

**REPORT OF THE 9TH GMES AND AFRICA COORDINATION TEAM MEETING,
15TH TO 16TH DECEMBER 2014
RAMADA PLAZA HOTEL, TUNIS, TUNISIA**

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1. Opening Session

- a) The opening session was moderated by Dr. Ana Morgado who welcomed the participants and introduced the speakers of the session.
- b) In his remarks, the Ag. Director HRST, Dr Mahama Ouedraogo, thanked the host country, Tunisia, for co-organising the meeting. He reiterated that the Commission is committed to the process of GMES and Africa and looks forward to finalizing the formulation of the first GMES and Africa Panaf project while working on the definition of the remaining thematic chapters. The Ag. Director thanked the EU for her support in the GMEs & Africa initiative which is one of the flagship programmes of the partnership between the AUC and the EC. He also mentioned that even though there have been substantial achievements with this initiative, a lot remains to be accomplished. He concluded by acknowledging the participation of the RECS, MS from Africa and Europe, AMCOMET and AMCOW.
- c) Speaking on the behalf of the EU, Michel Massart thanked Tunisia and the AUC for the organisation of meeting. He said that the coordination team is aimed at moving the project forward. To this end, he invited the participants to provide “more answers than questions.”
- d) In his opening speech, Mr. Fahmi Shelly, representative of the Director General of the Centre d’Etude et de Recherches en telecommunication (CERT) welcomed delegates and thanked organizers for the choice of Tunisia for the meeting. He stated hat more efforts are needed to push GMES & Africa forward. He explained that Tunisia was affected by the political challenges in the country, but that they were ready to resume full participation in regional activities as the political climate is becoming stable. He then declared opened the 9th meeting of the GMES and Africa Coordination Team
- e) Participants introduced themselves, countries and institutions. Participants and their details are listed in Appendix A. Participants read through the proposed agenda of the meeting and adopted it without any modification. The final agenda is attached in Appendix B.

2. Deliberations

The meeting was co-chaired by the AUC and the EC with the following objectives as per the agenda:

- i. Governance and structure of the Coordination Team
- ii. Definition and identification process of the three priority themes of GMES and Africa
- iii. Finalization of the remaining six chapters.

Dr. Ouedraogo gave a background of the setting up of the Coordination Team and commended its achievements having organised three workshops namely: Marine and Coastal Resources Management in Kenya; Water Resources Management in Nigeria; and Natural Resources Management in Egypt and validation/Consolidation workshop was also held in South Africa; the Call for implementation of GMES and Africa; the on-going definition of the resulting GMES and Africa Panaf project on the three thematics; Cooperation arrangement on GMES and Africa signed between the EC and AUC; and the Setting up of the space secretariat at the AUC which will comprise the GMES and Africa secretariat. He highlighted the contribution of BRAGMA in these feats.

3. Information Sharing

The following information was shared in form of presentation and discussion among the participants:

- a) Dr. Ana Morgado made a presentation on BRAGMA outputs, and called for the output to be built on for the successive phases of the GMES and Africa initiative. The presentation is available in annex.
- b) Mr. Michel Massart highlighted the outcome of the 4th Space Troika which took place on 6th Feb 2014 in Addis Ababa and served as a ground for the two commissions to endorse the results of the validation/consolidation workshop and developed the cooperative arrangement for GMES and Africa. He explained that the Space Troika is a high-level meeting between the AUC and the EC, at the director level. It consists of DG DEVCO & Enterprise, and Director HRST. The next troika meeting will be in march/April in 2015.
- c) Dr. Ouedraogo explained that the last EU-Africa Summit took place in April 2014 and that it provides the political basis for the partnership of the two continents. He highlighted the outcome of the summit in the areas of space and invited the participants to obtain further information by reading the Africa-EU 2014-2017 road map, which was distributed.
- d) Dr. Ouedraogo stated that the space secretariat has been set up in the AUC to coordinate space activities within the Commission, as requested in the last Coordination Meeting. The space secretariat will also coordinate GMES & Africa. For a start, the Commission recruited four young space experts to commence the work of the

secretariat; they are Mr. Etim Offiong, Michael afful, Meshack Kinyua, and Ms. Rehema Kimulu. He further requested the support of the Coordination team to strengthen the secretariat.

