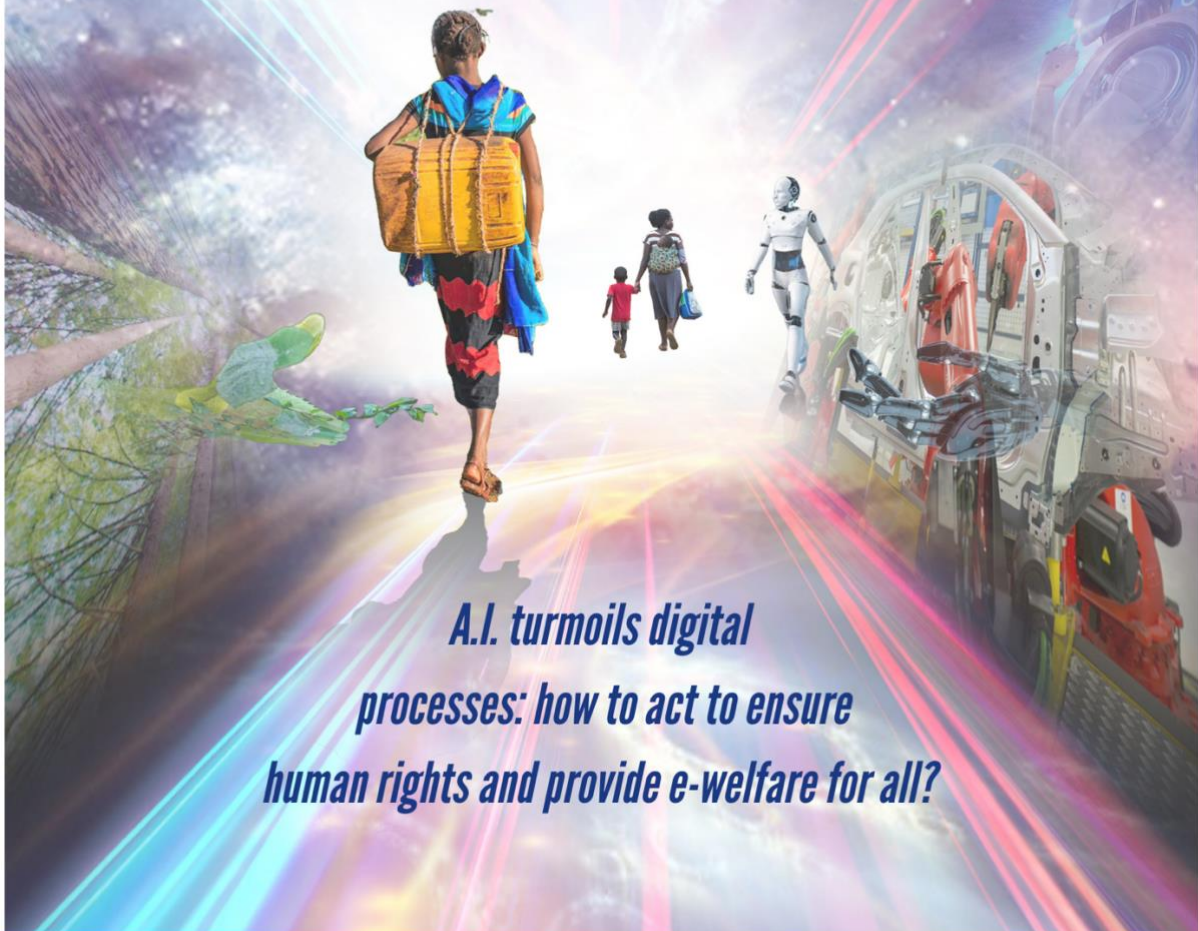




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XXIII INFOPOVERTY WORLD CONFERENCE



A.I. turmoils digital processes: how to act to ensure human rights and provide e-welfare for all?



Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale



April 12, 2024

UN Headquarters (CR11), New York – online
Live streamed on UN Webcast

PRESENTATION

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and the harrowing realities of ongoing wars, a new perception of Society has surfaced. This newfound awareness has been further altered by the advent of AI, fundamentally reshaping our outlook on the imminent future, amplifying concerns and uncertainties surrounding a digitally dominated world.

Operating since the dawn of the digital revolution, the Infopoverty World Conference has punctually chronicled the pivotal junctures of this era. Its focus remains on spotlighting commendable projects and practices that merit the attention of the United Nations system, under whose auspices it was established, with the mission of promoting the achievement of the MDGs and SDGs through the strategic utilization of ICTs and new technologies.

