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XXII

# INFOPOVERTY WORLD CONFERENCE

**THE DIGITAL CITIZEN:**

**DUTIES AND RIGHTS TO BUILD A FAIRER FUTURE SOCIETY**

**December 1, 2022**

**New York, UN Headquarters – online  
*streamed on UN Webcast***

# XXII INFOPOVERTY WORLD CONFERENCE

*The Digital Citizen: duties and rights to build a fairer future Society*

## PRESENTATION 22nd Infopoverty World Conference

How could the Digital Citizen, with her rights and duties, build a fairer digital society? this is the focus of the **22nd Infopoverty World Conference** launched in this moment of great fragility due to pandemics, wars and climate crises that must be necessarily faced with the awareness of great risks for our civilization. Planned for **December, 1** at the **United Nations Headquarters in New York** and live-streamed on **UN Webcast** this year edition wants to investigate the unit of the Digital Society, namely the Digital Citizen.

This Edition draws on the paths traced by the [\*\*20<sup>th</sup> Infopoverty World Conference\*\*](#) “*Towards the Digital Society inspired by SDGs*” presenting the new still unknown Digital Habitat together with pivotal questions on how the digital technologies are essential in our daily-life. Furthermore, the [\*\*21<sup>st</sup> Infopoverty World Conference\*\*](#) “*How to build a fairer and more inclusive Digital Society?*”, has deepened the main challenges and constraints of the Digital Society by stressing how the post-industrial structures based on repetitive work, financial assets and representative democracy have inevitably shifted online. In such scenarios, new paradigms have overcome the space-time dimensions resulting in more and more complex digital mechanisms, as expressed during **several preparatory meetings**. Throughout the years, the Conference has continuously dealt with the advancements brought about by the Digital Revolution and has progressively discovered and launched the “*best-practices models*” in the fields of telemedicine, e-learning, e-agriculture, and e-money. Established by the Observatory with the participation of many African and Latin American governments, many remote villages and disadvantaged communities have successfully applied the most ground-breaking E-services for Development, previously presented, and validated during the different editions of the Infopoverty World Conference.

Stemming from the results achieved throughout the past 21 years of activities outlining who are the drivers of the Digital Revolution and how they operate in terms of e-services4Dev, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infopoverty World Conference intends to define a **roadmap** of all the **possible options** to empower the **protagonist** of the change in progress in all her **associative dynamics** and without whom the State as we know it would end up being an empty container of things so to avoid it becoming a far-west lookalike or a pariah of spaces. [The parameters of a new-born civilization must be recognized, collected, and directed towards a vision that enhances human rights and finds its inspiration in the SDGs proclaimed by the United Nations as the operational compass for orientation.](#)

### PREPARATORY MEETINGS TO THE CONFERENCE

**First Step – 76<sup>th</sup> Session of Third Committee on Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Issues – Civil Society Consultation, February 16, online on UN Webcast**



During the 76<sup>th</sup> Session, the Third Committee on Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Issues has approved more than 30 resolutions on questions related to, among others, the advancement of women, the protection of children, indigenous issues, the treatment of refugees, the promotion of fundamental freedoms through the elimination of racism and racial discrimination, and the right to self-determination.

# XXII INFOPOVERTY WORLD CONFERENCE

## *The Digital Citizen: duties and rights to build a fairer future Society*

Invited to participate and speak on behalf of OCCAM, President Pierpaolo Saporito presented the results and suggestions emerged during the **21<sup>st</sup> Edition of the InfoPoverty World Conference** (December 3, 2021 on [UN Webcast](#)). In a world that is continuously and, in many cases, irreversibly changing leading to a greater digitalization in every field, understanding the **direction** of the digital transition processes is of the utmost importance. As Observatory on Digital Communication, OCCAM has been advocating for new solutions and best practices to emerge, not only related to research and studies but mostly operating on the ground in many rural villages in Africa and Latin America where the conditions of minorities, including women, children, and people with mental and physical disabilities, must be necessarily improved. This enhancement could be reached through the application of Digital tools and Best Practices in the fields of telemedicine, maternal care, and e-learning to provide job creation, food-security, and food exploitation.