- e) Dr. Pascal Waniha, member of the AU Space Working Group, highlighted the progress made by the Working Group in the implementation of the heads of state decision on space. He explained that the policy and strategy documents have been validated by African experts on 9th December in Brazzaville. They will be presented at the forthcoming AMCOMET meeting scheduled to hold in Cape Verde, in February 2015. After this, they will be presented to the Heads of states for adoption.
- f) Mr. Michel Massart gave a presentation on the definition of the GMES and Africa Panaf project which was developed by the consultants as their first report of their study. He stated that there was a political endorsement of the last three workshops, and then a call for implementation plan was made.
- g) Mr. Vincent Gobaglio presented a brief on the EUMETSAT Forum session related with GMES & Africa. He stated that there were nine sessions, with one session dedicated to data access in Africa. There were presentations from AfriGEOSS, AMCOMET (on Africa Space Programme) and Dr. Val Munsami (on the Africa Space Policy and Strategy). Presentations were also made by JRC and the AUC on Copernicus and GMES and Africa respectively.
- h) Peter Zeil briefed the meeting on the side event on GMES and Africa that took place at the AARSE conference in South Africa. He highlighted the comments made by the participants particularly on the need to ensure a good representation of the members states by the RECs.

4. Discussions and Recommendations

Discussions

Discussions centred around the effective participation of the member states in the development of the GMES and Africa Panaf project; the need for GMES & Africa to build on what already exists in the continent eg. AMESD, MESA, etc.; the effective focussing on application rather than on Science and Technology alone; lack of fund mobilization strategy as well as medium platform for information dissemination; the circulation of documents to relevant ministries in member-states for their comments/contributions; the selection of a focal point for each thematic area for each country and who should lead this task; linking the process of the African space policy and strategy to the GMES and Africa Process; and lack of key performance indicators in the document.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were made:

- a) Since the three thematic were already validated, there is need for the project document to be shared to the members states and RECS when it is ripe. This will enhance countries involvement, understanding and owning the process.
- a) When this is done, the member states and RECs should provide their feedback to the AUC within agreed deadline. Focal point at member state should ensure that the relevant ministries receive the documents at national level and provide feedback. Based on the experience of RECs who are closer to the member states, they should provide the country focal point for GMES and Africa.
- b) A web portal should be setup by the AUC to ensure effective dissemination of documents to the stakeholders whenever appropriate.
- c) African side should determine its data need and make the appropriate request bearing in mind that the data is provided free of charge
- d) There should be continuous dialogue between AMCOMET task force and the AU Space Working Group.

5. Round table discussion on the Future of the process

Issues discussed were mainly around the governance of GMES and Africa, the definition of the GMES and Africa Panaf Project and the approach to finalization of the remaining thematic chapters. The following recommendation were made and agreed upon:

a. GMES and Africa Governance:

- i. **The Coordination team** will composed of RECs plus one member state selected by each REC, previous Member States members of the CT, relevant STCs, EC and AUC, UNECA. It is agreed that the EC will communicate the names of its member states and stakeholders participating in the CT. The CT will be co-chaired by the appropriate STC from the african side and EC from the european side.
- ii. It was also agreed that the CT should develop a program of no more than 2 meetings per year. To this agreement, it was noted that the CT could organize piggy back meetings during MESA meetings, HLPD etc.to save cost and improve synergies with existig programs and initiative within the partnership.
- iii. Meeting outcome of he CT will be presented to the space troika for endorsement.
- iv. Comments on Terms of Reference of the CT have been forwarded to the AUC for summary and dissemination to participants
- v. **GMES and Africa Secretariat:** The EC indicated its commitment to support the GMES and Africa secretariat and advised the AUC to make requests. Dr. Ouedraogo charged the participants to contribute to building capability and capacity of the secretariat. A need was realized to Strengthen Capacity of the GMES &

Africa Secretariat capitalising on BRAGMA experience; using AU and EU Member States through either secondment or funding. The EC stated that it does not have the financial instrument to support another BRAGMA as requested by some participants.

b. Definition of the GMES and Africa Panaf Project

- i. Participants were requested to generate a name for the GMES and Africa Panaf project.
- ii. The project definition document will be distributed to all member states once finalized.

