

Welcome Remarks Task Force Chair

VICE CHAIR OF AMCOMET President of RA1 Dr. Amosi Makarau, Director AMCOMET Secretariat Dr. Joseph Mukabana, Dear Colleagues Members of the Task Force and Invited Participants,

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to this important meeting of the Technical Task Force meeting on African Space Program. As stated in the programme, the main objective of this meeting is to provide us (member of the task force) with a forum to discuss, share experience, provide guidance and devise a strategy for developing an African Meteorological Space Implementation Plan under the umbrella of African Space Programme.

During the 3rd session of AMCOMET which took place in Praia Cabo Verde the Ministers responsible for Meteorology agreed to extend the mandate of this Task Force to continue with the feasibility study of developing an African Meteorological Space Implementation Plan, as part of an African Space Programme. This meeting is an important step towards the goal of developing a Meteorological Space programme for Africa.

AMCOMET through the chair of this task force (Tanzania) participated in drafting AU - African Space Policy and Strategy together with AU Space Working group for the aim of ensuring that meteorological issues are incorporated in the drafts. The drafts were presented and endorsed by the ministers in the 3rd session of AMCOMET in Cabo Verde and thereafter brought to the head of state for approval. Currently, the AU Space Working Group is working on the first draft of Governance Framework that will provide guidelines on the implementation of the African Space programme.

Unlike other sectors such as Communication, Navigation and Positioning, which attracts private investors to invest on space technology, Meteorology requires a collaborative effort to provide cost-effective possibility of obtaining continental coverage from space for Meteorological information.

In collaboration with other partners this meeting is entrusted to identify Role of Stakeholders, identify elements of Pilot projects, see a possibility of sharing experience with other countries currently running space program, discuss potential funding sources and come up with the way forward for the African Meteorological Space Implementation Plan.

I thank you very much for entrusting Tanzania to Chair this important Task Force and it is my hope that by the end of this meeting we will have a clear picture of the task ahead of us. Once again I welcome all of you to this meeting. **Thank you.**