

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE VICE CHAIRMAN,
NIGERIAN COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION AT THE
STAKEOLDERS' FORUM ON NATIONAL ROAMING AND
ACTIVE INFRASTRUCTURE SHARING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 2018 AT THE LAGOS CAMPUS OF THE
DIGITAL BRIDGE INSTITUTE**

Protocols.

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to this Stakeholders' Forum on National Roaming and Active Infrastructure Sharing in Nigeria. Over the years, the Commission has been in the forefront of encouraging innovations that would contribute to the growth and overall development of the telecommunications industry. From the development of regulatory frameworks for collocation/passive infrastructure sharing, mobile number portability to its most recent move to allow for spectrum trading, the Commission has ensured that Nigeria remains relevant among the comity of nations adopting international best practices in the telecommunications sphere.

In furtherance of its commitment towards ensuring the continued growth and development of the telecoms industry, the Commission in 2017 inaugurated an Industry Working Committee to work out the procedure and modalities for implementing National Roaming and Active Infrastructure Sharing.

There is no gainsaying the fact that National Roaming has the potential of promoting seamless communication of subscribers as they will be able to roam on the network of other service providers where their own service provider is unavailable or has limited network coverage. The benefits of encouraging active infrastructure sharing can also not be over emphasized. Not only will there be noticeable reduction in network deployment costs, the industry will also witness acceleration in the take-up of broadband services and gradual elimination of the rural-urban digital divide.

The past few years have seen the trajectory of the global telecommunications industry shift towards the implementation of cost-saving mechanisms which facilitate the effective utilization of network resources for the provision of

telecommunications services. National Roaming and Active Infrastructure Sharing are two of such initiatives which have been successfully utilized to achieve improved coverage, cost reduction and the efficient utilization of scarce network resources by Regulatory agencies.

To ensure that these benefits are realised, pertinent issues such as Quality of Service, Mobile Number Portability, issues of fair competition, billing and reconciliation, appropriate roaming agreements, extent of regulation required and the need to continue to incentivise operators to rollout infrastructure in underpopulated areas were considered in the articulation of the framework to be presented to stakeholders at this forum.

On this note, I would enjoin all participants to make their contributions freely and raise issues that will assist the Commission in instituting an all-encompassing framework that will continually contribute to the development of the industry.

I thank you all for your time and wish you fruitful deliberations.

Professor Umar Garba Dambatta, *FRAES, FNSE*

Executive Vice Chairman / CEO
Nigerian Communications Commission

April 25, 2018