**OPENING REMARKS BY THE PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISRTY OF BUDGET AND NATIONAL PLANNING,MRS. NANA FATIMA MEDE AT THE MEETING OF THE JOINT PLANNING BOARD (JPB)/NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENT PLANNING (NCDP) MEETINGS HELD AT TAHIR GUEST PALACE, KANO, KANO STATE FROM 23RD-25TH AUGUST 2016.**

**PROTOCOL**

I am delighted to welcome you to this occasion of the 15th Meeting of the Joint Planning Board (JPB) organized by the Ministry of Budget and National Planning in close collaboration with the Kano State Government.

2. On behalf of the Honourable Minster of Budget and National Planning, Senator Udoma Udo Udoma, I hereby express our profound appreciation to the Kano State Government for accepting to host this meeting. Our sincere thanks also goes to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for supporting this meeting.

3. It would be recalled that the last JPB meeting took place in Awka, Anambra State, in October 2015. Since then, several events had taken place at the global and domestic level.It is in this context that the theme of this year’s meeting which is “**National Strategic Planning as a Vehicle for Attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Nigeria”** is very apt and timely. It is also consistent with the current Administration’s commitment to adopting the principle of strategic planning in the management of our national economy.

4. Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, as you are aware, the **Joint Planning Board (JPB)** meeting is a Consultative Forum of Permanent Secretary and the States’ Permanent Secretaries responsible for Economic Planningresponsible for Economic Planning, Special Advisers from Federal and State’s Ministriesresponsible for Economic Planning matters. The Forum is also designed to allow for the participation of representatives of the Organized Private Sector (OPS), the Academia and the Development Partners with a view to further enriching our discussions. The Forum equally focuses on policy issues with a view to enhancing economic management at the National and Sub-national levels.

5. This Meeting also sets the tone for the meeting of the National Council on Development Planning coming up on Thursday, August 25, 2016. You will observe from the Programme of activities that, the first two days of this meeting are devoted to technical level discussion with the Permanent Secretaries, Directors from the Federal MDAs and State Directors of Planning Research and Statistics. The Honourable Minister of Budget and National Planning with the Honourable Commissioners responsible for Economic Planning at the State level,would be meeting on the third day for further deliberations, ratification and adoption of the outcome of the technical meeting as appropriate.

6. This year’s meetings are structured to accommodate three (3) Side Events which will focus on the following Sub-themes:

i). Private Sector as Catalysts for the Diversification of the Economy:

ii). Attracting Alternative Financing for Sustainable Development: and

iii). Enhancing Research Innovation and Capacity Building for Effective Planning, Implementation and Monitoring.

7. A key feature of this meeting will be a Special Session on the economy with His Highness, the Emir of Kano, AlhajiSanusiLamidoSanusi. This Sessionwill equally be devoted to technical level presentations on major issues which include, but not limited to:

i). The Successor National Strategic Plan: what link Economic Diversification and the SDGs;

ii). Sharing Global Experience on the Framework for Mainstreaming of SDGs into Planning and Budgeting Process at National and Sub-National Levels;

iii). Medium-Term Plans and Annual Budget as a Vehicle for SDGs Realization;

iv). Partnership for Stakeholders Engagement in SDGs Implementation, Monitoring and Reporting;

v). Structural Transformation of the Nigerian Economy: An Analysis of Trends and Patterns;

vi). Imperative for the Agricultural Sector in Enhancing Food Security and Job Creation in Nigeria;

vii). Strategic Planning: An Imperative for Rebuilding of the North-East Zone; and

viii). Social Intervention Programme as a Basis for Attainment of SDGs.

8. Distinguished Participants, let me remind you that we are equally gathered to review the extent of implementation of the recommendations arising from the last meeting of JPB held in Awka, Anambra State and also to interact among ourselves on the modalities for strengthening strategic planning for enhance policy formulation and implementation.This is expected to pave way for effective implementation and mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into the National and States Strategic Plans and enhances the capacities of public servants for sustained implementation of the Strategic plans at the Federal and State levels. Similarly, this meeting will also provide a greater opportunity for us to harvest and learn from our collective experiences, especially in the area of deepening national strategic planning.

