



Opening Remarks by NCC EVC/CEO – Professor Umar G. Danbatta at USPF Meeting With State Ministry of Education SKC Desk Officers

Distinguished guests, let me thank the Secretary, Universal Service Provision Fund for inviting me to be part of this dialogue which has provided me an opportunity to share my thoughts on some key issues. The NCC would focus on internationally-acceptable standards in telecoms regulation, enshrined in the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) charter that makes quality of service an important factor for the achievement of universal service.

The concept of universal access is premised on three 'A's, which are: Availability of service, Accessibility of Service, and Affordability of service. However, there are also the issues of Project sustainability and using specified USPF programmes and projects for empowering our people. These will dictate at all times what our focus will be, and I am sure they would form part of the parameters we would emphasize in driving network expansion to facilitate improvement in quality of services.

Today's interaction, which is geared toward project sustainability and empowerment of the school community is in line with USPF's vision to provide equitable access for all. As you may know, I came from the academic community and would strive within the limits of equity and available resources to ensure that our projects in the educational sector, such as University Inter Campus Connectivity (UnICC), Tertiary Institution Access Project (TIKC) and the School Knowledge Centre (SKC) make remarkable impact in the sector.

In conclusion, I want to thank you once again for the opportunity to be here and let me assure you that the power of ICTs can most effectively be harnessed through the participation and cooperation of all stakeholders in all sectors of the society. Wishing you a successful deliberation.

Thank you.