

# AMCOMET and the African Space Programme

AMCOMET Task Force  
Meeting  
11 September 2016  
Kigali, Rwanda



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World Meteorological Organization  
Organisation météorologique mondiale

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# What is AMCOMET

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- ❑ A **high-level policy mechanism** for the development of meteorology and its applications in Africa
- ❑ The **intergovernmental authority** that fosters political will to strengthen NMHSs and enable them to fully perform their roles as fundamental components of the national development infrastructure and a major contributor to social and economic development
- ❑ **Vision:** to have a framework of cooperation to support sustainable development through the sound governance of the science of meteorology
- ❑ **Mission:** to provide political leadership, policy direction and guidance in the provision of weather and climate services that meet societal needs

# What is AMCOMET

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- ❑ **Joint initiative** of the WMO and AUC and is a body endorsed by the African Heads of States
- ❑ **Membership:** all African Ministers in charge of meteorology
- ❑ Decisions taken during AMCOMET Sessions are submitted to the **African Union Summit** of Heads of State and Government for endorsement
- ❑ WMO acts as the **Secretariat of AMCOMET**, in collaboration with African Union Commission – ensure that decisions taken are implemented

# AMCOMET and the African Space Programme

October 2012  
AMCOMET-2

**Ministerial  
Decision 02/5**  
... investigate  
the feasibility  
of developing  
an African  
Regional Space  
Programme ...

January 2013  
AU Summit

**Decision 744**  
Establishment of  
a Joint Task  
Force, ensuring  
close  
coordination with  
other relevant  
(AUC)  
Departments and  
stakeholders

May 2014  
Bureau Meeting

**Decision**  
Request the AUC,  
AMCOST and  
AMCOMET to link  
the African  
Regional Space  
Programme with  
the WMO Space  
Programme

February 2015  
AMCOMET-3

**Praia Ministerial  
Declaration**  
Endorsement of the  
draft African Space  
Policy and the  
African Space  
Strategy  
**WMO RAI**  
Endorsement of  
Concept Note for the  
African Regional  
Space Programme

## ***Next Steps:***

*Following approval of the African Space Policy and Strategy by the AU Heads of State and Government in January 2016, next step, specifically for WMO and AMCOMET is to **define concretely meteorological inputs into the African Space Implementation Plan***



# Importance of Space-based Observation for Africa

## Africa

- ❑ world's **second largest continent** (30.2 m km<sup>2</sup>) including islands
- ❑ **second most populous continent** (1.1 billion people as by 2013)
- ❑ Covers 6% of the Earth's total surface area and **20.4% of total land area**;
- ❑ It accounts for about **15% of the world's population**
- ❑ has a vast land area with difficult terrain (*deserts, rainforest, inland water bodies, complex and inhomogeneous topography, the Great Rift Valley*)
- ❑ *surrounding Oceans* pose great difficulties in installing and maintenance of in-situ observation networks

**Satellite observations are critical to support weather, climate, marine and environmental services** for protection of life and property and sustainable socio-economic development of the African continent.



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# CURRENT SITUATION

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- ❑ Surveys with WMO Members in RAI (Africa) show that data access, product development and **regional capacity in satellite meteorology are still limiting factors** to an efficient exploitation of satellite observation data and products
- ❑ An effective breakthrough could be achieved by **leveraging current satellite-related activities**, such as those undertaken in cooperation with EUMETSAT, among others, with the aim to:
  - ❑ provide better satellite data accessibility;
  - ❑ Develop regionally tailored products & services; and
  - ❑ Develop technical and human capacity in all WMO application areas dependent on satellites.



# Meteorological Inputs into the African Space Implementation Plan

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## Five (5) Thematic Areas of the African Space Programme

1. Earth Observations
2. Navigation and Positioning
3. Satellite Communications
4. Space Physics
5. Astronomy

# Meteorological Inputs into the African Space Implementation Plan

## Proposed Activities

- ❑ **Building a Ground Segment** (for receiving and accessing existing satellite data and products)
- ❑ **Strengthening Application Segment Capacity**
  - ❑ building for a critical mass of expertise in the use of satellite data
  - ❑ identifying gaps in existing space observations
  - ❑ Acquiring of requisite infrastructure and knowledge to support the exploitation of existing satellite data
- ❑ Development of a **Space Segment to be considered** based on:
  - ❑ Rich experience gained through applications of existing satellite systems
  - ❑ Identification of more precise needs and identified gaps in current and planned systems using WMO Rolling Review of Requirements Process



# Considerations & Next Steps

*By the end of this Task Force Meeting, participants will have an overview of various activities happening related to exploitation of space data - under the AMCOMET framework, we would need to consider the following:*

- How to **converge all the various activities to improve capacity building** efforts for NMHSs in Africa (i.e. RAIDEG, MTG, various training resources available, among others)*
- Agree on a **Framework to identify needs and gaps** (infrastructure & application) in the exploitation of satellite data for improved weather and climate services*
- How do we **leverage these existing activities** and use them as concrete input into the Implementation Plan of the African Space Programme*
- Identify Strategic Partnerships** (both funding and cooperation)*



Thank you  
Merci

[www.wmo.int/amcomet](http://www.wmo.int/amcomet)



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