

**GOODWILL MESSAGE BY DR AMINU MAIDA, EVC, NIGERIAN
COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION, AT THE NATIONAL
ROUNDTABLE ON THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY AND THE
COMPELLING NEED FOR DIVERSIFICATION WITH SPECIAL
FOCUS ON GREEN, BLUE, AND DIGITAL ECONOMY.**

**HOSTED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE
ON MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF
LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

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Distinguished Chairman, Honourable Members of the Committee, esteemed colleagues, and honoured guests,

It is a great privilege to be here today as a Special Guest at this significant session convened by the House of Representatives Committee on Monitoring, Evaluation and Implementation of Legislative Agenda. This gathering comes at a crucial time as we reflect on the state of our economy and the imperative need for diversification, focusing on the Green, Blue, and Digital Economies.

The global economic landscape has been undergoing unprecedented changes, and our nation is not insulated from these shifts. The challenges currently staring us all in the face, have underscored the vulnerabilities in our economic structure. Despite these challenges, there are opportunities for growth and development that can be harnessed to build a more resilient and sustainable economy.

Diversification is not just an option; it is a necessity. The colossal over-reliance on a single sector in the past have proven to exposes us to significant risks. Therefore, it has become inescapable that the country explores and deliberately invest in various sectors to build a robust economic framework that can withstand global shocks, reposition the country as a major force in the continent and drive inclusive growth. This realisation predicated the birth of the National Digital Economy Policy & Strategy (NDEPS 2020-2030) document by the Federal Government in 2019. The two broad objectives of the NDEPs are: (i) to reposition the Nigerian economy to take advantage of the several opportunities that digital technologies provide, and (ii) to diversify the economy of Nigeria from total dependence on the oil and gas sector. In the context of this discussion, the Green, Blue, and Digital Economies present immense potential for sustainable development.

The Green Economy emphasizes sustainable development through environmental conservation and the efficient use of resources. Investing in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and green technologies can create jobs, reduce environmental

impact, and foster long-term economic stability. Policies that support green initiatives will be crucial in mitigating climate change and ensuring a sustainable future for this moment and the generations yet to come.

Our preliminary findings indicate that users of renewable energy sources within the telecommunications sector provide better value to their consumers. This has provided the Commission with insights on the significant potential for our sector to adopt renewable energy, thereby promoting sustainable service delivery.

The Blue Economy focuses on the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs, while preserving the health of ocean ecosystems. As a nation with a vast coastline and rich marine resources, we have the opportunity to develop industries such as fisheries, aquaculture, maritime transport, and tourism. By adopting sustainable practices, we can protect our marine environment and unlock the full potential of our ocean resources.

Recent cuts to submarine fibre optic cables carrying internet traffic along the West African coastline led to slow internet speeds and, in some cases, total downtime of internet services before they were later fixed. These incidents underscore the critical need for greater awareness and proactive measures to protect our oceans and the valuable infrastructure they contain. Nigeria is taking a leading role in this effort by bringing together relevant stakeholders to collaboratively address the root causes of these underwater cable disruptions. Additionally, Nigeria is working to raise global awareness about the importance of preserving our oceans and ensuring the security and reliability of submarine cables.

The Digital Economy is a cornerstone of modern development, driving innovation, efficiency, and economic expansion. The Strategic Blueprint 2023 of the Federal Ministry of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy underlines the importance of digital transformation in diversifying and boosting the nation's economy and improving governance across board. It outlines investment in not just digital infrastructure but empowering our people especially the youths to play actively in the digital economy landscape. Also, the Nigerian Communications Commission is keenly aware of the transformative power of digital technologies. Expanding our digital infrastructure, promoting digital literacy, and supporting tech-driven entrepreneurship are critical steps towards building a vibrant digital economy. By doing so, we can enhance connectivity, foster innovation, and create new economic opportunities across all sectors.

In conclusion, the diversification of the Nigerian economy is not merely a strategic choice but an urgent necessity. By focusing on the Green, Blue, and Digital Economies, we can build a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable economic future. With all hands-on deck, it is time to commit to these goals with a shared vision and collective effort.

Special thanks to the House of Representatives Committee on Monitoring, Evaluation, and Implementation of Legislative Agenda for this invitation to share these thoughts. Together, we can navigate the challenges ahead and seize the opportunities for a prosperous and sustainable future.

Thank you.

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