INFRASTRUCTURE CONCESSION REGULATORY COMMISSION

GOVERNMENT ASPIRATIONS ON ENERGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE AND KEY OPPORTUNITIES IN NIGERIA

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Protocols…
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It is my honor and privilege to be invited as a keynote speaker at the 2025 Energy and Infrastructure conference of the Stanbic IBTC Bank, with the theme: **"Government aspirations on Energy and Infrastructure and key opportunities in Nigeria"** holding today in Lagos, Nigeria.

2. It is a great privilege to stand before you today as we gather to engage in one of the most critical conversations for Nigeria's future - Energy and Infrastructure. This event provides us with a rare opportunity, not only to celebrate the progress we have made as a nation but also to envision the limitless possibilities for growth, innovation, and collaboration that lie ahead. Together, we will explore how we can shape the future of Nigeria's energy and infrastructure sectors, driving transformative change that will propel our nation toward greater prosperity and sustainable development.

3. According to Kofi Annan, ***"Infrastructure and energy form the foundation of any thriving economy. Without them, a sustainable future remains out of reach."*** These words resonate deeply with our mission today. As a regulator overseeing infrastructure development through Public-Private Partnerships in Nigeria, my role is to provide context, set the agenda, and offer insights into the government's vision for the energy and infrastructure sectors. Our journey toward sustainable economic growth hinges on ensuring accessible energy and building resilient infrastructure—just as Kofi Annan emphasized, without these critical pillars, progress is impossible. This is more than just a challenge; it is a call to action.

4. Nigeria is at a crucial juncture in its journey towards national development, with immense potential ahead. The government is committed to harnessing and optimizing energy resources, expanding infrastructure, and fostering strategic partnerships to achieve sustainable growth. Recognizing that sustainable energy and modern infrastructure are vital drivers of economic and social development, the government is focused on diversifying the energy sector, improving transportation networks, and ensuring investments in critical infrastructure that will support long-term economic prosperity. According to the Nigerian Bureau of Statistics and World Bank data, the average rate of electrification in the urban centres in Nigeria is around 82% while for rural households (which typically have lower incomes), the average electrification rate is around 40%.

5. According to the 2024 Statistical Review of World Energy, the 2023 total primary energy consumption increased by 2% over its 2022 level, 0.6% above its ten-year average and over 5% above its 2019 pre-COVID level. The 2023 renewables' share of total primary energy consumption reached 14.6%, an increase of 0.4% over the previous year. Together with nuclear, they represented over 18% of total primary energy consumption. Fossil fuel consumption as a percentage of primary energy dropped 0.4% to 81.5% in 2023. Furthermore, the global primary energy consumption grew from 156.10 exajoule (EJ) in 1965 to 619.23 EJ in 2023. On the continent of Africa,

the primary energy consumption stood at 2.5 EJ and 20.87 EJ between 1965 and 2023, respectively.

6. Whilst collectively Africa and South Asia were responsible for less than 10% of the world's energy demand in 2023, a prevalence of developing economies, large populations, low rate of access to energy today, potentially positions these continents for significant energy demand growth in the future. Sadly, Nigeria has one of the lowest electricity generation per capita rates in the world, resulting in a shortage of power supply and heavy dependence on fossil fuels, which account for about 79% of the country's energy consumption.

7. Nigeria's electricity demand is estimated to be around 20,000 MW, but the actual supply is significantly lower, around 4,500 MW. This demand-supply gap is a major constraint on economic growth. Nigeria's per capita electricity consumption is only 144 kWh per year, which is significantly lower than other African countries like South Africa, Tunisia, and Ghana. The World Bank projects that Nigeria's electricity demand will grow by a factor of over 5 between 2009 and 2020, and by 16.8 times by 2035. This growing demand is driven by a rapidly increasing population, urbanization, and economic growth. In terms of specific energy requirements, Nigeria needs an additional 63 GW of new generation capacity to satisfy unmet demand. We also aim to increase the renewable energy capacity, with a target of 30% of our energy mix coming from renewables by 2030.

8. The Nigerian government is deeply committed to transforming the energy and infrastructure landscape. The government's aspirations are clear: to ensure that energy is accessible, affordable, and sustainable, while also fostering infrastructural development that drives economic growth and improves the quality of life for every Nigerian. The commitment and perseverance of the Federal Government led to provision of the sum of N532billion for capital expenditure for the Federal Ministry of Power in the 2025 Appropriation Bill. This provision is a marked, significant, and positive departure from previous budgetary allocations for power in Nigeria.

9. In the energy sector, we are striving to achieve energy security by diversifying our sources of power, embracing cleaner technologies, and increasing energy access. The promotion of renewable energy and the scaling up of initiatives like solar power, hydroelectric projects, and gas utilization are central to our strategy. The goal is to not only meet the current demands of our growing population but also to position Nigeria as a key player in the global energy transition.

10. On the infrastructure front, we are focused on accelerating the development of critical sectors, including transportation, housing, telecommunications, and sanitation. The government is committed to leveraging PPP to achieve this. PPPs provide the perfect avenue for harnessing the technical expertise, innovation, and financial resources of the private sector, while also ensuring that the public interest is safeguarded.

11. The future of Nigeria's energy and infrastructure sectors rests on collaboration - between the government, private sector, and the citizens of this great nation.

As a regulator, our role is not only to ensure that policies and regulations align with national goals but also to create a conducive environment for investment and innovation.

12. A key player in this transformation is the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (ICRC), which oversees Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in the country's infrastructure sector. In ICRC, we ensure that these partnerships are transparent, accountable, and aligned with national development goals. By creating an enabling environment for investors and fostering collaboration between the public and private sectors. This partnership model is central to Nigeria's strategy for meeting its growing infrastructure needs and enhancing the confidence of both local and international stakeholders in the nation's development trajectory.

13. As I conclude my keynote address, let me reiterate that Nigeria presents vast opportunities in the energy and infrastructure sectors, driven by a growing population, rapid urbanization, and the government's commitment to sustainable development. As Africa's largest economy, Nigeria requires significant investment in power generation, transportation, and social infrastructure to meet the needs of its expanding economy and enhance the quality of life for its citizens.

14. These opportunities are underpinned by strategic policies, regulatory reforms, and PPP initiatives aimed at attracting local and foreign investments. These opportunities include renewable energy and power sector expansion; gas utilization and industrial development; transport infrastructure and logistics; urban infrastructure and smart cities development; digital infrastructure and smart energy solutions; climate-resilient infrastructure and sustainability initiatives, among others.

15. As we begin this discussion, I want to leave you with one thought: The future of Nigeria's energy and infrastructure is in our hands. The opportunities before us are vast, and the potential for transformation is limitless. But to realize this vision, we must act with urgency, unity, and purpose. We have an opportunity not just to build for today but to shape a lasting foundation for future generations—creating a Nigeria where energy drives progress and infrastructure supports a thriving economy. By working together, we can transform our bold ambitions into tangible realities.

16. Today, I urge all stakeholders to think ambitiously, act decisively, and work collectively. We must be the catalyst for change that Nigeria urgently needs to realize its aspirations. This is not a time for passive observation but for active participation. Let us collaborate, innovate, and invest in the future we envision.

17. Thank you, and God bless.

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