

ACCEPTANCE ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF WRC-15
DURING THE FIRST PLENARY MEETING
BY ENGR. FESTUS YUSUSU NARAI DAUDU

**Your Excellency, The ITU Secretary-General, Mr Houlin Zhao,
The ITU Deputy Secretary-General, Mr Malcolm Johnson,
The Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau, Mr François Rancy,
The Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, Mr Chaesub Lee,
The Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, Mr Brahim Sanou,
Your Excellencies all Ministers and Ambassadors present here today,
Members of the UN bodies and all invited guests and observers,
Distinguished Delegates,
Gentlemen of the Press,
Ladies and Gentlemen.**

Please permit me to first of all start by thanking the Almighty God for making it possible for me to be alive today and to be the first African to Chair a WRC in the 150 years history of the ITU existence. Let all glory, honour and adoration be ascribed unto Him alone.

2. I will like to use this medium to congratulate our friends from New Zealand for their victory at the recently concluded 2015 Rugby World Cup. It is indeed a pleasure to see the spirit with which the rugby cup has been won. The spirit of collaboration throughout the tournament is a shining example for us to follow and I have no doubt this spirit will be flying in this room for all these coming four weeks and beyond.

3. I also like to thank the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for accepting to put forward my name for this noble and great assignment. I therefore bring greetings to you all from the Government and People of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and in particular from the Nigeria delegation present at this Conference.

4. I would like to express to all of you my sincere appreciation for the confidence you have shown in me by designating me as Chairman of this great Conference. It is an honour not only for me, but also for my country, Nigeria and Africa as a whole to accept this mandate, which is granted for the first time to an African country. I can assure you that I will do my utmost to meet your expectations and fulfil the mandate you have entrusted me with. In selecting me to chair this WRC, you have placed your confidence in me to manage the proceedings efficiently with complete fairness and impartiality. Be totally assured, I take these responsibilities very seriously.

5. Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, the World Radiocommunication Conference is one of the most important conferences of the Union. The Conference is mandated to examine issues that are at the core of everybody's life in this our present day, as more and more devices and services are requiring the use of radio frequencies to operate and communicate with each other. We will be examining a large number of important and sensitive issues, ranging from mobile broadband communications and broadband satellite systems to emergency communications and disaster relief, including issues related to maritime and aeronautical communications, monitoring the environment and climate change, universal time and space research, among others.

6. You will all agree with me that, as new technological innovations and applications continue to emerge, we discover new ways to make more effective uses of previously allocated spectrum resources, but also new possible uses of spectrum in previously non-allocated blocks and bands. Although these developments set new challenges for us, especially in terms of spectrum allocation and harmonisation, they most certainly also bring new opportunities for billions more around the world to have access to voice and data services. It is my view that as we collectively focus on these new opportunities at this WRC-15, we should be mindful of the opportunities and benefits of old.

7. This Conference will also be dealing with issues covering a wide frequency range and concerning a wide variety of radiocommunication services that the public relies on for such essentials as health, information, education, security and safety. The agenda we have before us is a daunting challenge. The sheer size of the agenda – over 80 agenda items -makes it imperative that we work with unprecedented efficiency. It will test all of our skills in being able to consider approximately the several individual proposals from Member States and regional groupings within less than 4 weeks to reach conclusions and decide on Final Acts to reflect those conclusions.

8. Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am confident and optimistic that we would be able to consider all these matters during this conference thanks to the good work carried out during the past four years by ITU-R's various Study Groups and Working parties. I would like to recognize the contribution of Study Group and Working Parties Chairmen as well as those who have participated and contributed to their work. My gratitude also goes to the staff of the Radiocommunication Bureau and in particular to its Director, Mr.

François Rancy, who shared his significant expertise and provided the necessary support to ensure the success of this preparatory work. I congratulate my Elder Brother and friend Mr. Aboubakar Zourmba who has had the difficult task of chairing the Conference Preparatory Meeting and was able to prepare a foundation document which provided the various methods for addressing the WRC-15 agenda items, which have helped us to prepare ourselves for this great conference.

9. I hope that during the coming four weeks we will be working together, benefiting from the experience and knowledge of numerous experts from the participating Member State Administrations, aiming at adopting resolutions that, while serving the interests of the Member States, will contribute to the strengthening of the ITU and its role in helping connecting the world and enhancing the global use of radiocommunication services.

10. The decisions we take here on the Radio Regulations are critical to our Administrations, to much of the telecommunication industry and for the many other important uses of the radio frequency spectrum. They will further promote connectivity, directly affect the lives of our citizens and have important economic impacts in each of our countries.

11. Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am aware that a lot of preparatory meetings had been held at national, sub-regional and regional levels, which ended up with an inter-regional workshop. These preparatory meetings provided the needed platform for cross fertilisation and sharing of ideas and experiences and facilitated our preparation for this great event. However, I am pleased to note that consensus on a significant number of issues has already been developed as a result of those Preparatory Processes. I will like to use this opportunity to urge all delegations not to allow the gains of these preparatory works to go down the drain but to use that as stepping stone towards achieving and arriving at greater consensus and compromises that will be beneficial to all. I expect the result of this conference to be an all win-win affairs. I also want to urge all services to consider each other as complimentary and not as rivals. Let each service put itself in the other service position and assume it were in that service shoe, doing that will create a better and conducive atmosphere for consultations, negotiations and arriving at much better consensus and compromises without anyone feeling bad or cheated.

12. I am counting on your support and cooperation to achieve the goals and objectives of this conference. I am open to suggestions from any of you at any time during the conference as

this is also going to be a great learning process for me. Doing all these, will go a long way to help advance our deliberations and achieve consensus and compromises that ITU is always known for.

13. In order to make the progress required, delegations will have to work in a spirit of cooperation and compromise. I would prefer that, to the extent possible, we work by consensus, and, in my capacity as Chairman I will encourage each Committee Chairman to resolve all issues within their respective Committees.

14. Before concluding, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to renew my gratitude to all of you for the confidence you have placed on me. I wish to reiterate that I count on your cooperation and continue maximum support in this opportunity to ensure that the conference takes place in a climate of mutual respect, understanding and constructive exchange of ideas, as we advance in the discussion on the important issues that we have before us. Together I believe, we will take effective decisions in the tradition of the ITU.

15. I have to once again thank all the African Administrations and ATU for collectively putting my name forward for this noble assignment and I thank my country Nigeria for giving me this unique opportunity to serve the global community.

16. I must before closing place my special thanks to one individual who have been a professional colleague for several years now. He has nurtured me professionally and given me very useful advice from time to time. He encouraged me to be a leader and I am very proud of him, he is Engr Shola Taylor who is now the new Secretary General of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation. I salute you Mr. Taylor.

17. French - Je vous remercie.
 Spanish - Muchas gracias
 Arabic - لك جزية لا شكرا (Shrukram)
 Russian - Большое спасибо (Paciba)
 Chinese - 非常感谢你 (She-She)
 English - Thank you.