V INFOPOVERTY WORLD CONFERENCE

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

FINAL DECLARATION

Bearing in mind that:
- Fighting poverty is a priority set by the Millennium Development Goals
- The Infopoverty World Conference in the last 5 years has defined guidelines demonstrating that ICTs, if wisely implemented, can play a crucial role in solving problems in fields such as education, health, cultural and material development, promoting freedom and democracy.
- Cooperation among all stakeholders of the Information Society is key in order to disseminate best practices and methodologies and optimise future actions.
- Present marketing and research activities are still targeted to rich (and saturated) markets, while new products should fit the needs of emerging countries, often lacking electricity and connectivity.
- Introducing new products to the poor can be economically beneficial to business while improving incomes among the least connected villages.

Taking note of:
- The report of the UN Secretary-General "Promoting an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for poverty eradication and sustainable development" (E/2003/51); and the subsequent Ministerial Declaration of the High Level Segment (E/2003/L.9); United Nations General Assembly resolution 58/129 "Towards global partnership" (A/RES/58/129); and the United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development (E/2004/L.32).

The participants in the V Infopoverty World Conference

which gathered more than a 100 institutions, with some 150 speakers present in 10 different locations connected by videoconference,

- decide to enhance support for global partnerships and in this context take special efforts to promote the United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development.

- Strongly support, in the framework of the **Infopoverty Program**, the following actions for the period 2005-2006:

  o The implementation of the WSIS 2005 replicable model of ICT Village in Borj Touil, in Tunisia, as elaborated by the ad hoc Advisory Board and presented at PrepCom2 in the lines of the Plan of Action of the WSIS 2003, with particular reference to achieving global connectivity with adequate services.

- o The creation of a digital broadband platform able to transform knowledge into effective and affordable services to fight poverty, activating adequate procedures enabling the active participation of all stakeholders, such as international organisations, NGOs and the civil society.

- Signal and support the following initiatives presented during the conference by continuing to:
  - o Demonstrate the effectiveness of ICTs in fighting poverty by promoting institutes in fields such as aquaculture, safe water, health and substance abuse prevention.
  - o Show how the use of ICTs is strongly linked to improving the living conditions of poor throughout the world, by launching specific actions in developing countries such as Cameroon, Ethiopia, Pakistan, Peru, Rwanda, Senegal and others.
  - o Bring policy makers, practitioners and scholars together, through the Infopoverty Institute, to share their common goals and to present findings and best practices that are effective in their common interest in combating poverty.

- Call upon
  - o The World Summit on Information Society, which will be held in Tunis on November 16-18 2005 and of which this Conference represents a preliminary meeting, to include these actions in the database of WSIS Stocktaking activities, as aimed at achieving the MDG's through the ICT. On that occasion it will be held the Infopoverty Seminar to illustrate results and follow up activities of the Infopoverty World Conference 2005.

  - o H.E. Mr. Zine EL Abidine Ben Ali, President of the Republic of Tunisia, complimenting him and the Government of Tunisia for their crucial action in promoting ICT for Development and thanking him for the acceptance of the ICT village project, so that the model could be replicable in other parts of Tunisia and the world.

  - o The President of the Italian Republic, the Italian Prime Minister the United Nations Secretary General, the UNESCO Director General, the European Parliament President, the European Commission President, the Heads of ESA, FAO, IFAD, IFRC, ITU, UNDESA, UNDP, the World Bank, thanking them for their support to the Conference and to the Infopoverty Programme.

- Give mandate to OCCAM, as acting agency of the Infopoverty Programme, to implement this declaration, and be available to all interested institutions in order to work for the realisation of the initiatives.

- Finally decide to convene the VI Infopoverty World Conference on April 6 and 7 2006 on the possible focus: "Eradicate poverty creating wealth: ICT at the service of the MDGs", promoted by an ad hoc Committee.