A fresh chapter is unfolding, propelled by a cohort of digital natives and the pervasive integration of new technologies shaping the very essence of progress. Within this landscape, tackling the diverse array of new and sometimes unethical occurrences—largely driven by private entities wielding control over infrastructure and operational platforms—has ascended to paramount significance. Delaying the resolution of these issues is no longer tenable.

The proclaimed SDGs have paved the way for development as a guiding compass. Now, substantial technical, social, political, and economic endeavors are imperative, especially directed towards marginalized communities, to allocate significant resources into AI-driven e-services to surmount the deficiencies and challenges in telecommunication infrastructure, e-learning, food security, telemedicine, and e-governance. ICTs and AI stand as viable and potent solutions to contemporary challenges, provided they are ethically tested and applied to address the essential requirements of people. This, in turn, mandates their integration into foundational global action plans and policies.

How should we steer the impetus of AI to orient it towards overcoming of inequalities, climate emergencies, and challenging instances?

How to address the paradoxical binomial between digital excellence and its diverted use, it being at the basis of a struggling achievement of the SDGs putting the protection of human rights on the back burner?

How to attest that ICTs and AI serve as effective responses to contemporary challenges only if they undergo ethical examination and prone to human needs?

On these premises, drawing from the results elaborated in the past Final Declarations, addressing the topic “*AI turmoils digital processes: how to act to ensure human rights and provide e-welfare for all?*”, the 23rd Infopoverty World Conference will convene as a think-tank, gathering distinguished experts to showcase pioneering projects aimed at achieving the UN 2030 Agenda and beyond.

To do so, the conference will first draft the map of asynchronism to draw knowledge-sharing policies allowing economic, political and technological fences to be overcome, to later focus on *e-welfare4all* and the critical gaps to be covered to attain it, namely food-security, health and education to launch an appeal for investments on best practices to lead the transition towards an ethical, sustainable and SDGs inspired digital Society leaving no one behind.

PREPARATORY MEETINGS

VI International Medical Informatics and Telemedicine meeting

February 28, 2023

OCCAM participated in the VI International Medical Informatics and Telemedicine meeting took place on February 28, 2023, on the first anniversary of the conflict outbreak in Ukraine and three years after the first case of Covid 19 contagion was discovered in Europe. The webinar aimed at promoting the role of telemedicine in supporting peace, by underlining the potential of IT infrastructure, remote education, and food and water access programs to help relieve suffering, promote justice and provide highly impactful healthcare worldwide, especially in underserved and high-risk locations where it is needed the most. The President of OCCAM, Arch. Pierpaolo Saporito, recalled the relevance of telemedicine as an effective and efficient means warning about the necessity of improving telemedicine tools, especially those related to diagnosis at a distance and medical and pharmaceutical monitoring to benefit Civil Society. To do so, a global alliance must be urgently established equip countries and communities with telemedicine plans for emergencies and crises.

UNCTAD 26th Commission on Science and Technology for Development

March 27/31 2023, UN Headquarters, Geneva

From March 27 to March 31, as Regular Observer to the UNCTAD CSTD, OCCAM – the Observatory on Digital Communication, was invited to participate and intervene at the UNCTAD 26th edition of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development held at the Palais des Nations of the United Nations Office in Geneva. Arch. Pierpaolo Saporito, President of OCCAM and the Infopoverty Programme, had the opportunity to present the follow-up of the XXII Infopoverty World Conference “*The Digital Citizen: duties and rights to build a fairer future Society*”, held the past 1st December at the UNHQ in New York and streamed on the UN Webcast, whose inputs and contributions were collected into the Final Declaration to launch the XXIII edition of the Conference addressing the advent of AI in the digital processes. It is in this context that OCCAM announced the Golden Algorithm Award, first launched in December during the discussion by the eminent participants, endorsed and validated by the Commission to identify and promote the most innovative digital solutions that are ethical and that ensure human rights in line with the common good established by the principles of the UN Charter.

5th African Union – European Union Agriculture Ministerial Conference

June 30, 2023 , FAO Headquarters, Rome

As partner of the EWABELT Project (GA 862848 – H2020), OCCAM observed the efforts of the Conference to present the remarkable achievements and policy recommendations of five funded projects under the Horizon 2020 program's "Sustainable Intensification in Africa (SFS-35-2019-2020)" topic. By generating holistic evidence, promoting technology adoption, aligning soil information systems, and integrating agroecological practices, these projects have spearheaded a movement toward sustainable and resilient agricultural systems. Based on this evidence and activities that demonstrate the benefits of agroecological innovations on the ground, recommendations were presented and met with great enthusiasm and support from attendees at the conference. The outcomes from this collaboration provide a strong foundation for future advancements in African

agriculture, contributing to increased agricultural production, enhanced agri-food system resilience, and environmental sustainability in the years to come.

