

**OPENING REMARKS BY PROFESSOR U. G. DANBATT, EXECUTIVE VICE  
CHAIRMAN, NIGERIAN COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION, AT THE OPENING  
CEREMONY OF THE ITU ANNUAL REGIONAL HUMAN CAPACITY BUILDING  
(HCB) WORKSHOP AT THE SHEHU MUSA YAR'ADUA CENTRE, ABUJA, NIGERIA  
ON MONDAY, AUGUST 27, 2018**

Protocol,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the ITU Annual Regional Human Capacity Building Workshop on “Strengthening Capacities in International Internet Governance”.

I am aware that this is the second in a series of regional Internet Governance capacity development events that the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) will be organizing in partnership with the Diplo Foundation and other stakeholders so as to replicate the success recorded during the first edition last year at Brasilia, Brazil in the Americas region.

The Internet is the primary anchor of modern technology innovations and is at the heart of what is today referred to as the ‘fourth Industrial Revolution’. It has created the phenomenal cyberspace, expanded the frontiers of human activity and is now synonymous with the new digital economy. Consequently, Internet Governance is increasingly assuming a critical role in the policy agenda of many countries. Africa is said to have missed the first, second and third industrial revolutions due to inaction, but we have a chance to change the narrative by adopting appropriate policy actions to tap into the enormous opportunities of the fourth industrial revolution.

The ITU has been involved in various programmes and projects to spur the development of Internet Governance initiatives in various African countries. Such initiatives evolved over the years and resulted in robust engagements with Governments for the acceleration of Internet Governance related activities on their agenda.

The Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) is delighted to be associated with the second edition of this workshop of which the Digital Bridge Institute, the Commission's capacity building arm, is a co-host. I am aware that DBI has been a member of the ITU Centers of Excellence in the Africa region since 2015 and has had very successful cooperation with the ITU and other organisations in the Network in pursuing the objective of capacity building. We are committed to providing the necessary support to the Institute (DBI) to enable it sustain the achievements it had recorded in the previous years.

I implore the delegates to use the occasion of this workshop to further improve the contributions to policies and programmes in Internet Governance within African region so that the continent will not only have a stronger voice in setting the agenda for Internet Governance but will lead the agenda at the global level.

I wish you very fruitful deliberations.

Thank you.