### **Second Step – 25<sup>th</sup> Commission on Science and Technology for Development promoted by UNCTAD; March 28 – April 1, 2022, Geneva**

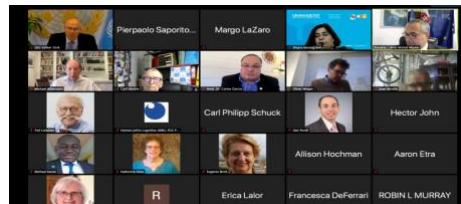


Discussing how the digital revolution affects development and offers new strategies in view of a sustainable future for all, the 25<sup>th</sup> edition of the Commission addressed two important topics: Industry 4.0 and Science, technology, and innovation for sustainable urban development in a post-pandemic world. At such a prestigious stage and inspiring context, Architect Saporito, President of OCCAM and the InfoPoverty Programme, had the opportunity to **announce** and **present**

the **22<sup>nd</sup> InfoPoverty World Conference** on the theme of Digital Citizenship. The urgency of addressing such an imperative topic was endorsed throughout the four days of Commission's work and debate. Some of the pivotal concepts that have been presented by the participants will be further deepened during the 22<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Conference.

### **Third Step – UN Habitat 76 Dialogue to Impact Change *Reflections from the UN General Assembly High Level Meeting on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda – April 28, 2022 online***

On April 28, 2022 OCCAM participated in the High-level Meeting convened by the President of the United Nations General Assembly to assess progress on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. During this meeting, Architect Saporito, had the opportunity to discuss on how cities must be empowered with immediate and distant assistance services so to strengthen the health system: telemedicine must be recognized by decision-makers as a useful tool and empowered also in terms of costs and efficiency so to present and implement the best-practices especially in rural villages, where the number of doctors is bellowed the sufficiency rate. On social housing, the 3D building technology must be promoted to eliminate slums, which are the social cancer of our times.



# XXII INFOPOVERTY WORLD CONFERENCE

*The Digital Citizen: duties and rights to build a fairer future Society*

**Fourth step – World Summit on the Information Society 2022 Forum**

**May 30 – June 3, International Telecommunications Union**

**ITU – Geneva**



The [World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2022](#) represents the world's largest annual gathering of the 'ICT for development' community. Co-organized by ITU, UNESCO, UNDP and UNCTAD, the final week was held physically from 30 May to 3 June 2022 at the ITU Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, under the theme of *ICTs for Well-Being, Inclusion and Resilience: WSIS Cooperation for Accelerating Progress on the SDGs.*

The final week represented a great opportunity to present the EWA-BELT Project and bring it to the highest tables to give it further recognition.

During this impressive week, Architect Saporito, President of OCCAM delivered two speeches at the High-level policy interaction sessions and dialogues. The first intervention was held during the "*High-level policy session number 11: Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content/Ethical Dimensions of Information and Knowledge Societies/Media/ICTs and Gender Mainstreaming*" where issues concerning the internet, online media, global ethical ICT standards and gender equality were discussed. The EWA-BELT Project was brought to the table to exemplify how OCCAM and the entire consortium are working to achieve such ambitious objectives. The second contribution was during the "*High level dialogue: ICTs for Developing countries and LDCs*". On the occasion, President Saporito underlined how LDCs still suffer from a lack of connectivity, especially as regards to rural areas, which results in the impossibility of taking advantage of the e-services that the digital revolution makes available to governments, companies, NGOs, international organizations and above all local authorities.

**Fifth Step – XXIV Euromediterranean Conference**

"Cinema Evolution in The Digital Era - The Mediterranean as paraphrase of the world"

**9 September 2022, Venice International Film Festival**

Organized by the **International Council of Cinema and Television at UNESCO** (CICT-UNESCO) this Conference sought to delineate the boundaries of the Digital Revolution applied to the Cinematographic World to understand what actions and correctives can be put in place to ensure that Cinema becomes inclusive of all the expressiveness and realities of the Mediterranean shores and cultures. Such efforts must be promoted through new digital platforms that consider everyone and open up to an increasing number of stakeholders. The resonance of these actions must be amplified and extended also to the world of the Festivals that can be a sounding board for values of equality and inclusion, oriented by the principles of UN and UNESCO.

# XXII INFOPOVERTY WORLD CONFERENCE

*The Digital Citizen: duties and rights to build a fairer future Society*

## XXII Infopoverty World Conference

On Headquarters New York – online  
UN WEBCAST

### 10:00 – Opening Session

Greetings and General introduction

This year edition calls upon the best digital creators and shapers who, with creative expertise and concrete philanthropic critical spirit, will be the protagonists of this turning momentum unicum. With the title “The Digital Citizen: duties and rights to build a fairer future society”, the 22nd Infopoverty World Conference will go back to its origin and gather together all the possible solutions to build a Digital Society that can finally be fairer, more inclusive and sustainable. The discussion will focus on the Citizen with her duties and rights who, in a new light, can take on a new role of protagonist culminating in a Digital and Social Revolution.

