



Remarks by Dr Adesola Adeduntan, MD/CEO, First Bank of Nigeria Ltd & Subsidiaries at the International Sustainability Conference, Lagos Business School, Ajah, Lagos on Tuesday, 21 November 2017

Protocols:

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, On behalf of the Board and Management of First Bank of Nigeria Limited, Nigeria's Most Valuable Bank Brand, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the FirstBank International Sustainability Conference 2017.

A world without active collaboration amongst peoples, organisations, nations and regions is inconceivable. We have gathered here because of our collective desire to pursue synergies that would generate progress for us and future generations. That is the focal piece of sustainability. I am, therefore, optimistic that this meeting will do justice to the theme of Partnership for Sustainable Development and Innovation. You will therefrom be proud of your time here today and the good work you will work to promote within fresh vigour..

In today's globalized economy innovation is at the core of economic growth and development. However, in the current circumstances of our economy we require very thoughtful innovative partnerships to achieve the desired economic transformation. Such partnerships must traverse the public sector, corporations, the civil society organisations and even international agencies. With the array of reputable speakers and delegates here assembled, I am -confident that at the end of this Conference we will have better ideas on how to promote sustainable development and innovation through functional partnerships.

At FirstBank the passionate partnership of our people amongst themselves and with our many stakeholders has sustained us for over 120 years. As you might be aware our impact traverses virtually every sector of the economy.

Such partnerships have also provided the opportunity for us to help create an enabling platform for Small and Medium Enterprises to thrive and develop the national economy.

As you may already know, the FirstBank Sustainability Centre was established in partnership with the Lagos Business School to serve as a specialised centre that focuses on knowledge creation, knowledge dissemination and knowledge application focused on issues relating to sustainability. I am happy that corporate chieftains and several experts have heeded the invitation to join us today as we seek avenues to support businesses in finding solutions to pressing issues in the society.

I am keen to know what our speakers and delegates think about our nation's progress with the Sustainable Development Goals, and if there has been enough focused partnerships to steer our SDG ship in the right direction. I will not preempt you but trust that after this Conference more organisations will be spurred into partnerships that will foster innovation and drive higher levels of sustainability for a better future.

Once again I welcome to the 2017 FirstBank International Sustainability Conference.

Thank you.

Dr Adesola Adeduntan

MD/CEO

First Bank of Nigeria Limited & Subsidiaries