REMARKS BY ALAN BARRET, CEO, AFRINIC, AT AFRINIC-27 OPENING CEREMONY, LAGOS, NIGERIA, 28 NOVEMBER 2017.

- H. E. Yemi Osibanjo: Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Hon. Bukola Saraki: President of the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Hon. Adebayo Shittu: Minister of Federal Ministry of Communications
- Prof. Umaru Garba Danbatta: EVC/CEO, Nigeria Communications Commission (NCC)
- Dr. Isa Ali Ibrahim Pantami: Director General of National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA)
- **Distinguished Delegates**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Your Excellency, thank you for attending this opening ceremony. We are honored by your presence and support of this meeting.

This is the 27th AFRINIC Meeting. The first AFRINIC Meeting was held in Dakar Senegal in 2004. AFRINIC and its community has come a long way since, and over these years, we are working relentlessly to fulfill our mission in supporting Internet development in Africa.

This meeting is our platform to share with our stakeholders our progress, successes and our future as the Regional Internet Registry for AFRICA. Since our inception we have allocated more than 100 million IPv4 addresses and over 9000 IPv6 /32 prefixes in Africa with around 42% of our over 1500 members receiving an IPv6 prefix.

Besides our main role, that is, to distribute Internet Number Resources in Africa, we contribute to ensuring that our processes remain transparent and secure at all times. We have in place tools with which we are able to communicate our number resources distribution activities as well as ensuring that this distribution is secure. The WHOIS database, RPKI and DNSSEC are tools and technologies that we make use of to keep our cyber space secure and transparent. We keep monitoring this to ensure we are up to date with the latest technological developments and in line with policies as proposed and ratified.

We have continued to also support IP infrastructure development and reinforcement throughout the African region. This has seen increase in Internet access, speeds as well as infrastructure stability. Our relationship with the increasing numbers of Internet Exchange Points keeps growing stronger. This will help us achieve our goal of keeping Internet traffic local. Through our training

Our FIRE Grant and Award Program as part of its capacity building initiative since 2007. The program provides funds for projects that empower communities in Africa through the use of the Internet and innovative ICT solutions. We recently announced the winning projects for the 2017 Awards Program.

In the coming days, hundreds of participants from all over the world will join us for technical presentations, panel sessions on Internet related issues as well as the Public Policy Forum to discuss policy proposals that, if accepted by the community, will guide how AFRINIC manages and distributes Internet number resources in Africa.

I take the opportunity to welcome all our fellows who are present here. AFRINIC runs a very comprehensive fellowship program sponsoring fellows across the region to attend our meetings twice a year and I believe this year we have sponsored in all 26 fellows for AFRINIC-26 and AFRINIC-27.

To our host, our various partners and sponsors. Without your support and generosity, we would not be able to hold this event.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to once again welcome all participants to the 27th edition of the AFRINIC Meeting.

I wish you all a great AFRINIC-27 Meeting.

Thank you.