XXV Euromediterranean Conference on Cinema
“Platforms and AI: the rise of global cinema?”

September 8, 2023, 80. Venice Film Festival, Vilal degli Autori Lido di Venezia

As partner of CICT ICFT, OCCAM organized and took part in the XXV Euromediterranean Conference on Cinema that explored the potential – and related challenges – of AI tools and platforms in shaping the cinematic landscape – and others – while ensuring that human creativity and expertise remain at the core of the filmmaking industry and creators, to enrich cultural diversity and exchange cultural expressions. The Final Declaration of the Conference was submitted to UNESCO for the records and operates as reference point for a controversial and complicated topic that necessarily requires a reflection and dialogue at the highest institutional, political and social levels with the involvement of experts and professionals from the film, artistic and cultural fields as well as Civil Society in view of operative synergies in all sectors.

UNESCO High-level discussion on AI in the audio-visual industry
Film sector on the frontlines

October 19, 2023, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris

As member of CICT ICFT, OCCAM assisted to the global conversation organized by UNESCO on the impact of AI on the audio-visual sector. The meeting, in a hybrid format, brought together over a hundred people at UNESCO, including ambassadors, delegations, international organizations, National Commissions, NGOs and experts. Many concerns were expressed, particularly about the rapid development of AI, but some positive previews emerged as well including transparency and regulation. The meeting therefore "set the scene" and raised some very important issues that now need to be looked at in greater depth - and quickly. This is UNESCO's objective with the approach taken, and it should be emphasized that cross-sectoral, cross-functional work needs to be carried out.

Roundtable “The Hunt for an AI π ” in occasion of Pi Day

March 14, 2024, OCCAM Headquarters, Milan

The Roundtable "*The Hunt for an AI π* " took place on 14 March 2024 to open a debate on how "the golden algorithmic proportion could steer Artificial Intelligence towards an ethical and social vision that guarantees human rights". Just as in the real world π (pi) is the golden constant of harmonic proportions, is it conceivable to have a π (pi) that moves and harmonizes AI algorithms in a virtual world?

AGENDA

Drawing from the insights elaborated in the past Final Declarations, the 23rd Infopoverty World Conference intends to respond to some of the main challenges that emerged amidst the controversial advent of Artificial Intelligence in our Society. In doing so, the discussion will delve into how such innovative tools can be used as efficient and adequate means to provide e-welfare for eradication poverty, assure health for all, as well as adequate education, ending hunger and accelerate the achievement of the SDGs.

10:00 am (EDT) Opening Session

Institutional Greetings

H. E. MARCO ROMITI, *Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations*

NAVID HANIF, *Assistant Secretary-General, UN Economic Development in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), Pakistan*

H.E. ALBERTO BARACHINI, *Undersecretary of State, Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Italy*

ERNESTO OTTONE R., *Assistant Director-General Culture Sector, UNESCO, France*

General Introduction

PIERPAOLO SAPORITO, *President, OCCAM and Infopoverty Program, Italy*

10:30 am (EDT) - First Session

How could a holistic approach based on AI be functional to SDGs achievement?

AI presents both risks and opportunities for human well-being. While it holds promise for societal progress and poverty alleviation, its predominant use in warfare and surveillance poses concerns. To prevent past catastrophic outcomes, AI-powered technologies should pivot toward socially beneficial applications, addressing global societal needs, especially for marginalized communities. Ethical testing and application are pivotal for ICTs and AI to effectively address contemporary challenges and meet fundamental human needs. Stakeholders and scientists' collaboration with governmental representatives are crucial to integrate these tools into global policies, aiming for universal e-welfare.