### 10:30 – First session

**The Digital Citizen: from Digital Communities to real society, how the process could be implemented in terms of participation and global wellness and freedom.**

The current moment of transition between old technological, health, climatic and political structures require us to start a reflection on the condition of people who, on the one hand, can access unprecedented communication systems and services thus overcoming linguistic and territorial barriers and on the other hand, see the social dynamics changing towards horizons not yet definable. In this context, the individual, empowered as a “digital citizen”, acquires new opportunities for development and participation, while the state must adapt its structures to this transformative process both to cater assistance to real needs and to accentuate democratic control.

A new social pact is thus on its way and, if this emerging citizenship proves to be more active and participatory, a better society could take shape.

Participation of: Representatives of Governments, Euro-parliamentarians, Representatives of United Nations Agencies, Director of International Organization, Deputy-Secretaries of Organizations, CEO and Founder of private institutions, representatives from Civil Society Organizations, IGOs Directors

### 11:30 am – Second Session

**How the new technologies can achieve SDGs and develop rural communities, saving planet and assuring safe lives, assisting new digital best practices and services**

The web is not only a powerful engine for communication, but it could also be an essential mean for enhancing development to promote all

### 11:30 am – Third Session

**Empowering citizens to build the incumbent Digital Society for it to be fairer, more inclusive and sustainable.**

The Digital Citizen must find a pivotal strategic position which favors the harmonious development of generations, direct

# XXII INFOPOVERTY WORLD CONFERENCE

## *The Digital Citizen: duties and rights to build a fairer future Society*

people and communities. The most disadvantaged communities, historically left out from the industrial revolution's economic benefits, need to have the access to all the digital services developed so far. In this way, more than 689 million people, who now live in extreme poverty, could participate in the social life. New forms of Digital Urban Development should be envisaged as well as new solutions in the field of e-agriculture so to create a link between smart cities and new digital rural communities to outline a fairer and more sustainable Digital Society.

*In connection with the UN Habitat HQ in Nairobi\*\*  
(to be confirmed) and OCCAM HQ Milan\**

### **First part: how to reach Zero Hunger – the EWA-BELT solutions on e-agriculture**

Participation of: Representatives of Regional and Interregional Specialized United Nations Agencies, Delegates from International Organization on Rural Development, Agri-food actors; technology providers; research centers. Representatives from EWA-BELT Consortium

### **Second part: smart villages and e-services: the example of the ICT UN millennium Village – a model for rural communities' development into the digital era**

Participation of: Representatives of Regional and Interregional United Nations Agencies, Delegates from International Organization representatives from Civil Society Organizations, IGOs Directors

### **Third part: health for all, the role of telemedicine**

Participation of: Representatives of Regional and Interregional United Nations Agencies, Eminent experts in Health and Medical Field

participation in Community life, gender equality and the opening up of new job opportunities while promoting the improvement of the conditions for the most disadvantaged social partners. In this respect, the United Nations must renew its role in guiding humanity towards an International Digital Alliance.

*In connection with the UN Habitat HQ in Nairobi  
(to be confirmed) and OCCAM HQ Milan\**

Participation of: Public administration (EU and African countries); policy makers; enterprises; NGOs; sectoral agencies; International Organizations; CEO and Founder of private institutions, representatives from Civil Society Organizations, IGOs Directors.

## **GENERAL DISCUSSION FOR A PLAN OF ACTION FINAL DECLARATION**

# XXII INFOPOVERTY WORLD CONFERENCE

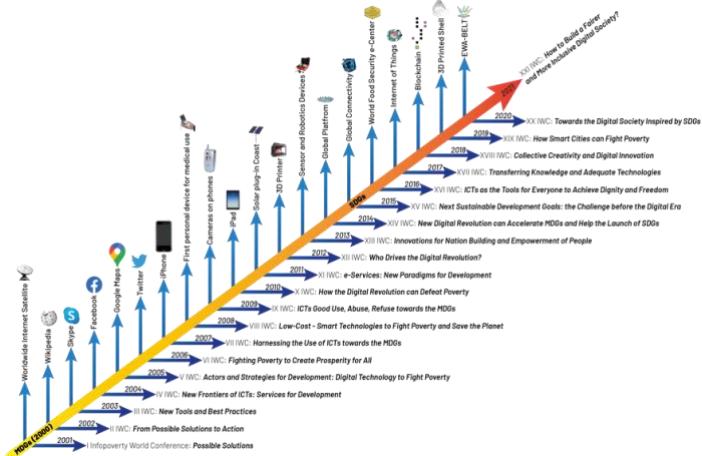
## The Digital Citizen: duties and rights to build a fairer future Society

