Mr. Chairman,

It goes without saying that the Internet has revolutionized communications. Over time, the world has grown smaller as the role of information and communication technologies has grown greater.

Unlike most resources that are depleted when used, information and knowledge can be shared, and even grow through collaboration and partnership. Communication propels potential; information is the fuel of achievements; and knowledge is the engine that drives success and prosperity.

Mr. Chairman,

ICT touches every aspect of the economy - from manufacturing and agriculture to administration and government bureaucracies. Ensuring full access to ICT is critical to allowing low- and middle-income countries successfully participate in the global economy. And yet two thirds of the world's inhabitants still cannot access the Internet.

We must ensure that every woman, man, and child become information literate. And we must ensure that all nations are a part of the knowledge economy.

Mr. Chairman,

Israel fully understands the incredible power of ICT as technological innovations are behind much of our country's remarkable success story. In just sixty-five years, we transformed from a developing country into an economic powerhouse earning the nickname, "start-up nation."

Israel's outstanding high-tech community has developed innovations that millions of people throughout the world use every day. Thousands of products -- from instant messaging, virtual keyboards, and flash drives -- could have a little stamp on the bottom that says, "born in Israel".

Indeed, Israel is one of the countries with the highest number of companies which are traded in the American stock exchange, Nasdaq. Israeli IT and telecommunication companies in Nasdaq are world leaders in areas such as Internet security, VoIP technologies, telecommunication services via satellite, optical and copper networking solutions, the list goes on.

In addition, liberal regulation supports an open and competitive Israeli telecom market, where consumers enjoy cutting edge services at affordable costs from a broad choice of service providers.
Mr. Chairman,

More than ten years have passed since the outcome of the World Summit on the Information Society. The past decade has demonstrated the importance of the multi-stakeholder approach in addressing the global challenges related to the Internet.

The WSIS +10 Review will allow us to continue to delve into how we can best bridge the digital divide. We must also use it as an opportunity to discuss how we can harness digital data and real-time analytics to gain a better understanding of changes in human well-being. Online data can help us significantly in keeping international development on track. The WSIS +10 Review can also be an opportunity to assess what we have learned, as well as the new challenges we are being faced with, as we set our post-2015 development agenda.

Mr. Chairman,

Here at the heart of the “family of nations,” we are uniquely situated to ensure high-speed internet access, high-tech skills, high-speed communication technologies are available to every nation.

A wise man once said, “To predict the future is to create it.” In this committee today, we are not simply looking ahead, we are shaping the world in which we live; we are creating the future.

Thank you.