ECOSOC NGO Forum

VI Infopoverty World Conference

Fighting poverty to create prosperity for all

Under the Patronage of the President of the Italian Republic
With the Patronage of the Presidency of the Italian Council of Ministers

April 20-21

UN New York – Milan – Paris – Geneva – Lima – Moscow
Arusha – Dominican Republic – Madagascar – Navajo Nation

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FINAL DECLARATION

We the co-organizers and participants at The VI Infopoverty Conference

Conscious of the fact that digital revolution could transform societies in generating productive employment and decent work for all which is the theme of ECOSOC High Level Segment in July 2006;

Recalling the UN Millennium Summit Declaration of 2000 and the Summit Declaration of 2005 adopted by the Heads of States and Government to fulfill the United Nations Millennium Development Goal of Reducing global poverty by half by 2015;

Also recalling the Ministerial Declaration on Rural Development of the Economic and Social Council 58/3/Rev.1 of 3 July 2003. ECOSOC resolution, 2004/45 of 27 July 2005 on promoting an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for poverty eradication and sustainable development; ECOSOC resolution 2004/49 of 23 July 2004, and 2005/42 of 26 July 2005, on the United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development; and General Assembly resolution 60/252 endorsing the outcome of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS);

Reaffirming the new forms of international assistance and support that provide opportunities to create a larger impact on the employment and living conditions of the rural populations living in the developing countries;

Recognizing the Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) can become the engine of growth and greater employment, and that their diffusion should be accessible to all countries, particularly the low-income countries;

Convinced that contribution of all stakeholders – donor countries/agencies, UN system organizations. NGO/civil society and private sector – through ICT development can lead to greater job creation, decent work and sustainability for all peoples and countries;

Recognizing the importance, as a tool for self-sustainable development through ICTs, of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), signed during the Tunis WSIS by ITU Navajo Nation and OCCAM;

Also Recognizing the role played by the Infopoverty Programme promoted by Observatory Cultural and Audiovisual (OCCAM) to pursue these objectives since 2001, for the creation of ICT Villages – according to the model certified during the Tunis phase of the World Summit on the Information Society 2005.

Emphasizing the importance of services provided in these ICT villages, including telemedicine, e-learning, e-commerce – which contribute to the process of poverty eradication and improvement of living conditions particularly in low-income countries, and for disadvantaged communities and indigenous people.

The VI Infopoverty Conference:

Appreciates the continued patronage of the President of the Italian Republic for the realization of the series of the Infopoverty World Conferences;

Also appreciates the continued support of the European Parliament;

Congratulates the President of the Republic of Madagascar for the realization of the ICT Village of Sambaina and the President of the Dominican Republic for the realization of the ICT Village of Constanza, as the prototypes of implementation of country-wide projects that can be replicated worldwide in the developing countries, particularly low-income and most disadvantaged communities;

Also congratulates the President of the Navajo Nation for the successful implementation of ICT system on all Navajo territories, under the concept of technology with tradition and preservation of values and culture; this could be a model to replicate in other parts of the world toward reaching self sustainable development;

Urges the creation of **broadband satellite platform** able to provide basic e-services for development such as telemedicine, e-learning, e-governance, and calling on stakeholders to undertake a feasibility study/plan that will then be submitted to relevant institutions;

Calls on governments and intergovernmental organizations to use both traditional and ICT methods to enable access to national and international markets, in order to stimulate the creation of decent work through the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises.

Encourages all stakeholders to support the following initiatives recommended by the VI Infopoverty Conference:

- *Converge and create* **homogeneous bulk purchases** by ICT users (NGOs, public and private institutions) in order to improve services according to their needs at lower costs;

- *Create* a plan of **GRID-Centers of Excellence** to research and develop innovative tools and services fit to the needs of developing and emerging countries and sharing results and best practices and ICT innovation through the Infopoverty Exhibition to be hosted by Build Up Expo at Fiera Milano

- *Invite* institutions active in the field of international development assistance to devote a **significant percentage** of their development assistance projects aimed at bridging the digital divide and that are to be used in accordance with shared standards and existing best practices;

- *Encourages* ICT industries to **donate/sell** at very low costs hardware, software and services in order to facilitate access to the digital revolution to the developing countries, particularly low-income countries;

- *Urges* OCCAM to promote and diversify cooperation with the ECOSOC pilot countries of the UN Public Private Alliance for Rural Development and the Global Compact for building global partnership with all stakeholders;

- *Encourages the advisory board of OCCAM to consider*, that the Infopoverty Programme for the Years 2006-2008 should continue translating policies into practice and that OCCAM should focus on the implementation of the Plan of Action with the support of its Advisory Board;

- *Invites* OCCAM to prepare the VII Infopoverty World Conference in 2007, which would convene leaders at the highest level from countries that can share their experiences, success and challenges in the fight against poverty through connectivity;

- *Invites* OCCAM to prepare a report to the VII Infopoverty Conference on progress achieved in mobilizing support and its impact on the identified countries for partnership.

New York, April 21ˢᵗ 2006

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