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EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa  
Forum des Usagers d'EUMETSAT en Afrique

# 11th EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa

## Detailed Programme

### Session 7.C.

#### Africa Space Programme:

#### Earth Observation (EO) data needs and access

Chair and moderator: tbc

Rapporteur: E. Barisano, P. Counet, EUMETSAT

10 September 2014

Kopanong Conference Centre in Johannesburg area,  
South Africa

[ufa.eumetsat.int](http://ufa.eumetsat.int)

August 2014



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## Background

Space applications are an important challenge and a great opportunity for Africa in addressing sustainable development and poverty alleviation. In this regard, the 8<sup>th</sup> *Partnership on "Science, Information Society and Space"* of the "2008-2010 Action Plan for the implementation of the Africa-EU Joint Strategy" underlined the relevance of space-based technologies for development policies. A number of long term initiatives have started at continental level to provide an important Earth Observation (EO) framework in Africa, and in particular to consolidate and strengthen the impact of EO based information on Africa's sustainable development.

In 2012, the African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology (AMCOST) established a working group on **African Space Policy and Strategy**. The draft policy (Dec 2013) identifies two high-level policy goals for the continent: Firstly, to use space science and technology to boost quality of life for Africans, and to create wealth. Secondly, it wants to build Africa's own space technology capacity in order to establish a local space industry that can service the needs of the African market. The draft policy wants to coordinate the fragmented activities on the continent. This will involve not only assessing the needs of the nascent space industry, but also adopting good governance and management structures. Within the overall governance of the space policy, the African Commission decided to create a **space platform** within which projects and programs on space can be harmonized and streamlined to reduce duplication and improve efficiency and synergies.

During the Second Session of the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (**AMCOMET**), in October 2012, the African Ministers Responsible for Meteorology decided to establish a Task Force to investigate the feasibility of developing an African Regional Space Programme.

Both ministerial decisions from AMCOMET and AMCOST were presented during the 20th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the AU Summit of Heads of States, 27-28 January 2014. In an effort to harmonize African needs in terms of a space programme, the Executive Council decided on the establishment of a **Joint Task Force** to investigate the feasibility of developing an African Regional Space Programme, ensuring close coordination with other relevant AU Departments, in particular the Human Resources and Science Technology (HRST).

In May 2014, the AMCOMET Bureau further requested the AUC and AMCOST, in collaboration with AMCOMET, to link the African Space Programme to the WMO Space Programme and other ongoing regional programmes and initiatives, such as Monitoring of Environment for Security in Africa (MESA) and African Satellite Meteorology Education and Training (ASMET).

The **AfriGEOSS** initiative, developed within the Group on Earth Observation (GEO) framework, was launched in November 2013. This initiative aims at strengthening the link between the current GEO activities with existing capabilities and initiatives in Africa in order to enhance the region's capability for producing, managing and using Earth observations and will provide the necessary framework for countries and organizations to access and leverage on-going bilateral



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and multilateral EO-based initiatives across Africa, thereby creating synergies and minimizing duplication for the benefit of the entire continent.

The Global Monitoring of Environment for Security (**GMES**) & **Africa** initiative was born through the EU-Africa Partnership in 2007 in order to make full use of the potential of space systems for sustainable development, locally, regionally and continent wide and to reinforce Africa's capacity and ownership in using remote sensing technology, especially by implementing operational services in support of sustainable development. The first project under GMES & Africa initiative will focus on 3 thematic areas ("Coastal and marine resources", "Water resources" and "Long term management of natural resources"), together with cross-cutting elements (infrastructure - focussing on data accessibility, and policy, institutions and governance).

## Objective of the mini-workshop

The objective of the mini-workshop is:

- To present the policy context (African Space Policy and Strategy, AMCOMET)
- To inform on the status of the various continental long term initiatives (GMES & Africa and GEO/AfriGEOSS)
- To clarify the synergies and complementarities between these initiatives
- To discuss and make recommendations on the cross-cutting issues that are common to all initiatives (access to data and capacity building)
- To provide inputs for the definition of the first project under GMES & Africa

## Targeted audience

This mini-workshop will be particularly useful for participants involved at national, regional and continental level, in matters related to space policy and Earth Observation, as well as representatives of the meteorological community interested in these matters.



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## Agenda of the mini workshop

08:30 Foreword  
Chair & moderator

### *Policy framework*

08:40 African Space Policy and Strategy  
*M. Ouedraogo, AUC*

08:50 AMCOMET and the African Regional Space Programme  
*R. Mukabana or AMCOMET*

### *Main initiatives*

09:00 AfriGEOSS  
*Andiswa Mlisa, GEO Secretariat*

09:15 Copernicus, GMES & Africa  
*Marco Clerici (EC-JRC) / M. Ouedraogo, (AUC)- AUC*

09:30 Synthesis by the moderator, Q&A  
*Moderator*

09:45 *Short coffee break*

### *Open discussion on EO satellite data needs and access*

10:00 to 11:30 Discussion on Data Need, Data Access, around the following themes

- *User need assessment process (e.g RAIDEG)*
- *Existing EO data access systems*
- *Data access needs, e.g., data policy, physical access, timing (real time/archive), re-distribution*
- *Recommendations on data access needs prioritisation*
- *Wrap up (Rapporteur)*

11:30 End of Session