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# Science, technology and innovation for sustainable urban development in a post-pandemic world


Statement submitted by


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## Speech by Pierpaolo Saporito (President of OCCAM)

1. As President of OCCAM, the observatory on digital communication, I thank you for inviting me to participate in such an important meeting.
2. Despite the dramatic recent events, we are living the *entelekia* of the Digital Revolution that is leading to the creation of a new global Society in terms of languages, accessibility and open exchanges.
3. This topic has been thoroughly examined at the Infopoverty World Conference, organized since 2001 at the UNHQ and streamed worldwide on the UN WebTV, that has allowed for the elaboration of studies and data to provide solutions which we believe may enrich this present discussion, especially those emerged during the latest and 21$^{st}$ Edition under the title "How to build a fairer and more inclusive Digital Society?" and how to mitigate some of the most pressing sustainability challenges related to covid.
4. The conference has stressed the urgency to apply the best practices in terms of telemedicine on a large scale, some of which have already been validated, so as to make the assistance for all accessible, efficient and wide-ranging.
5. Which STI solutions could be useful for a sustainable urban development? Drawing from the discussion on Smart Cities, the priority to eliminate slums – a social cancer – through 3D building technology has been addressed. Such innovation allow for the acceleration of production and the reduction of costs, as exemplified by the Resilient Home Project launched by OCCAM at the WB competition in 2019.
6. The energy revolution must be completed at the urban level not only by implementing solar systems with new photovoltaic asphalt, kinetic pavements, and solar windows, but also by renovating domestic electrical infrastructure systems and designing electrical appliances from 220v alternating into 12v. Regarding water, in order to eliminate great waste, it is necessary to review the building distribution between potable water and sanitation, separating grey water and black water in order to recycle the former. On the one hand, stakeholders must intensify the production of such systems; on the other, decision-makers must promote sustainable policies favoring such processes.
7. Urban and rural systems must be more integrated, favouring the ongoing trend of city ruralization with the creation of green pedestrian areas, as well as the urbanization of the countryside – successfully experimented with the ICT Villages Model launched at WSIS 2005 with the implementation of connections for smart working and e-agriculture leading to an increase in production capable of satisfying the daily demands of the city. The EWA-BELT Project is a pivotal tool to achieve such policies. Operating in 6 Countries of East and West Africa, the project aims to develop sustainable intensification of agriculture and live-stock farming experiences, with a digital platform and Artificial Intelligence to activate a real circular socioeconomic process.
8. AI is essential in building new STI solutions for traffic, through GPS and satellite systems allowing the optimization of urban living rhythms, monitoring also the entire job cycle: from education to formation and innovation, to the empowerment of Governmental institutions in a friendly and cooperative relationship with communities.
9. All of this could be possible if decision-makers make the right decisions, having the right information and competences. On one side, investments must be not only oriented to private profits but to social interest, thus reversing the current trend that sees the Big Players of the Web imposing their tariffs and rules in a digital system that is far from secure and safe as the continuous messages on cybersecurity reveal.
10. On the other, strengthening international cooperation is crucial, especially in the financial field where the dematerialization of money and the advent of block chains are changing the socio-economic paradigms, whose development must be oriented towards the achievement of SDGs and can be accelerated by applying all the tools and solutions provided by the Digital in basically all the fields where humanity is involved.
11. On behalf of OCCAM, I therefore confirm our efforts to cooperate in these challenges and to share our expertise and knowledge and I am honored to invite you all to participate in the 22$^{nd}$ Edition of the Infopoverty World Conference, scheduled for next November at the UNHQ on the topic "*Digital Citizen: duties and rights to build a more inclusive and sustainable future society*".