

## Opening remarks

Annual Human Capacity Building Workshop Abuja 27/08/2018

By Mr. Marcelino Tayob, ITU Regional Office for Africa.

- Prof. Danbatta, Executive Chairman of the Nigeria Communications Commission (NCC)
- Dr. Andide, CEO, Digital Bridge Institute
- Excellences;
- Distinguished guests;
- Distinguished participants;
- Ladies and Gentleman.

1- It is an honor for me to be here representing the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the ITU Regional Director for Africa Mr. Andrew Rugege who due to other previously set commitments cannot be here today.

2- On his behalf and my own behalf I would like to join the previous speaker, our host, in welcoming all the participants to this workshop. We thank you very much for your valuable presence.

3 - I will take this opportunity to on behalf of the ITU and my colleagues here present, representatives of Diplo Foundation and the participants, to also thank the Government of Nigeria, the DBI for kindly hosting this event as well as for the hospitality we are enjoying since our arrival to Abuja, the Capital City of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen

4- As the name of this event indicates this is an ANNUAL EVENT that the ITU REGIONAL OFFICE FOR AFRICA organizes every year with the objective of providing a platform to African countries to share experiences, strengthen their knowledge and raise awareness on matters concerning the theme selected for the year through a multi-stakeholders approach involving the role of government, educators, ICT/telecoms regulators and ministries, industry civil society, NGO and other organizations.

5- In particular, over the past years this Annual Workshop allowed the Human Resource and Capacity Building professionals, from various institutions from Africa Regions to meet and under the guidance of the ITU discuss, exchange views and educate themselves on a selected topic or theme including its implication on the Human Resource and Capacity Building requirements.

6- The theme of last year's workshop held in Mauritius was "**Developing the ICT ecosystem to harness Internet-of-Things**". After a good appreciation on the IoT ecosystem, the development of the Digital Skills for job creation in response to the market demand were extensively discussed.

7- For 2018, we have decided to combine the Annual Workshop on Human Capacity Building and the **Internet Governance Training** as per the outcomes of the ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) 2014.

During the WTDC-14, ITU Member States have agreed that capacity building of the ITU membership in international Internet governance is one of the priority issues to be addressed by ITU's capacity building program, with a focus on developing and least developed countries.

This mandate for the ITU to do capacity building on Internet governance was reconfirmed by members states at WTDC 2017 and specifically mentioned under Objective 3 of the Buenos Aires Action Plan.

8- I should also mention, that this is in line with the recommendations of the Global ICT Capacity Building Symposium (CBS) held in Nairobi in September 2016.

9- Therefore this year's workshop was organized by the ITU (Headquarter and Regional Office) in partnership with Diplo Foundation under the theme "**Strengthening capacities in international internet governance in Africa**" as a **COMBINED EVENT** i.e. the Annual Workshop and the Training on Internet Governance. We have gathered here a rich combination of international speakers including recognized experts from Africa and Nigeria in particular.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen

10- The Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) and the Internet in particular have changed the way we live, work, study and entertain. The Internet is present practically in all sectors of the economy and society. It is the foundation of **DIGITAL ECONOMIES** many of our countries have recognized its importance and are trying to build. We are all aware of **the impact M-PESA** has in Kenya where it was developed and how it was quickly adopted by the rest of the continent to address the needs of those without **Bank Accounts**.

11- The **INNOVATION through the ICTs** could be the key for the success of the African economies, avoiding wasting resource and finding **solution for African Problems with African solutions**.

12 – The **URBANIZATION** is moving very fast in the continent as the statistics and predictions of UNHABITAT are showing. The **SMART CITIES, on which the use of ICT and the IoT are the pillars** is being discussed as the way for a well-planned and sustainable future.

13 – The wide spread understanding of the Internet Governance associated with other aspects of the ICT policies and technology in the various levels of the **DECISION MAKING and POLICY FORMULATION** is therefore timely.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen

14 - Time may not allow us to exhaust all we have to share with each other, but I think this event will help the participants to build networks that can continue exchanging views and help each other well beyond the 3 days we are here in this beautiful city.

15- We also have among the participants a vast knowledge that I sincerely hope will enrich the discussions to the benefit of all. I sincerely hope we will take advantage of this opportunity.

16 - To conclude, I would like to once again to thank all the participants for their valuable presence, without which the workshop would be useless, to thank the speakers for accepting our invitation to share their knowledge and lead the discussions.

17 - A special word of appreciation to colleagues from DBI for their tireless work in the preparation of this workshop and last but not least my colleagues from the ITU and Diplo for their support in making this event possible.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen

I thank you very much for your attention.