c. Development of Remaining 6 Chapters

- i. It was agreed that the title ‘Impacts of Climate Variability Change’ be changed to ‘Climate Variability and Climate Change’; ‘Natural Disasters’ be changed to ‘Disaster Risk Reduction’; ‘Health management Issues’ be changed to ‘Health’; and ‘Conflicts and political crises’ be changed to ‘Conflict Resolution’.
- ii. Participants ranked the remaining 6 thematics in the following order of priority. It was agreed that all the thematic areas are important but the first three would be pursued in the next stage of development.
 - Food Security and Rural Development
 - Climate Variability Change
 - Disaster risk reduction
 - Health
 - Conflict and Political Crisis
 - Infrastructure and Territorial Development
- i. EC made commitment to support and facilitate the proposed workshops on the next three chapters. AUC through the GMES and Africa secretariat will handle planning and organisation of the meetings. The CT agreed to hold at least two validation workshops on the first two above priority themas in the year 2015.
- ii. In order to improve the organization of the upcoming validation workshops, It was agreed that documents should be distributed early enough and get some feedback, so that moderating and participation in the workshops could be smoother. Participants should be informed of what is expected of them.
- iii. Participants can be divided into small working groups during each workshop, as there is limited time to validate each application. Suggestion was raised that RECs and member states can organise workshops at regional levels. Representatives of the region can be called to the continental workshop to develop programme.
- iv. BRAGMA should share experience with the space secretariat and work with them in organising the next workshop. It was also realized that there is a need to develop a website for GMES & Africa.

6. Closing Session

2. Dr. Mahama thanked the participants for the success of the meeting. He encouraged them to continue to support the project. He also thanked Tunisia for co-organizing the event and EU for financial and logistical support.
3. Michel thanked Tunisia for hosting the meeting and the AUC for organizing it. The representative of CERT thanked AUC and EC for holding the meeting in Tunisia. He said that Tunisia is open to more of such calls. He wished everyone safe trip back to their destinations.
4. The representative of the director of CERT, Mr. Fahmi Chelly, closed the meeting. He expressed the gratitude for the opportunity offered to Tunisia to be active participant in the GMES and Africa process. He reiterated the commitment of CERT to help move the process forwards, and wished a safe return home to all participants.

7. Appendix A: List of Participants;

9th GMES & Africa Coordination Team Meeting Tunis, Tunisia

15-16 December 2014

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8. Appendix B: Agenda

9th GMES & Africa Coordination Team Meeting Tunis, Tunisia

15-16 December 2014

GMES and Africa COORDINATION TEAM MEETING - Monday 15/12/2014		
12:50-13:50	Lunch	
14:00-14:30	Opening / Welcome / Approval of the Agenda	Chair
	1. OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING Note: Objectives - GMES&A towards EU-Africa Summit (Apr 2014) and After	
14:30-15:30	2. GMES and Africa towards the EU-Africa Summit (April 2014)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BRAGMA outputs • Space Troika (6 Feb 2014) • EU-Africa Summit, the JAES and GMES & Africa 	BRAGMA EC / AUC EU & African MS
15:30-16:00	Coffee Break	
16:00-17:30	3. "GMES AND AFRICA" - DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE EU-AFRICA Summit (APRIL 2014)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Space Secretariat at AUC • The AU Space Working Group • The Pan-African Study - Program • The EUMETSAT Forum session related with GMES & Africa • The GMES & Africa side event at the AARSE Conference 	AUC EC / AUC AUC / African MS EUMETSAT EC, SA
	4. AOB (information)	All
GMES & Africa COORDINATION TEAM MEETING - Tuesday 16/12/2014		
9:00-12:30	5. Discussion (<i>with Coffee Break</i>)	
	GMES & Africa - Future of the Process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordination of GMES & Africa - Implementation of the 3 Chapters of GMES & Africa - Development of the remaining 6 Chapters of GMES & Africa 	All
	6. "GMES & Africa " next steps	Chair
12:30-14:00	Lunch Break	
14:00-17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Conclusions of "GMES and Africa" Coordination Team Meeting b. Way Ahead – Roadmap 	All
17:00	End of the Meeting	