

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE VICE
CHAIRMAN/CEO, NIGERIAN COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION (NCC) AT THE STAKEHOLDERS'
CONSULTATIVE FORUM ON SPECTRUM ROADMAP 2026–
2030 AND GUIDELINES FOR OPENING LOWER 6GHZ &
60GHZ BANDS, JANUARY 19, 2026**

Protocol

Esteemed Industry Leaders, Operators, Members of the Press,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this Stakeholders' Consultative Forum. Today, we gather to deliberate on critical initiatives that will shape Nigeria's digital future. These include:

- The development of the Spectrum Roadmap 2026–2030,
- Guidelines for opening the lower 6 GHz band for Wi-Fi 6
- Guidelines for opening the 60 GHz license-exempt band for multi-gigabit wireless systems

Spectrum remains a critical, scarce, and highly valuable national resource, that powers connectivity, fuels innovation, and drives economic growth.

In recent years, we have witnessed an exponential rise in demand for high-speed connectivity, driven by data-intensive applications and emerging technologies. This makes the need for a clear, predictable, and forward-looking spectrum strategy more urgent than ever. Today's forum marks a significant milestone in our regulatory evolution, an opportunity to shape a spectrum roadmap that balances global best practices with Nigeria's unique realities.

We have recorded commendable achievements, including expanded network coverage, improved broadband penetration, and notable progress in next-generation technologies, particularly with the rollout of 5G. Yet, as technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Digital Twins, the Internet of Things, and the journey toward 6G continue to evolve, new challenges and opportunities emerge.

As we plan for the future, global internet traffic is projected to reach 5 zettabytes annually by 2030, with Wi-Fi carrying more than 70% of this load. These advancements are not abstract figures, they translate into real-life impact: from the rural doctor who needs high-resolution medical scans, to the young Nigerian developer whose creativity must never be limited by poor connectivity.

This is why unlocking the lower 6 GHz and 60 GHz license-exempt spectrum bands is compelling and timely. Together, these bands will triple the available spectrum for unlicensed use, providing 9.5 GHz of bandwidth, twenty times more capacity than the current 5 GHz band. Such expansion will redefine connectivity in Nigeria, enabling faster, more reliable, and more affordable internet access for citizens and businesses alike.

However, while these frameworks lay the foundation, it is your investment, innovation, and feedback that will bring these opportunities to life, catalyzing digital transformation and economic prosperity. This aligns with the Federal Government's Renewed Hope Agenda and President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's aspiration for a \$1 trillion digital economy by 2030.

Effective regulation is a shared responsibility. The quality and impact of the frameworks we develop depend significantly on your contributions. We remain committed to a consultative, evidence-based, and transparent approach. Your insights today will shape policy directions and define the trajectory of Nigeria's digital ecosystem.

Together, let us build frameworks that support innovation, enhance Quality of Experience, expand digital access, foster investment, and strengthen investor confidence, positioning Nigeria as the digital heartbeat of Africa.

Thank you for your partnership, and I wish you all fruitful deliberations.

Thank you.

Dr. Aminu Maida

Executive Vice Chairman/CEO

Nigerian Communications Commission