Ladies and gentlemen, Good morning! I am honored to attend the regional meeting of the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the African Least Developed Countries. I would like to express my appreciation to the organizer for holding this meaningful event. And I hope all countries, developed and undeveloped, will become more powerful and prosperous in this great digital time!

There are signs of an upturn in the growth of ICT in African LDCs. Mobile communications have emerged as a key technology to bridge the digital divide in African LDCs and as a means to accelerate the diffusion of government, health and environmental information throughout their countries. Despite great progress in extending the power of telecommunications access to many people over the last decade, 450 million people still live out of reach of a fixed or mobile connection, and two thirds of the developing world are still offline. Even in so-called developed countries, one quarter of the population is still offline. The benefits and potential of being connected are not in doubt, yet too many are still digitally excluded.
Being connected enables a whole range of possibilities – access to education, healthcare and financial services. The introduction of ICT applications, particularly those which support the administration of public activities and improve the provision of health services, will require the deployment of more advanced technologies and backbone networks, is able to handle large amounts of data at higher speeds.

As a global ICT leader, Huawei operates in more than 170 countries and is committed to bridging digital divide by combining global experience and local resources. We mobilize resources from the developed partners to usher in the deployment of ICT infrastructure, particularly broadband technology; facilitate the harmonization of ICT policies, and support the creation of an enabling policy environment, so that African LDCs can exploit all the opportunities ICT have to offer to advance growth and promote sustainable development.

Huawei started establishing business in Senegal in 2007 and witnessed fast development of the country’s ICT industry. In cooperation with the operators and government, Huawei constructed about 4000 km Broadband Backbone network, Metro
network, Core network, Radio network (2G\3G\LTE). Huawei now serves more than 50% of the Senegal population with our equipment and services. There are more than 150 staff working in Huawei Senegal, of which 70% are local staff. Since the founding of Huawei Senegal, we have been actively participating in local society and community development, and donated more than $1.6 M in funds and equipment, and trained more than 270 local technical experts.

In the near future, with the rise of big data, cloud computing, and artificial intelligence, we are entering a digital, smart society. We might not know what the smart future will look like specifically. However, one thing is certain: Industrial systems will become more interconnected and complex, which is going to bring about enormous changes. We are committed to building a Better Connected Africa by serving as an enabler for digital economies. We believe that tremendous growth potential can be unlocked by improving connectivity. Digital economy can’t be realized without a developed ICT infrastructure. Many studies link broadband investment to economic growth. For example, in 2010 a World Bank study showed that, every 10% increase in broadband investment will lead to 1.38% GDP growth. Therefore we should pay a lot of attention to ICT investment; the basis of any digital
economy is to have a reliable, safe and fast Internet and telecommunication network. We need better ICT infrastructure, and a better connected world to eliminate the digital divide.

Huawei is committed to creating a synergetic ICT architecture of devices, pipes and cloud, and ultimately empowering an intelligent world. In the future, with joint efforts, everyone, every society and every country will enjoy a better connected world! ICT requirements will increase at an explosive rate. ICT systems will be transforming from Supporting to Foundation of production systems. New technologies including Mobile Bandwidth, Fixed Bandwidth, Cloud Computing, Big Data, IoT are reshaping the traditional industry, triggering the new industrial revolutions, bringing challenges and opportunities to digital economy. Huawei is willing to work closely with global and local partners to build a better connected world and to promote least developed countries’ digital economy.

Last but not the least, wish this meeting a success. I believe each of us will learn a lot from this meeting, which gathers great minds in the industry.

Thank you very much!