### History of the Conference

The first [Infopoverity World Conference](#) was organized by OCCAM in June 2001, on the momentum of the signature of the Millennium Declaration of the United Nations, where the joining States were committed to the achievement of the eight Millennium Development Goals. The Conference represents, for its continuity, operational capability and strong interoperability with the UN System, a unique global forum, gathering leading experts, academics, opinion leaders, managers, government officials and philanthropists. Working in collaboration with the European Parliament Liaison Office, various UN bodies, the C. Smithers Foundation and other scientific and academic institutions, the Infopoverity World Conference rallies leaders worldwide to operate for the realization of the ICT4D tasks. Throughout the years, the Conference has continuously addressed the advancements brought about by the Digital Revolution and has progressively discovered and launched best practice models in the fields of telemedicine, e-learning, e-agriculture, and e-finance, followed by their successful implementation in many African and Latin American remote villages and disadvantaged communities.



### 20 years of Digital Revolution in the words of its protagonists



This [e-Book](#), edited by OCCAM, is a precise synthesis of each year's conference, with posters, agendas, main contributions, and final declarations. The work represents a helpful and significative synthesis of the cooperation's experience between the United Nations and OCCAM.

This Book constitutes a unique point of reference for the digital revolution since 2000, discussing the increasing flow of innovations, with an evaluation in terms of capacity to accelerate the achievements of MDGs and SDGs with concrete ICT solutions experimented on the ground in the ICT Villages, in synergy with more than two thousand high-level speakers, expressing the mood of these crucial twenty-one years.

# XXII INFOPOVERTY WORLD CONFERENCE

## The Digital Citizen: duties and rights to build a fairer future Society

### The Infopoverty Programme

To realize the suggestions emerging from the discussion, the **Infopoverty Programme** was established to concretely help the poorest and most disadvantaged populations in the developing world through the use of ICTs. The Infopoverty Programme operates as the executive arm of the deliberations of the Infopoverty World Conferences stated in the final declarations drafted at the end of each Conference. It puts into practice the guidelines issued by the Conference through the creation of the ICT Village Model. Such a model follows a process of flexible intervention easily replicable in many areas of the globe and provides various services designed to promote endogenous and sustainable development processes. [Find out more on occam.org/infopoverty-programme](http://occam.org/infopoverty-programme)

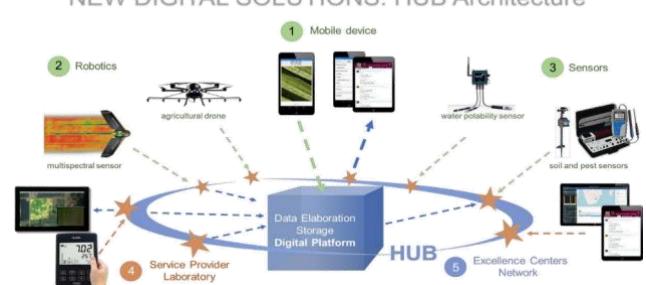


The ICT Village Model follows a process of intervention flexible and easily replicable in many areas of the globe, providing various services designed to promote endogenous and sustainable development process. The first ICT village project was carried out in 1999 in Honduras hit by the devastating hurricane Mitch. Thanks to the use of solar panels, the supply of electricity was guaranteed. A connection to 108 mb/sec for more than 30,000 people, a real record for the time, enabled the creation of the first e-learning and telemedicine services, allowing the population to use these new technologies advantageously and to connect to the rest of the world through e-commerce and e-government initiatives. [Find out more on occam.org/infopoverty-programme](http://occam.org/infopoverty-programme)

### The World Food Security e-Center

The World Food Security e-Center (WFSeC) aims to provide digital services to support agricultural development and food security, transferring technologies and knowledge from the excellent network of Italian universities and laboratories directly to populations and communities in need through a high connectivity digital Platform, using new sensors and robotic devices able to collect and receive data. The project was presented on the occasion of EXPO Milano 2015 and took its legacy in the following years to put into concrete action its core principles. [Find out more on occam.org/e-services](http://occam.org/e-services).

