COMMUNIQUÉ

OF THE 13TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE NIGERIA COMPUTER SOCIETY (NCS), HELD AT CHIDA INTERNATIONAL HOTEL, ABUJA, NIGERIA FROM 18TH TO 20TH JULY, 2017

nigeria computer society
www.ncs.org.ng

1. Preamble

The **Nigeria Computer Society (NCS)** was established in 1978 as the umbrella body for all Information Technology practitioners in Nigeria. The Society comprises of various interest groups in the ICT industry namely: The Academia in Information Technology **(AIT)**, the Institute for Software Practitioners of Nigeria **(ISPON)**, the Information Technology Association of Nigeria **(ITAN)**, the Internet Services Provider Association of Nigeria **(ISPAN)**, Information Technology Systems & Security Professionals **(ITSSP)**, Nigeria Information Technology Professionals in Civil Service **(NITCS)**, Nigerian Women in Information Technology **(NiWIIT)**. The Nigerian Association of Computer Science Students **(NACOSS)** is the student group of NCS.

The Conference theme was 'Information Technology Innovation for Sustainable Development'. Presentations were made by speakers drawn from broad spectrum of the Nigeria society and international organizations: IT professionals, policy makers, academia, industry, business, multinationals, government and non-government agencies. In addition, there was a special event convened by the National Information Technology Development Agency **(NITDA)** to discuss Information Technology as a source of Economic Recovery, Development and Sustainability.

2. Attendance

The Conference had in attendance the Honorable Minister of Communications, Barrister Adebayo Shittu, DG, National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), Dr. Isa Ali Ibrahim Pantami, the former Presidential aspirant of KOWA party in the 2015 election, Professor Oluremi Sonaiya, distinguished Senator Professor Iya Abubakar, former Minister of Petroleum, Chief Don Etiebet, past Archbishop of the Lagos province of the Church of Nigeria, Most Revd. (Professor) Adebayo Dada Akinde, Chief, Country Programs and Portfolio, African Development Bank, Andoh Mensah, Commissioner, Telecommunications and IT, ECOWAS Commission, Dr. Isaias Barreto Da Rosa, Director General, National Population Commission (NPC), Dr. Ghaji Bello, represented by Bertram Chukwubuika Iloko, Director of ICT, NPC, Representative of the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (OSSAP-SDGs) and President & Chairman of Council, Computer Professionals (Registration Council of Nigeria), Professor Charles Uwadia.

Furthermore, there were more than 800 attendees from within and outside Nigeria. In addition, 345 new members were inducted and 14 corporate organizations become corporate members. A major feature of this year conference was the noticeable presence of participants from West Africa sub region especially Mali, Liberia and Benin republic in addition to the preponderant numbers of youth among the invited speakers.

3. Decisions

After the paper presentations, technical sessions, contributions of the participants and exhaustive deliberations, the following decisions were reached:

i. That Information Technology Innovation is an enabler for development, capable of catapulting Nigeria's economic recovery, diversification and sustainable growth; hence

ii. The Conference acknowledges steps taken by the Federal Government to effectively domesticate and implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs (OSSAP-SDGs);

iii. That Government at all levels need to prioritize leverage on IT innovation as a viable means of achieving sustainable development in the country;

iv. That Government should consider setting up technological hubs using sustainability considerations in each geo-political zone;

v. That there is need to bridge the gap between knowledge industry and product industry;

vi. The Conference recognizes the important contributions of young IT innovators and entrepreneurs in the technology industry; NCS should foster strong collaboration between the academia, startup ecosystem and traditional tech businesses to close gaps in the ecosystem relating to mentoring, capacity building and bridging the academia-industry disconnect;

vii. That the National Universities Commission (NUC) and other relevant agencies in conjunction with Computer Professionals (Registration Council of Nigeria) (CPN) jointly review IT curriculum for tertiary institutions in the country to reflect current realities and industry need;

viii. That IT practitioners in Nigeria come up with products and services that address local needs; NCS should work with the academia and industry to explore ways in which innovative and disruptive technologies such as IoT, Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, etc can be harnessed for sustainable development;

ix. That there is need to deepen democracy through entrenched use of electronic means not only for voting but documentation of voting patterns (most especially electronic storage of National Assembly members voting history on issues and bills at the floor of the assembly);

x. The Conference calls for effective and efficient deployment and development of IT solutions to ensure the success of the proposed 2018 national census;

xi. That NCS should join forces with the OSSAP-SDGs to develop digital inclusion interventions to empower women, build digital capacity in the rural areas and support the poor;

xii. That the Department of Climate Change and Federal Ministry of Environment should collaborate with the tech industry and profession to promote the need for strong mitigation and adaption responses to climate change as well as tech innovation and economic opportunities in taking climate action;

xiii. That Government and other stakeholders should adopt and promote a Smart culture that enables IT innovation, youth entrepreneurship, local competitiveness, cybersecurity and quick rollout of broadband services across the country; above all, there is an urgent need for mindset change by Nigerians to truly leverage on the potentials of science and technology;

xiv. That NCS should collaborate closely with the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) to ensure the successful implementation of the Executive Order on Support for Local Content in Public Procurement by the Federal Government with regard to IT products and services;

xv. The Conference commended the Federal Ministry of Communications on the recent approval of the ICT Roadmap for Nigeria; NCS should be involved in a multistakeholder implementation of the ICT Roadmap and other national policy initiatives focused on using IT innovation to achieve sustainable development.

Signed:

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President

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Chairman, Conferences Committee