

GOODWILL MESSAGE

BY THE

EXECUTIVE VICE CHAIRMAN,
NIGERIAN COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

AT THE
NIGERIA INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM (NIGF) 2025

THEME: "BUILDING DIGITAL GOVERNANCE TOGETHER: FROM
VISION TO ACTION"

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VENUE: RAW MATERIALS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL, MAITAMA, ABUJA

PROTOCOLS

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

INTRODUCTION

Permit me to begin with a question: What does it truly mean to govern the internet, not just regulate it, but shape its future for 200 million Nigerians?

Consider the teacher in Sokoto accessing digital resources; the developer in Lagos building FinTech solutions for the African Market or the student in Port Harcourt taking online exams. In each case, internet governance, security, accessibility, and reliability is the invisible foundations. When it fails, opportunities vanish and progress stalls.

Today, Nigeria stands at 173 million active telecommunications subscriptions, with approximately 140 million internet users (NCC, 2025). This remarkable growth positions us as Africa's largest digital economy and demonstrates the transformative power of collaborative internet governance.

It is my distinct pleasure to welcome you all to the 2025 edition of the Nigeria Internet Governance Forum. On behalf of the Board and Management of the Nigerian Communications Commission, I extend warm greetings to participants here in Abuja and those joining us remotely across Nigeria and beyond.

This year's theme, **"Building Digital Governance Together: From Vision to Action,"** perfectly captures our shared responsibility.

The question before us is simple: How do we transform our digital vision into a measurable reality?

NCC'S STRATEGIC ROLE IN INTERNET GOVERNANCE

As Nigeria's communications regulator, the Commission operates at the critical intersection of policy, regulation, and multi-stakeholder coordination. We license and supervise all internet access and service providers, ensuring Nigeria's digital infrastructure operates with integrity, security, and reliability.

Our Internet Code of Practice and complementary guidelines establish standards for responsible service delivery while protecting consumers and promoting fair competition. But effective internet governance requires more than rule-based regulation; it demands collaborative partnerships across government, private sector, technical community, civil society, and academia.

NCC'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO NATIONAL AND GLOBAL INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Digital technologies have become an inseparable part of modern life. From mobile phones that handle everything—communication, research, payments, work, and much more—to the deployment of operational technologies in our homes, industries, and transportation systems, as well as the use of computers in offices and digital public infrastructure, technology now shapes every facet of our daily existence. This reality underscores the need for multistakeholderism in digital governance. Effective collaboration among all stakeholders—governments, the technical community, academia, the private sector, and civil society—is essential.

The Commission, as you may be aware, has been an ardent supporter and contributor to the multistakeholder governance framework of the internet. Indeed, our recent contributions to the growth and governance of this sector is buttressed by the active role we played in ending the governance impasse at the AFRINIC, which resulted in the election of two distinguished Nigerians to the AFRINIC Board of Directors; one of whom now serves as Afrinic Board Chairman, and the other as a non-regional board member. This historic achievement, was supported by our licensees especially members of ATCON and Smart Africa, demonstrating Nigeria's commitment to strengthening Africa's internet infrastructure.

Also, our continued engagement and support for the African Peering and Interconnection Forum has led to productive partnerships that drive concrete results. In October 2025, the Commission partnered with the **Nigeria Network Operators Group (NgNOG)** in collaboration with the Network Startup Resource Centre (NSRC), University of Oregon to deliver intensive technical workshops under the theme *"Building Our Digital Future: Bridging Technology, Policy, and Academia."* Over 61 engineers from 38 organizations across 9 states gained hands-on expertise in Advanced BGP Routing, MANRS compliance, and network monitoring. Subsequently, the conference convened over 100 industry stakeholders, addressing critical issues including IPv6 deployment, DNSSEC implementation, and routing security.

These types of partnerships with NgNOG, the Nigerian peering & Interconnection Forum (NgPIF), Internet Society Nigeria Chapter (ISOC Nigeria), and of course this Forum, enable knowledge sharing and coordinated responses to emerging challenges in Nigeria's internet ecosystem.

It is also noteworthy that the Commission has collaborated with the Internet Exchange Point of Nigeria (IXPN), the Association of Licensed Telecoms

Operators of Nigeria (ALTON), the Association of Telecom Companies of Nigeria (ATCON) and other stakeholders in various ways to govern, adopt or deepen technologies and policies that enhance the resilience of our digital infrastructure. Our efforts to promote a digital culture and expand internet use across the country recently earned global recognition at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) 2025. Nigeria won the WSIS Prize for Access to Information and Knowledge through our Digital Awareness Programme, which has equipped more than 300 secondary schools across all six geopolitical zones with ICT resources and internet connectivity since 2006.

