

COMMUNIQUE OF THE AfICTA SUMMIT (SUMMIT 2017) HELD 7th–9th NOVEMBER, 2017 AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE, ABUJA

PREAMBLE

- 1.0 Africa Information & Communication Technologies Alliance (AfICTA) is a 30-nation private sector led alliance of ICT Associations, Multi-national Corporations, Companies, Organisations and individuals in the ICT sector in Africa.
- 2.0 **AfICTA Summit 2017** is the 5th in the series of AfICTA Summits beginning from Lagos in 2013 to Cairo in 2014, Johannesburg in 2015, and Windhoek in 2016. The theme for Summit 2017 "**One Africa, One Future: Leveraging ICT for Sustainable Development**" is one of the key indicators of progress towards the fulfillment of AfICTA vision of a digital Africa within the larger framework of the global vision of an information society with the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030.
- 3.0 Summit2017 was hosted by the **ADD Consortium** (composed of Afenoid Enterprise Limited, DigiSphere Limited and Dotengee Nig Ent.) at the International Conference Centre, Abuja, 7th – 9th November 2017, in conjunction with eNigeria, powered by the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) under the auspices of the Ministry of Communications Nigeria.
- 4.0 The objectives of Summit2017 are:
 - *Building partnerships for 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda*
 - *Adaptive technologies for eHealth, eLearning and eCommerce*
 - *eGovernment: Using technology to promote transparency and accountability*
 - *Tackling cybercrime and securing critical information infrastructure*
 - *Creating jobs and youth empowerment*
- 5.0 During the opening ceremony, Opeyemi Onifade, Chair of the Summit 2017 Committee welcomed all delegates. He outlined the vision, mission and objectives of the alliance. Chair of AfICTA, Dr Jimson Olufuye in his opening speech, thanked the Director-General of the Nigeria Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), Dr Isa Ali Ibrahim Pantami and his team for sustaining the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with AfICTA and enabling the hosting of AfICTA Summit in conjunction with NITDA's eNigeria under the auspices of the Ministry of Communications. The Minister of ICT, Barr. Adebayo Shittu and the DG of NITDA were graciously appreciated by the Chair

for their forward looking vision which is in tandem with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) target for an Information Society.

Marilyn Cade of the ICANN Business Constituency (ICANN-BC) also gave a goodwill message via live video platform and encouraged Africa to improve on the development of ICTs in Africa by participating in policies and advocacies for a healthy internet ecosystem.

6.0 Summit2017 consisted of four (4) plenary sessions which featured paper presentations, discussions by panelists as well as question and answer sessions as follows:

Session 1: Building One Future and One Network for Africa

Session 2: Leveraging ICTs for Sustainable Development; eSolutions & ePayment; Greasing the Wheel of Internet Economy

Session 3: Emerging Technologies and Governance framework (IoT IPv6, Cryptocurrency, DOA, GDPR, CSTD, IGF)

Session 4: ICANN Outreach to Business: Towards a stable, secure and resilient Internet

7.0 Summit2017 also featured two (2) workshops as follows:

Workshop 1: Information Society and Policy Making: The Role of Women & Youth (in conjunction with High Tech Center for Nigerian Women and Youths)

Workshop 2: Deepening Enterprise Information Security

8.0 The AfICTA Summit2017 also featured the AfICTA ICT Awards ceremony which is held annually during the AfICTA Summit. The award ceremony was the centerpiece of the Summit2017 Gala Dinner. With the goal of identifying the most outstanding ICT leaders in public/private sectors across Africa, that have demonstrated exceptional achievement in using ICT to benefit organizations, governments and the society. The Africa ICT Champions Award[®] 2017 recognised business leaders in the private sector that have distinguished themselves in any of the ICT fields - Hardware, Software, Services and Communication. The Africa ICT Personality Award[®] recognised Public/Government officials who have played significant role in shaping ICT public in their country leading to jobs.

The Africa ICT Champions Award[®] 2017 was bestowed on Engr Funke Opeke of MainOne (Nigeria) and Mr Lucky Masilela of ZACR (South Africa)

The Africa ICT Personality Award® was bestowed on the Minister of ICT, Barr. Adebayo Shittu.

9.0 In the course of the proceedings, delegates noted the following:

- i. AfICTA was pleased to note that the West African Telecom Regulators two weeks before the Summit2017 declared a framework for one network across ECOWAS with the aim to eliminate roaming charges. There was expectation that by 2020, there could be a tariff free, one network regime for Africa.
- ii. Considering AfICTA's firm belief in One Africa, One Future, AfICTA officially moved its URL to a one Africa Internet platform represented by the African domain name **.africa** TLD. The .africa TLD complements various member countries ccTLD notably .ng, .ci, .gh, .za amongst other.
- iii. ICT deployment in Nigeria is growing at a very high rate thus positioning the country as one of the fastest growing economies in sub-Sahara Africa, with the sector contributing about 12.58% to the GDP in 2017. However, there is low patronage of Made-in-Nigeria ICT goods and services which resulted in considerable capital flight out of the country.
- iv. The need to identify low-hanging fruits for gradual implementation in order to achieve the objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals.

To foster Sustainable Development Goals through the use of ICTs, participants **recommended** as follows:

- i. AfICTA could continue to push for best practices, foster business networks and enhance intra-African trade aimed to support governments to transform from its low point of 12% to more than 50% by **2025**.
- ii. All relevant Stakeholders in the ICT industry should as a matter of necessity engage the government on the promotion and use of technology in the judiciary so that law enforcement officers can effectively address cybercrime issues in Nigeria and Africa.

- iii. That Africa should embrace the use of emerging Blockchain technology which has potential usage in Law, Banking, Healthcare, Insurance, Education, Financial Services etc.
- iv. Africa ISPs/IXP operators should work together to create awareness to stimulate the adoption and implementation of IPv6 as IPv4 is gradually nearing depletion and exhaustion in Africa.
- v. AfICTA is optimistic that with the current momentum (through Executive Orders) by the Nigerian government on ease of doing business and the use ICTs to drive governance, a cascading effect on other sectors and other countries may be realized; and African countries may surpass the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.
- vi. AfICTA urges African governments to support the recommendation in the UN CSTD Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation on the use of existing UN CSTD mechanism to enable governments on equal footing to perform their role on International Public Policy issues pertaining to the Internet with full participation of all stakeholders in the private sector, civil society, technical and academic communities.
- vii. At the Cybersecurity Workshop, stakeholders are enjoined to invest in cybersecurity by increasing personnel awareness and on boarding effective cybersecurity governance framework. Delegates were also advised to be "*quick to read but slow to click and share*".
- viii. On Women/Youth workshop, participants are advised to join in ICT policy making and advocacy as important decisions made would have an effect on them directly or indirectly if they fail to express their view when it matters most.
- ix. On SDGs, stakeholders particularly government and the private sectors are encouraged to collaborate towards the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030.

The Summit was concluded with expression of gratitude to all stakeholders and participants for the success of the AfICTA Summit2017.

Dated this 9th day of November, 2017