

WELCOME ADDRESS DELIVERED BY DR. AMINU MAIDA, EXECUTIVE VICE CHAIRMAN, NIGERIAN COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION AT THE NATIONAL LAUNCH OF THE COLLABORATIVE REGULATION STUDY REPORT HELD AT THE NCC DIGITAL ECONOMY COMPLEX IN ABUJA ON JULY 22, 2024.

Protocols

It gives me great pleasure to make these remarks and also engage with you today at the National Launch of the Collaborative Regulation Study Report on Nigeria. This report provides a comprehensive review of Nigeria's collaborative approach in the regulation of Information and Communication Technologies.

It is important for me to go down memory lane on how the partnership that conducted this study came about between the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO).

The International Telecommunication Union has over the years been advocating a new approach to the regulation of ICT, moving from what it describes as a "Generation One (G1) Benchmark," defined by a "Command and Control Approach," to a "Generation Five (G5) Benchmark" defined by a collaborative and coherent policy approach, which brings diverse stakeholders into the picture of overseeing the development of an innovative and competitive digital economy.

In assessing Nigeria's status in delivering on this collaborative approach, a Technical Workshop and Roundtable on Digital Access, held from the 23rd to 24th of August 2022. During this event, key stakeholders gathered to brainstorm and discuss issues related to digital access, digital skills and connectivity. Thereafter, a Joint Team conducted a comprehensive study on the Nigerian regulatory environment by analysing and reviewing statutes and regulations as well as engaging relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) across the digital ecosystem.

This report, titled "Collaborative Regulation: Accelerating Nigeria's Digital Transformation," presents the outcome of this in-depth study undertaken on Nigeria's regulatory and governance frameworks in the telecommunications and digital technology sector.

At the heart of this study is the objective to create an enabling environment, increase

investment, and promote modern approaches for connectivity and digital access for all Nigerians. The study also aims to enhance Nigeria's digital transformation and provide a roadmap for smart, modern and efficient regulation of the ecosystem.

It further evaluates Nigeria's regulatory environment using the ITU ICT Regulatory Tracker and the ITU G5 Benchmark tools. These tools helped to assess Nigeria's current Generation Four (G4) regulatory status and readiness for Generation Five (G5) regulation. It is worth noting that some of the findings of this study includes the identification of policy and regulatory gaps that need to be addressed to foster a more conducive environment for digital innovation and investment in the Country.

The study emphasizes the importance of efficient governance and policy cohesion in achieving national development goals through digital transformation and streamlined statutory and regulatory regimes. It also outlines strategies for improving regulatory practices to support broader digital access and economic growth in Nigeria. Today, as we launch this report, the objective is to engage all critical stakeholders in discussions about the next steps towards effective implementation of the study's recommendations. These discussions will trigger and accelerate Nigeria's progress towards achieving a Generation Five (G5) regulatory framework.

The launch's theme, "Driving Nigeria's Digital Transformation through Collaborative Regulation: A Pathway to 5th Generation Regulation," readily provides us the direction that the expected outcome of today's event should go as we will explore the findings and recommendations of the study in detail, providing stakeholders here present an opportunity to align on the importance of collaborative regulation in Nigeria's journey towards Generation Five (G5) regulation.

As we go into breakout sessions, I implore all stakeholders present to have open discussions on issues of overlaps and regulatory convergence issues; I also humbly request that your deliberations produce concrete next steps that will propel the adoption and implementation of the study's recommendations to advance Nigeria's Generation Five (G5) regulatory framework and digital transformation agenda. I wish you most fruitful discussions.

Thank you.

Dr. Aminu Maida

Executive Vice Chairman/CEO

Nigerian Communications Commission