SPEECH DELIVERED AT EVENT OF ROYAL TOWN PLANNING INSTITUTE CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF INSPIRATIONAL WOMEN ON TUESDAY 16TH JULY.

My name is Tpl Mrs Bello Risikat Bukola FNITP, MRTPI the Pioneer National Chairman Association of Women Town Planners in Nigeria AWTPN an arm of the Nigerian Institute of Town Planners (NITP)

I like to appreciate the invitation extended to me as one of the Members of this great Institute and courtesy extended to me by my beautiful and amiable leader sister, one of the first Female Town Planning Consultant in Nigeria Mrs Helen Fadipe- the Vice President Royal Town Planning Institute. Am so delighted to be associated with beautiful and outstanding Women in this Profession both Locally and Internationally.

Kindly permit me to also use this medium to give a brief overview of the Association of Women Town Planners in Nigeria (AWTPN). On the 7th February 2019, the Nigerian Institute of Town Planners (NITP), constituted a Coordinating Committee of Women in Planning with a National Head -Tpl Mrs Babalola Morenike FNITP with the responsibilities to Encourage female members to effectively participate in the activities of the Institute and to Mobilize women for continuous education in planning and all planning related issues.

Thereafter**,** the Association was established and inaugurated at the National Level with an election that brought me and My EXCO on board for 2 Years, between 27th October, 2021 to 23rd October, 2023 to guide and direct the operation and general affairs of the Association with the following aims and objectives

AIM AND OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION AS ENACTED BY THE BYE-LAW

Without prejudice to the aim and objectives of NITP, the following are the aim and objectives of the Association.

AIM

To empower Women Town Planners for effective professional service delivery in the field of Urban and Regional Planning in Nigeria

OBJECTIVES

- **i.** Promote, Preserve and Protect the Interest of Women in Town Planning.
- **ii.** Create and Sustain Public Awareness on the Role of Women in Town Planning.
- **iii.** Develop, Maintain and Enhance Partnerships with Commonwealth Association Planners (CAP), United Nations (UN) Women Member Organization, Women in Cities International, Women Transforming Cities and other Organizations pursuing similar gender-related objectives in the Built Environment through the Nigerian Institute of Town Planners.
- **iv.** Strengthen the voice and leadership of women through continuous advocacy in sustainable human settlement and ensuring that gender equality issues remain high on the National agenda in the built environment.

v. Initiate, Organize, Promote and enter into any enterprise deemed beneficial to the Association as may be approved by NITP
vi. Encourage young school girls, graduates and women to acquire adequate education and proper training in order to pursue a career in the profession.
vii. Carry out any activity consistent with the aim and objectives of the Nigerian Institute of Town Planners (NITP).

These Aim and Objectives were achieved with **CREATIVES Development Goals** between Year 2021-2023 as Road Map towards achieving the set strategic objectives of the Association as follows**:**

C- Collaboration with Stakeholders- Collaborative and Consultative meetings with different Stakeholders in the built environment, both International and Locally.

R- Roll Out Strategic Work Plan for the Association-A Strategic Rolling Plan (Work Plan) was designed named CREATIVES AGENDA as well as the Review/Approval of Association Bye-Law and LOGO.

E- Education Advancement and Capacity Building- AWTPN Educational Scholarship Fund, Participation in different Workshops, Conferences and Seminars both Locally and Internationally etc.

A- Awareness Campaign- National and State chapter's Involvement in Awareness Campaign through Road Show**,** YouTube presentation of Activities of the Association and Recognitions, Awards and Appointment etc**,**

T- Technology Advancement and Database Management for the Association- The Design and Development of Website for the Association - https://awtpn.org, Database Management and other Social Media Handles to project the Association were engaged.

I- Inclusiveness and Innovation in Planning Activities- Collaboration with other professional Sister Bodies and several Stakeholders through Consultative Meeting, Programmes and Member's Inclusiveness in Innovatives ideas in various capacities both at the National Level and State levels which earn some of our Members Recognitions, Awards and Appointments.

V- Vulnerability Survey and Welfare of Members- Association ensure Members are not unjustly dealt with in their places of work. Members welfare and celebrations were paramount during this period and now**.**

E- Ethical Conducts with Professionalism, Accountability, Integrity and Transparency in the operations of the Association- Ethical Conducts, Integrity, Accountability, Professionalism and inclusiveness were our watchword and these were achieved through Lectures, seminars, regular intervention and One-on One talk with Members to improve good conducts.

S- Sustainable Mentorship Programme-Creation of Mentoring Team and Platform called **"AWTPN MENTORSHIP"** with regular interaction with some of our experienced Male and Female Town Planners

Further to the above, a new EXCO came on board 27th October, 2023 under the leadership of Tpl Mrs. Fache Rekiya A. FNITP with a **Constructive Transformational Goals** to steer the affair of the Association as follows**.**

CONSTRUCTIVE TRANSFORMATIONAL GOAL (CTG)
C- Critical Appraisal of Issues Affecting the Association
O- Openness and Accommodation
N- Need Assessment for Proper Mentorship
S- Stakeholders Engagement for Effective Planning and Policy Formulation for Sustainability.
T- Transformation of the Association using Technology as Tools (Innovation)
R- Reel out programmes for strategic Partnership for the Association.
U- Unify Members of the Association through Inclusive Leadership (Teamwork).
C- Creating Content Development for the Association, e.g, WIBEN, APWEN, and other professional women's bodies
T- Training and empowerment of female professional Town Planners and students.
I- Integrity and professionalism in the discharge of our activities.
V- Visionary Leadership Leading the Association to greater heights.
E- Education and Advocacy: OUR WATCHWORD

It is important to note that, the Association is assiduously working on the **Constructive Transformational Goal**s as some of the objectives of the formation of the Association are also judiciously achieved to date.

Nevertheless, this brief overview is to initiate a discussion around my request for collaboration on behalf of the Nigerian Institute of Town Planners and Association of Women Town Planners in Nigeria (AWTPN). In view of this I like to state my requests as follows:

1. **Capacity Building:** A Request for training and mentorship programs for our members to enhance our skills and knowledge as well as to improve our international best practice in Urban and Regional Planning;
2. **Knowledge Sharing:** Seek opportunities for exchange programs, workshops, and conferences to share experiences in Urban Planning.
3. **Professional Development:** Explore opportunities for joint professional certification programs or accreditation.
4. **Networking**: Facilitate connections between Members of both organizations to foster global connections and partnerships.
5. **Technical Assistance**: Request for Technical Support to enhance our experience and New initiatives in Nigeria.
6. **Education and Scholarships**: Explore possibilities for scholarships or exchange programs for students and professionals in Urban Planning.
7. **Registration of Members-** Wide Opportunity for Members to be registrable under the Royal Town Planning Institute.

Finally, I will like to appeal your support and contribution to the development, growth and progress of our Institute and the Association to achieve greater heights. Thank you all for Listening and hope to have a more cordial relationship in future.

GREAT ROYAL TOWN PLANNERS