

Special Remark

Director General of the National Information Technology
Development Agency

At

NIGERIA INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM 2013

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YAR'ADUA CENTRE

PROTOCOLS

It is with great pleasure that I stand to address you on this special occasion, the Nigeria Internet Governance Forum, 2013 edition. The NITDA Act 2007 which established NITDA provides under section 6 (m) that NITDA shall accelerate Internet and Intranet Penetration in Nigeria and Promote Sound Internet Governance by giving effect to the second schedule of the NITDA ACT 2007. Since the first Global Internet Governance Forum (IGF) which took place in Athens in 2006, it is now an established fact that the management and development of the Internet requires not only a multi-stakeholder approach but also a multi-dimensional platform to tackle all the issues associated with its use. We at NITDA are happy to collaborate with all stakeholders in exercising the mandate of sound Internet Governance.

This year in Nigeria, the theme is “Internet Governance for empowerment, national integration and security through multi-stakeholder engagement”. I am excited about the theme, which covers the tripod issues of empowerment, national integration and security. These issues are relevant to our country as we strive towards achieving our national goals as contained in our transformation agenda.

Perhaps one of the frequently expressed criticism of the IGF is that since the forum is not a decision making body, it is a mere talk-shop and thus irrelevant. I beg to differ. Over the past 7 years, the IGF has consistently provided a platform for industry stakeholders to map and contribute their expertise in the development of laws, regulations and policies affecting the Internet and its uses. Some of

these contributions has led to multi-lingual World Wide Web and the opening up of top level domains.

Issues like network neutrality, cyber security, development, privacy, openness, diversity, and international cooperation as well as capacity building are still high on the agenda of Internet Governance discussions and only forums like this can provide an opportunity to measure the pulse of the Internet community especially as regards government policies.

As we deliberate, I would like to draw our attention to another aspect of the theme; multi-stakeholder engagement. My understanding is that engagement within this context means collaboration and cooperation instead of conflicts and turf battles. I personally think it is time for us to stop working in silos and collaborate to achieve the common goals of nation building. Let us breakdown the internal walls and build a better external wall for our security, privacy and economic development. I wish you all successful deliberations.

THANK YOU.