

Chair of the fifth Session of IGE on e-Commerce and Digital Economy

Vice Chair

Madam Secretary General of UNCTAD

Director, Division on Technology and Logistics,

Distinguished delegates,

STATEMENT OF NIGERIA AT THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP OF EXPERTS ON E-COMMERCE AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY

Let me begin by conveying sincere congratulations to the Chair and Vice Chair of this fifth Session of the IGE on e-Commerce and the Digital Economy on their successful elections. The meeting which is running concurrently with the e-Commerce week is apt in providing synergy around the topic- Recovering from COVID-19 in an increasingly digital economy: “implications for sustainable development”. Accordingly, my delegation wishes to align itself with G77 + China’s statement at this Session.

Mr. Chair,

Digital technology has revolutionised the way people do business as was seen during the pandemic. More companies are relying solely on e-Commerce to conduct their businesses. Nigeria continues to expand its digital economy as majority of MSME’s operate in this space which makes up 50 percent of the nation’s gross domestic product (GDP) and the major source of economic growth, productivity and competitiveness attracting foreign investors and businesses. However, there continues to be the challenge of widened digital and data divide among countries, connectivity issues, lack of sufficient bandwidth space and high cost of data in developing countries.

Mr. Chair

As digitalization affects global commerce and services, it is important to adopt national and international legislation to govern data that would enhance digital transformation, narrow the digital divide and provide technical support for vulnerable societies.

We therefore align with calls for concerted efforts in promoting technological advancement, foster digital cooperation among countries towards the achievement of sustainable development goals.

I thank you!