9. In addition, let me reiterate that much is expected of us as technocrats and experts to stimulate an intellectual, robust and productive deliberations that will lead to the evolution of recommendations that will facilitate the attainment of the objectives of SDGs in Nigeria and strengthen the strategic planning and budget process for sustainable growth and development of the country. I trust that after our deliberations these two days, an improved strategic planning framework that would assist in diversifying the productive and revenue base of the National and State economies from oil would have been identified.

10. In concluding, I urge all of us – Permanent Secretaries, Directors of PRS at the Federal and States levels, Development Experts/Technocrats, the Organised Private Sector (OPS), Development Partners, CSO, and all Stakeholders, to put in our best and make meaningful contributions in the course of this meeting. I have no doubt, that with enhanced national strategic planning and your collaboration, the States and National economies can be re-engineered on the path of growth and development. This is also expected to facilitate the attainment of SDGs in the country.

11. Once again, I welcome you all to this important meeting and wish us successful deliberations.

12. I thank you for your attention.

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISRTY OF BUDGET AND NATIONAL PLANNING,MRS. NANA FATIMA MEDE AT THE SIDE EVENT II OF THE JOINT PLANNING BOARD (JPB) MEETING HELD AT TAHIR GUEST PALACE KANO, KANO STATE ON WEDNESDAY 24THAUGUST 2016.**

**PROTOCOL**

I am delighted to welcome you to this Event which is being organised as part of the activities for the 15thJoint Planning Board/National Council on Development Planning Meetings with the theme **“National Strategic Planning as a Vehicle for Attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria”** holding here in Kano, Kano State.

2. The Theme of this Forum which is **“Attracting Alternative Financing for Sustainable Development”** is very apt. It is in consonance with our joint resolve to ensure effective implementation of the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as it accords with our national aspirations.

3. As you may be aware, the final Report on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) implementation in Nigeria indicated that it suffered major funding challenges. Although the debt relief gains obtained through debt cancellation in 2005 broadened the fiscal space for MDGs programmes financing, the financial resources were inadequate. This led to irregular fund releases for execution of projects and programmes and other MDGs initiatives.

4. With the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2016, it is clear that there will be need for change in financing strategy and arrangement to ensure effective realization of the SDGs. We all know that Public Sector funding capabilities alone is insufficient to meet demands across all SDG-related sectors. For instance, the Federal Government in the 2016 Appropriation Act made a budgetary provision of N3.37 Billion for SDG Programmes, N581 Million for SDG Monitoring and Evaluation and N427 Million for SDG Communication and Advocacy. These provisions are inadequate, hence the need to explore alternative funding and investment sources for implementing the SDGs in Nigeria.

5. Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, for us to achieve the SDGs by 2030 in Nigeria, alternative financing for SDGs are required in sectors that would help the poor and most vulnerable in the society to meet basic needs (social services including health care, early childhood development, education and skill acquisition). In terms of infrastructure development, Government would need the private sector support to carry out the needed public investment in infrastructural development. This would be in addition to the USD25 Billion Infrastructure Development Fund being put in place by the present Administration.

6. We also need to prioritise the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) goals and evaluate the funding requirements at the national and sub-national levels for effective project planning and execution. Consequently, this Forum is expected to identify new and innovative sources of financing the SDGs, in addition to existing funding channels which need to be strengthened.

7. This gathering, therefore, provides a great opportunity for us to interact and share ideas with the Organised Private Sector, Investors, Development Partners, the Academia and other stakeholders on the best approach to attracting alternative funding for the SDGs implementation in Nigeria. We need to work out how the private sector and development partners in collaboration with the Government would work together in funding the activities of the SDGs in order to achieve inclusive and sustainable development.

8. Distinguished participants, considering the wealth of experience of our Session Chairman, Paper presenters and Panellists, I am confident that this Session will be stimulating, refreshing and rewarding, especially as the presentations would focus on **“Options for Mobilizing Non-Oil Revenues for Financing Development Projects”** and **“Leveraging on the Capital Market in Sourcing Financial Resources for Infrastructure Development”.**

9. I will like to conclude by expressing my utmost thanks to the Executive Governor of Kano State, His Excellency, Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, OFR for creating time to be here and declare this event open. Your Excellency, thank you Sir.

10. Once again, I most warmly welcome you to this Event and wish you very successful deliberations.

11. I thank you for your attention.