ADDRESS OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN, PROF. ABDULGANIYU AMBALI, ON THE OCCASION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN’S ODDC OPEN DATA RESEARCH STAKEHOLDERS’ WORKSHOP, ABUJA, NIGERIA

Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Communication Technology, who is the Keynote Speaker today,

Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Information,

Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Finance,

Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research Technology and Innovations), Unilorin,

Director General, Federal Radio Corporation,

Director General, Nigerian Television Authority,

DG, Voice of Nigeria,

DG, Budget Office,

Guest Speaker and ODDC Research Mentor,

Unilorin ODDC Group Members,

Unilorin Visiting Team,

Members of the Academia,

Members of Civil Society,

Gentlemen of the Press,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my great pleasure and joy to welcome you all to this special occasion that is meant to provide you all a great opportunity to share the commitment of our University to research and learning. I exceptionally welcome and thank the
dignitaries like the keynote speaker and other top government officials that have created time out of their tight schedules to add value to Unilorin’s conscientious efforts at pushing academic frontiers in a way that that can benefit our society.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, today’s occasion is a veritable platform for stakeholders in open data initiative, both at the supply and demand sides, to highlight, discus and support the emerging catalogs of findings about the impact of open data initiatives in developing countries like ours.

Since the open data government initiatives have taken deep root in developed countries of the global North, developing nations in the South have also recognized its promising opportunities for development through an entrenchment of transparency, accountability, citizen participation and general transformative economic growth. So, as open data initiatives spread across the globe, it becomes imperative to investigate the potential and use of open data to impact development and the extent to which it can ensure public trust, public participation, transparency and efficiency. To this end, World Wide Web Foundation established a network to respond to the need to have a shared understanding of the use and impact of open data in developing countries under the theme of “Exploring the Emerging Impacts of Open Data in Developing Countries.

The University of Ilorin, through the Unilorin Open Data Research Group, keyed into this project with a cluster of research project on the Investigation of the Use of the Online National Budget of Nigeria. Today’s workshop is therefore an opportunity for stakeholders in open data, budget data and good governance and transparency to discuss the findings from the research with the aim of mapping out next steps for further actions.

Our University is renowned for its pride heritage of commitment to research and learning with exceptional regards for town and gown collaboration, which today’s occasion is intended to demonstrate. Bringing the workshop to the stakeholders here in Abuja is also a demonstration of our regards for our partners’ invaluable inputs in the framework of our mission, vision and activities. At the University of Ilorin, we have good character, unmatched capacity and competence, and we use all these to impact knowledge and create innovations that can positively impact our society.
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, I urge you to use this opportunity to join and support the University of Ilorin by adding your contributions to the efforts of our Open Data Research Group to produce solutions that will benefit our society. I wish you all a pleasant deliberation and collaboration. I believe we will all leave here much more informed and insightful.

Once again, you are heartily welcome and I have the pleasure of declaring this Workshop open.

Thank you for your attention.