Chair: **PATRIZIO CIVILI**, *Special Advisor to the Director General, IDLO; Former UN Assistant Secretary General, Italy*

BELINDA BISCOE, *Senior Associate Vice President, The University of Oklahoma, USA*

NICCOLÒ RINALDI, *Head of Unit Asia, Australia and New Zealand, European Parliament, Italy*

HOSSAM BADRAWI, *Chairman, Nile Badrawi Foundation for Education & Development, Egypt*

REMY SIETCHIPING, *Chief, Policy, Legislation and Governance Section, UN-Habitat, Kenya*

LIBERATO BAUTISTA, *President, CoNGO, the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations, The Philippines*

11:30 am (EDT) - Second Session

Poverty eradication and hunger: a first challenging priority for AI

With poverty levels expanding across the globe, raising concerns about a potential recurrence of the 1929 crisis – stemmed from oversaturated production and a shortage of buyers – must be addressed. It thus becomes imperative to craft comprehensive policies aimed at fostering development among the most impoverished populations. The conference's historical mission lies in highlighting exemplary practices, such as the EU H2020 EWABELT Project (GA 862848) that, executed across villages in 30 sub-Saharan regions by 20 partners among universities, research centers and businesses, showcases how the integration of AI-empowered digital technologies into agriculture fosters tangible development within Africa's most underserved communities. This approach mirrors the successful model of ICT Villages, endorsed by the WSIS since 2005, concurrently addressing the migration phenomenon.

Chair: **MELCHIADE BUKURU**, *Former Director, UNCCD Liaison Office in New York*

GUANGZHOU QU, *Director, FAO Liaison Office in New York, USA*

GIOVANNA SEDDAIU, *Professor in Agronomics and EWA-BELT Project Coordinator, Università di Sassari, Desertification Research Centre, Italy*

YOUSSEF BRAHIMI, *Member of the EWABELT Scientific Advisory Board, Founding member, Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS), France*

FRANÇOIS TAPSOBA, *Member of the EWABELT Scientific Advisory Board, Burkina Faso*

PlantHead Platform in action from villages in Kenya

operated by **OCCAM** (Giovanni Zanoni & Martina Baldessin), Italy

Lab testing of qPCR device for DNA detection

by **STMicroelectronics** (Marco Cereda, *Researcher*) with University of Sassari (Quirico Migheli, *Director NRD*) and University of Nairobi (Abigael Ouko, *Lecturer*)

Focus on biopesticides: Cassia Nigricans study case in Burkina Faso

NICOLA MORGANTI, *President, ACRA Foundation, Italy*

Neglected Underutilized Crop Species (NUS): the case of Fonio value chain in Ghana

JOHN BIDZAKIN, *Research Fellow, Cranfield University, UK*

Special event - 12:45 pm (EDT)

ICFT CICT/UNESCO with 18th UNAFF Traveling Film Festival and Signs of Change FF
present the documentary

LIGHT (Kenya/US), *by Nicole Watson, Beryl Omondi*

Introduced by **JASMINA BOJIC**, *Founder and Executive Director, UNAFF & UNAFF Traveling Film Festival, Stanford University (USA)*

2:30 pm (EDT) - Third Session

Good health and well-being (SDG3) – what role could AI play in telemedicine practices?

Telemedicine's progress plays a crucial part in improving healthcare access. By setting up strong new practices and enhancing digital healthcare platforms, a great mass of people living in underserved regions can be assisted. At the same time, governmental efforts are due to build efficient e-health systems for all, integrating existing hospitals with territorial points of care. Global health system in crisis: the role of telemedicine in assuring basic services to all.

Chair: **CLAUDIO AZZOLINI MD**, *Founder of Eumeda Telemedicine Platform, AS, Insubria University, Varese-Como, Italy*

FRANCESCO OGGIONI ITS, *Advisory Board Member*, CDAOS.cat non-profit Data & Digital Health Innovation, Barcelona, Spain

SIMONE DONATI MD, *Associate Professor*, Department of Medicine and Surgery, Insubria University, Varese-Como, Italy

ANDREA FALCO PEng, Alfa Design Studio, Italy

ANTONIO CAPONE JR MD FACS, *Associated Retinal Consultants*, Royal Oak, Michigan, USA

CLAUDE BOSCHER MD, *Former Surgeon of the Pôle Tête et Cou*, Hôpital Américain de Paris, Neuilly sur Seine, France

ANAT LOEWENSTEIN MD, MHA, *Professor and Director*, Division of Ophthalmology, Tel Aviv University, Israel

UMBERTO PAOLUCCI MEng, Up Invest Srl; *Former President*, Microsoft Europe, Middle East and Africa, Milan, Italy

Special event - 3:15 pm (EDT)

New AI approach to mental health and substance abuse

by the Christopher Smithers Foundation, USA

NIKKI SMITHERS, *President*, The Christopher Smithers' Foundation

BRINKLEY SMITHERS, *Vice-President*, The Christopher Smithers' Foundation

NICHOLAS SMITHERS, *Director*, The Christopher Smithers' Foundation

CHRISTOPHER SMITHERS, *Secretary*, The Christopher Smithers' Foundation

3:45 pm (EDT) – Fourth session

Urban-Rural linkages to promote sustainable development and clean energy of urban and rural communities

The reciprocal and repetitive flow of people, goods, finances, and environmental services between rural, peri-urban, and urban areas creates interdependence as well as imbalances. Urban areas gather resources and people, while rural villages often suffer from climate vulnerabilities and outdated technologies. The Digital Revolution provides guidelines for implementing clean energy solutions to preserve the environment with cohesive development policies across national, regional, and local levels to address these disparities and foster successful, uniform progress.

