

POVERTY ALLEVIATION

A ROLE FOR TECHNOLOGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE?

Roma, May 11, 2015

Conclusion

Romano Prodi

I am delighted that this conference on the role of technology for poverty alleviation had a great attendance, both in terms of quality of the presentations and in the number of participants. Today, more than 50 people – experts, policymakers, firms, and religious leaders – from all over the world have been able to offer their contribution to the discussion.

The Conference originated in the idea that that improvements in poverty alleviation will not only be the outcome of political and economic policies, but also the result of the use of technologies, especially those diffuse and decentralized technologies that can foster the economic and social inclusion of people who were previously excluded from markets and their societies.

In particular, the goal of the Conference was twofold. Firstly, we tried to assess the outcomes of the application of high-tech and simple technologies in the reduction of

poverty. Secondly, we tried to explore the possibility of devising common strategies to fully exploit their opportunities.

The Foundation for World Wide Cooperation will propose to the participants to contribute to the launch of a network of experts and professionals working on the connection between technology and poverty alleviation. The idea is to organize a series of workshops related to some of the most important issues highlighted during the conference. Because this line of action has already raised significant interests among some participants, the Foundation for World Wide Cooperation will work to implement it.

We will let you know about future developments and we really hope that some of you will be interested in cooperating with us in the organizations of seminars, conferences, and, other events.