

Chairman's Speech on the occasion of AfICTA Summit 2019

Protocol & greetings.

AfICTA - Africa ICT Alliance, is an alliance composed of ICT private sector stakeholders from over 30 African nations. Our vision is to fulfill the promise of the digital age for everyone in Africa by connecting African ICT players for increased intra-African trade and collaboration with all stakeholders utilizing multi-stakeholder approach.

My special greetings from Berlin at the on going United Nations Internet Governance Forum where I'm representing AfICTA goes to all Nigerian stakeholders within the global ICT ecosystem. It gladdens my heart to warmly welcome you all to the 7th edition of the AfICTA Summit series, which is also the first summit since my election as the Chairman of AfICTA in October, 2018. The 1st edition took place in Lagos in 2013, the 2nd in Cairo in 2014, the 3rd in Johannesburg in 2015, the 4th in Windhoek in 2016, the 5th edition was held in Abuja in 2017, while the 6th edition took place last year in Nairobi Kenya.

From the past experiences and outcomes of the summits, AfICTA continues to close the gap that exists between all sectors that are involved in shaping the Internet and delivering the information society to the realization of digital Africa through knowledge sharing, trade facilitation, and cross-African advocacy. In more specific terms, AfICTA Summit promotes Public-Private Partnership by enhancing links between businesses and governments across Africa.

In the past one year, we've been able to accomplish new partnerships with international bodies of like minds and we also built on already established relationships. It is also noteworthy to highlight that through our engagement with the AU-African Union, AfICTA has been identified as the business representative on the continent. The above was made evident as 6 AfICTA IT Business Experts from the 5 regions of Africa represented the interest of African business during the AU Train the Trainers Workshop as part of the PRIDA - Policy and Regulation Initiative for Digital Africa" initiative.

Considering the theme "Digital Economy: Securing eCommerce and Minimizing DNS Abuse", Nigeria with the GDP of about \$400 billion, is Africa's biggest economy and its Economic liberalization has drawn investors from across the world to the country's vast market - not just its oil. In fact, over the past decade, average GDP growth rates of around 7% were driven not by oil, the major export, but by the non-oil sector.

The most recent data suggested that services accounted for 57% of GDP, in part due to growth in ICT and the increasing uptake of domain names for e-Commerce. The National Communications Commission (NCC) estimated that ICTs contributed up to 13.8% to economic output by first half of 2019, with the potential to increase to 20% by 2050.

Notwithstanding the progress recorded, major challenges in the sector remain. Some of these include the issue of consumer trust and confidence in online transactions in

the face of growing DNS abuse, online fraud and other forms of cybercrime. With a lack of access to registration directory service due to the need for compliance with European GDPR and other Data Protection Regulations including the Nigerian Data Protection Regulation (NDPR), law enforcement efforts are hampered and trust in justice for online businesses is becoming a concern.

To address the highlighted issues and questions, the host, KAD (Kontemporary Konsulting, Axiom Konsulting and Dotengee Enterprise) Consortium has engaged experts (online and physically) to discuss the summit topics satisfactorily with result provision.

Finally, as I wish you all a successful deliberation, I would like to also bring it to your notice our 3-Point Agenda, with request for your partnership:

1. AfICTA's effort on the development of "Africa Information Hub" a one-stop information repository about ICT Businesses and Governments Ecosystem in Africa (Legislations, ICT related government structure and contacts, National strategies, Successful projects, potential projects, ICT private sector directory with capabilities, references, products, services, and needs);
2. Capacity Development Programmes, Trainings and Workshops for personnel of member companies and other interested organisations and individuals;
3. Africa IT Business Conference which Promotes business partnerships and match-making between members and their associations' members.

I would as well like to on behalf of the entire board members, seize this medium to appreciate: the Founder & Immediate Past Chairman of AfICTA, Dr. Jimson Olufuye for his excellent support; the diamond sponsor of this Summit, BC ICANN- Business Constituency of Internet Cooperation for Assigned Names and Numbers; our partners, ACT - Association for Competitive Technology; AU - African Union, ASOCIO - Asian-Oceanian Computing Industry Organization; APICTA - Asian Pacific Information Communication Technology Alliance; NITDA - National Information Technology Development Agency; The Honourable Minister of Communication and Digital Economy, our host consortium and all our committed members for your enthusiasm and involvement in Africa's transformation journey.

I wish you all a successful deliberation.