#### NEW DIGITAL SOLUTIONS: HUB Architecture



# XXII INFOPOVERTY WORLD CONFERENCE

*The Digital Citizen: duties and rights to build a fairer future Society*

## EWA-BELT

The most relevant and effective implementation of the WFSeC is EWA-BELT, an EU Horizon2020 project (GA 862848) aimed at developing the sustainable intensification of agriculture productions in organic, agroforestry and mixed crop and livestock farming systems in 38 study areas of 6 countries belonging to East (Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania) and West (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Sierra Leone) Africa. It is coordinated by the University of Sassari (Italy) and carried out by a consortium of 20 partners from Europe and Africa. Through integrated participative research, innovative tools and identification and dissemination of best practices, all countries will be linked into an interregional East-West African BELT able to reinforce sustainable intensification in agriculture. The Internet of Things and e-Agriculture in EWA-BELT will be managed through the PLANHEAD platform. The Platform will also allow for the creation of a database for scientific research and possibly for the use of an Artificial Intelligence for phytopathogenic recognition and diagnostics. Furthermore, taking stock from the World Food Security e-Centre, the project is introducing other highly innovative cost-affordable technologies, to be easily used in the field by unskilled personnel. Technical benefits provided by all implemented techniques are evaluated for their environmental, social, and economic effect on farmers and along the value chain. Finally, EWA-BELT addresses gender issues and women empowerment at every stage of the process. To maximize its impact, project results are disseminated yearly during the Infopoverty World Conference. **[Find out more on ewabelt.eu.](http://ewabelt.eu)**



## eMedMed



eMedMed is a project born in the context of the Union for the Mediterranean. It aims to bring an innovative and efficient diffusion of health services in Tunisia, Morocco, Libya, and Egypt through telemedicine. It is the result of the experimentation of over 15 years of applications in various ICT Villages in the field of maternal care, emergencies, cardiology, and traumatology.

The goal is to improve health conditions in Southern Mediterranean countries through the participation of a

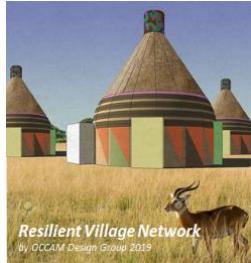
network of clinical centres and European experts connected with local structures through a specific platform with ICT Solutions and innovative scientific m-devices. The system integrates the resources of hospitals and service centres in the area and the data collected on the field (diagnostic imaging, medical records, patient records, consultations, training, etc.) through the network, optimizing the home care of the patient, reducing costs and improving the use of resources. Due to political uncertainty, the project still needs to be validated.



# XXII INFOPOVERTY WORLD CONFERENCE

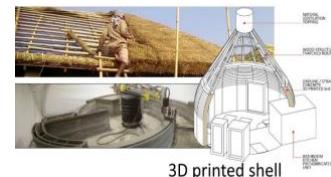
## The Digital Citizen: duties and rights to build a fairer future Society

### The 3D Robotic Building System



The 3D Robotic Building System is an innovative technology project designed by the OCCAM ARCHGROUP (Pierpaolo Saporito, Cesare Casati, Ivan Shumkov, Joseph di Pasquale) to provide large scale and fast housing for emarginated people and slums inhabitants. Due to the low cost and high capacity of inclusion in terms of easy auto-constructions facilities, the project aims at supporting families in disadvantaged areas.

The project, selected at the "Resilient Home" Challenge 2019, promoted by World Bank and UN Habitat, uses this new 3D Robotic Technology to create different housing typologies for slums recovery and emergency, able to realize thousand dwellings a day at minimum cost.



**Find out more on [occam.org/projects](http://occam.org/projects).**

### Info-poverty Network

The Conference represents a high-level elaboration forum for ICT solutions and digital services for the SDGs achievement. In the past editions we established a strong network of relationships and contacts thanks to the attendance of over two thousand speakers, hundreds of companies and public and private institutions, including:



- **International Organizations:** UN, FAO, IFAD, ILO, ITU, WHO, UNDP, UNESCO, European Space Agency, NASA, World Bank, European Union, Inter-American Development Bank, African Development Bank, CERN, OECD, International Federation of the Red Cross, C. Smithers Foundation
- **National representations:** Albania, Andorra, Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, DR Congo, East Timor, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, France, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Haiti, Honduras, Hong Kong, India, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Macau, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Pakistan, Palau, Palestinian Territories, Peru, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Tanzania, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Vanuatu, Vatican.
- **International Companies:** China, Estonia, Hong Kong, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom, United States



# XXII INFOPOVERTY WORLD CONFERENCE

*The Digital Citizen: duties and rights to build a fairer future Society*

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