A key aspect of digital governance that the Commission is committed to, and which forms a part of our regulatory approach is transparency, accountability and information disclosure. Our partnership with Ookla, a global leader in network intelligence and performance measurement, to improve the reporting of Quality of Service (QoS) and Quality of Experience (QoE) performance in Nigeria's telecom sector is one such examples. This collaboration is part of the Commission's data-driven regulation strategy, and has resulted in the publishing of the first set of quarterly Industry Performance Reports that benchmark network performance, coverage, and service quality across operators and regions as well as insights into urban vs rural speeds, network capacity, 5G opportunities, and device performance. In partnership with Ookla, we have also launched the Nigerian National Coverage Maps that allow consumers to visualize network coverage, speed performance, and service availability nationwide.

Our goal is to increase transparency, empower consumers, and guide operators and policymakers in improving service delivery. The platform helps consumers compare coverage and make informed choices, while operators use the data to optimize latency and quality.

Similarly, we have launched a Major Outage Reporting Portal on our website (www.ncc.gov.ng) to track and disclose major network outages across the country. This portal also identifies parties responsible for outages (e.g., fibre cuts, vandalism) and aligns with the Executive Order declaring telecom infrastructure as **Critical National Information Infrastructure (CNII)**. We have also mandated Operators to provide Public Notification by informing consumers about major outages (planned or unplanned) via media channels, stating cause, affected areas, and estimated restoration time.

Last month, we also launched two transformative digital tools: The first is the **Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) Portal** which provides a one-stop platform linking all

36 states and the FCT, offering transparent access to Right of Way charges, digital infrastructure application processes, fibre deployments, and regulatory frameworks, with the goal of streamlining broadband investment procedures nationwide.

Complementing the EoDB Portal, is the **Nigeria Digital Connectivity Index (NDCI)**, our annual data-backed scorecard measuring each state's digital readiness, broadband competitiveness, and infrastructure deployment. This transparent ranking system drives healthy competition among states, promotes accountability, and enables evidence-based policymaking for inclusive digital growth

The Commission is also developing a **Cybersecurity Resiliency Framework for the Nigerian Communications Sector (CRF-NCS)**—a document that will guide our licensees in ensuring that cybersecurity, a fundamental pillar of digital governance is inculcated in to their networks and their operations thus safeguarding critical national information infrastructure, citizens data, and trust.

The Cybersecurity Resiliency Framework (CRF-NCS) is our comprehensive strategy aimed at strengthening the cybersecurity posture of Nigeria's communications sector. It provides a unified approach for detecting, responding to, and recovering from cyber incidents thereby safeguarding critical telecom infrastructure and consumer data. The framework aligns with national cybersecurity policies and global best practices, introducing mandatory requirements for operators such as incident reporting, risk management, and information sharing. It also promotes collaboration among stakeholders, promotes sector-wide capacity building, and prepares for emerging threats like AI-driven attacks and quantum computing risks.

The Commission has also made it a strategic imperative to pursue the deployment of IPv6 and implementation of DNSSEC validation in Nigeria, a move that will not only mitigate the shortage of IPv4 across Africa but will enhance our cybersecurity, improve on QoS & QoE, while enhancing traceability and accountability in IP resource usage, ultimately reducing latency, cost and cybercrime through enhanced mobility, elimination of Network Address Translation (NAT) and vices like cache poisoning, spoofing and man-in-the-middle attacks on our DNS infrastructure.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, let me state that we envision that Nigeria will lead Africa's digital transformation with ubiquitous and secure internet access that powers innovation, economic growth, and social inclusion across our great nation.

This vision is achievable, but only through the multi-stakeholder partnerships cultivated in forums like this. The Nigerian Communications Commission reaffirms

our commitment to fostering an internet environment that is open, secure, resilient, and beneficial to all Nigerians. Together, we shall move from vision to action, creating a digital ecosystem that drives innovation, promotes inclusion, and supports Nigeria's socio-economic transformation.

It is my distinct pleasure to welcome you all to the 2025 edition of the Nigeria Internet Governance Forum. On behalf of the Board and Management of the Nigerian Communications Commission, I extend warm greetings to participants here in Abuja and those joining us remotely across Nigeria and beyond.

I wish you productive deliberations and a successful Forum.

Thank you for your attention, and God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Dr Aminu Maida
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Nigerian Communications Commission