Chair: **ALIYE P. CELIK**, *Chair of the Board*, Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization (CSU), USA

LANCE JAY BROWN, *Founder*, Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization (CSU), USA

FRANCESCA DE FERRARI, *Programme Management Officer*, UN-HABITAT New York, USA

The Hydrogen Revolution in Housing

ANDREA ALESSANDRO GIACOMINI, *CEO & Head of Public Affairs*, Giacomini Spa, Italy

MARIAMA SAMAKE, *Communication & Institutional Relations*, Giacomini Spa, Italy

GUIDO GALLIANI, *Technical Development with R&D* Giacomini, Italy

EMMANUEL AMOS, *Founder*, Programos Foundation, Nigeria

UN Millennium Village of Sambaina, Madagascar

RAKOTONIRINA TAHIRY THIERRY, *Chief Sambaina School District*, Madagascar

4:30 pm (EDT) – Fifth session

Using Balanced Human and Artificial Intelligence Strategies to bridge the existing gaps: education, gender equality and poverty eradication to guarantee human rights
Human and social development relies on the assurance of human rights, including education and the promotion of gender equality, them serving as catalysts for progress in all spheres. In this context, AI and digital technologies hold significant potential to contribute to bridging the existing gaps. Learning from the protagonists of change could highlight new paths and guidelines to be adopted.

Chair: **PETER A. PSARAS**, *Founder Chios Capital, Chief Strategy Officer & Managing Director Global Futures Group LLC, Advisory Council International Science Reserve ISR, New York Academy of Sciences NYAS, USA*

HON. JERRY M. HULTIN, *Former Under Secretary of Navy, President Emeritus New York University Tandon School of Engineering, USA*

BELINDA BISCOE, *Senior Associate Vice President, The University of Oklahoma, USA*

JEFFRY WILLIAMS, *Founder & CEO, Worldwide Tech Connections, USA*

ESTHER WOJCICKI, *Founder, Global Moonshots in Education, Founder Palo Alto High Media Arts Program, CEO Woj.Education, USA*

NADAIT GEBREMEDHEN MD, *Founder & Executive Director, Hagush, USA*

KIYOSHI NAKANISHI, *CEO, Homeost Corporation, Japan*

SIMON DOWNES, *FDA correspondent*

LUIS HERNANDEZ, *International Attorney, Regulatory Affairs Specialist*

Sixth session

Creative feedback on AI innovative solutions for the Plan of Action 2024-2027

With AI, all the various factors of change will converge in a holistic system capable of overcoming the sectorization of science through an epistemological approach; clean energy, climate change, waste management, circular economy, wide connective, new algorithms inspired by Pi, are all instances that could bring a harmonious connubium of creativities, traditional knowledge and cutting-edge technologies to face crises of war and poverty, emphasizing the responsibility of each single person involved.

Chair: **PIERPAOLO SAPORITO**, *President, OCCAM and Infopoverty Programme*

MARIA GRAZIA CAVENAGHI, *Former director, EU Parliament Office in Milan, USA*

JOHN STEFFENS, *Assistant Vice President Emeritus, University of Oklahoma, USA*

DAVID NEELY, *President and CEO, Affecting Change International (ACI), USA*

GIACOMO MAZZONE, *Secretary-General, EUROVISIONI, Member, CICT-ICFT, Italy*

ALDO TORREGIANI, *High-Level Advisor for Sustainable Policies, Italy*

Poetry on AI

IMTIAZ DHARKER, *Poet, Chancellor, Newcastle University, UK*

GENERAL DISCUSSION

**6:00 pm (EDT)
FINAL DECLARATION**

CONTACTS

Via Duccio di Boninsegna, 21/23, Milano, 20145, Milano (Italy)

occam@occam.org
www.occam.org • www.infopoverty.net

Linkedin: **occam-observatory**
Instagram: **@occam_milano**
Facebook: **occam.milano**
YouTube: [OCCAM](#) • [Infopoverty](#)
X: **occam_milano**