THE CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS DELIVERED BY MAJOR J.R.K. TANDOH (RTD) ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL, NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION (ITU) STANDARDISATION WORKSHOP HELD AT THE LA PALM ROYAL BEACH HOTEL, ACCRA ON 27TH MAY 2004

Honourable Deputy Minister for Communications, Mr David Gyawu,

Mr H. Zhao, Director, Telecommunication Standardisation Bureau of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU),

Mrs Magarida Evora-Sagna, ITU Area Representative,

Resource Personnel from ITU,

Chairman and Chief Executives of the Telecommunication Regulatory and Operating Institutions here present,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very honoured to be invited to chair this function on this Regional World Telecommunication Standardisation Assembly (WTSA) which is taking place for the first time in our sub-region, particularly so at this era of Telecom Privatisation and liberalization that have engulfed the world.

It is not easy for a developing country to have a successful liberalized environment. This is because it also functions in a larger environment of International mechanisms, where the resource distribution between the poor and the rich is such that the

poor will always be left out with little resources if adequate measures are not taken.

If our regulatory mechanism has to succeed, there is a need for a very strong regulatory authorities, which are transparent and has a fair and just mechanism which inspires confidence.

In most developing countries, and indeed in most part of the world, essential regulatory mechanisms are not taught in the universities or other tertiary institutions. Newly recruited staff with basic university qualifications have to learn on the job as it is difficult or to put it bluntly, impossible to recruit experienced regulators from well established institutions such as the FCC, OFCOM, the CRTC of Canada, to mention only few. The reason is quite obvious, poor remuneration in developing countries' regulatory institutions.

There is no doubt that the ITU has taking the necessary steps to address the problem of human resource development in developing countries not only in Regulatory Institutions but also among Telecommunication Operators.

To those of you who may not be familiar with its structure, the ITU is divided between three Sectors, namely:-

- The Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R)

- The Development Sector (ITU-D) and the

- Telecommunication Standardisation Sector (ITU-T)

ITU-R is responsible for coordinating all matters that has to do with radiocommunications which is normally referred to as telecommunication by radiowaves.

ITU-D is responsible for encouraging the use and deployment of telecom network and services in the developing nations of the world.

ITU-T, the Telecommuncation Standardisation Sector was created in 1993, replacing the former International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative committee (CCITT)

Mr Mr Zhao, was elected Director of this important sector at the 1998 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference held in Minneapolis, Menisota in the United States and again for a second 4-year term at the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in 2002 at Marrakesh, Morocco. This was in recognition of his able leadership and coupled with his high professional skill in the telecom sector which has resulted in the efficient and on-time production of high quality standards covering all fields of telecommunications.

The outputs of ITU-T include Recommendations, which are the standards that define how telecommunication networks operate and interwork. Currently, there are 2,800 Recommendations in force on topics from service definition to network architecture and dial-up modems Gigabits per second optical transmission systems.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the ease with which we can communicate by phone or fax across the globe is a direct result of the work of Mr Zhao and his able lieutenants at the ITU-Telecommunication Standardisation Sector.

We are indeed honoured to have Mr Zhao and his able team for the first time in our sub-region to address major topics with regard to standards requirements for the 21st century in areas such as:-

- IP Network and
- Numbering to name only few

There is actually a growing worldwide recognition of the prime importance of numbering in the provision of communication services. Numbering and the ability of numbering schemes to support telecommunication services, is a fundamental requirement

to enhance Information Communication Technologies (ICT) development in the 21st Century's Information Society.

With the rapid expansion of competition and deregulation in the telecommunication arena around the world, numbering is receiving far grater attention in the International arena than hitherto. We are indeed grateful that such an important topic is to be discussed fully at this Forum.

We are eager to see that at this Forum we will discuss issues as objectively as possible. I am sure there will be much that would come out from the wisdom, the experience, and the knowledge of this distinguished group of resource persons namely – Mr G. Jones, ITU/TSB, Mr S. Campos Neto, ITU/TSB, Mr C. Thomas, ITU Study Group 3 and Mrs M. Evora-Sagna, ITU/Area Office, Dakar which would help formulate policy and that would aid the actions of the regulatory institutions and also the telecommunication operating entities.

So, I will not say any more at this point of time as I invite Mr Bernard Forson Jr. the Deputy Director General of the NCA to deliver the Welcome Address to you, our distinguished Guests and participants.

Thank you.