

Interfaith International

Thank you, Madame Chair.

My name is [inaudible] Interfaith International took an active part in the World Summit on the Information Society process in Geneva in 2003 and in Tunis in 2005. I'm a computer science professor and a software engineer, and I truly believe that ensuring equal access without discrimination to technology and fostering digital literacy within minority communities is of utmost importance for a number of reasons. Technology has been an important part of our daily lives, from education and employment opportunities, to accessing information, and participating in the digital economy. By ensuring equal access to technology, we can bridge the digital divide and provide minority communities with the tools that they need to thrive in the modern world. Because digital literacy is crucial for navigating the digital landscape effectively and safely, it empowers individuals to critically evaluate information, communicate, collaborate, and create content. By fostering digital literacy within minority communities, we can equip them with the skills necessary to fully participate in the digital age and make informed decisions. Furthermore, equal access to technology and digital literacy can promote social inclusion, and reduce disparities. It enables minority communities to communicate with others and connect with them, access resources and amplify their voices. But it also opens doors to educational and economic opportunities. And let's not forget, 2.2 million people in Palestine who have been completely cut off from technology today. Thank you, Madame Chair.