

## **EVCSs welcome remark at the USPF strategic Retreat – December 8-9<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

First of all, I would like to welcome the Honourable Minister of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy to this USPF Brainstorming Workshop. It gives me great pleasure to welcome all of you.

The mandate of the USP is quite simple, to connect everyone, everywhere with Affordable, Accessible and available Networks and Services. Hence, we are gathered here as a dedicated team of professionals, committed to ensuring that access to information and communication technologies is available to everyone, regardless of their location or socioeconomic background and to also support the vision of the Federal Government and that of the Minister of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy, which is to advance the nations digital transformation agenda through the different USP Programmes and Projects.

This workshop marks an important milestone in our collective journey towards creating a world where technology bridges the digital divide and empowers communities across our dear country, Nigeria.

During this workshop and brainstorming session, we have the unique opportunity to reflect on our achievements, assess the challenges that lie ahead, and chart a course for the future. Our discussions, collaborations, and strategic planning sessions will play a pivotal role in shaping our roadmap towards realizing our vision of a digitally connected Nigeria.

As we delve into the agenda for the next two (2) days, I encourage each of you to actively participate, share your insights, and contribute your valuable perspectives. This event provides a platform for open dialogue, innovation, and the exchange of ideas. Let us leverage this gathering to explore new approaches, identify emerging trends, devise innovative solutions, foster inclusivity, and provide enabling opportunities for growth and development that will propel us forward.

At gatherings like this, the importance of collaboration and teamwork cannot be overemphasized. Our strength lies in our diversity and the collective expertise we bring to the table. Let us foster an environment that encourages collaboration, mutual respect, and constructive dialogue. By leveraging our individual strengths, we can amplify our impact and drive meaningful change.

Finally, I want to remind each one of you of the significance of realizing the mandate of the USPF. The successful implementation of USPF Programmes and Projects have the power to transform lives, bridge gaps, and empower individuals and communities. As we embark on this strategy session, let us never lose sight of the profound impact our work has on the citizens of our country.

Once again, I extend my warmest welcome to all of you. May this Universal Access and Universal Service Workshop and brainstorming session be a fruitful and inspiring experience for each and every one of us. Thank you for your hard work and dedication, and I look forward to the meaningful discussions and collaborations that lie ahead.

Here's wishing us all a successful and rewarding workshop!