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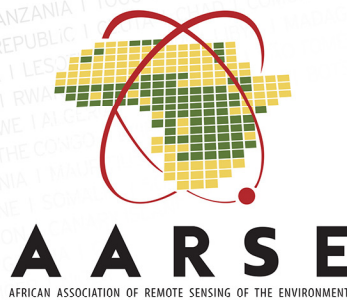
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AARSE Johannesburg Declaration

31st October 2014

Delegates from thirty-three countries present at the **10th International AARSE Conference on *Space Technologies for Societal Benefits in Africa***, held at Johannesburg, South Africa from 27th to 31st October 2014 declare that:

- Recognising the role of Earth Observation in developing accurate geospatial datasets, information and knowledge to support the efforts of nations in achieving their development agendas;
- Recognising the role of the South African National Space Agency and the University of Johannesburg in promoting the use and development of space technologies for societal benefit on the African continent through this conference;
- Recognising the importance of Earth Observation, and Geospatial Science and Technology products in providing the foundation for good governance, economic and social development, and poverty alleviation strategies
- Recognising the importance of land demarcation, surveying and recording of physical infrastructure in Geographic Information Systems in planning, maintenance and financing of urban and rural infrastructure;
- Recognising the contribution that Earth observation from space can play in contributing to key African Union and other African national priorities;
- Recognising the importance of Africa's participation and contribution to the implementation of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) and noting an increase in a number of African countries and organisations participating in GEO;
- Noting that Africa is making major strides in space science and technology development with several countries such as Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Nigeria, and South Africa developing successful space programs, including acquiring their own Earth Observation satellites;
- Recognising the need to establish an African space coordinating mechanism to ensure that Africa's interests are represented in international space program collaborations; and to develop a coherent policy and strategy for utilising space technology for development;
- Recognising the need to move from policies and strategies towards implementation and action in realizing the benefits of Earth Observation from space and Geospatial Information;
- Recognising the necessity to build on existing capacity across the value chain from research and development, to technology, to applications and operations;
- Recognising the work of AARSE over the past 20 years as major points of contact and facilitators of Earth Observation and Geospatial Information activities in Africa;
- Recognising the progress made on the African Resource Management (ARM) satellite constellation by the current members of the constellation;



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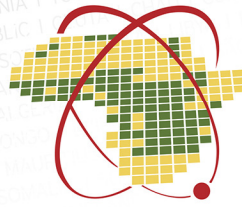
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- Recognising the role and contribution of the African Union and the United Nations Agencies such as the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UN-ECA) and building on previous declarations and multilateral coordination initiatives in space science and technology for sustainable development in Africa;
- Recognising the importance and success of continued long term collaboration between international partners such as European Commission and European Space Agency, and African scientists in various joint programmes;
- Welcoming the input from international scientific societies including the IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society (IEEE GRSS) and the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) that support the building of the science base in Africa;
- Recognising the devastating impact of the current Ebola epidemic on local communities and national economies, and the threat to global health, declare solidarity with the communities and colleagues affected by the Ebola epidemic;
- Recognising the solutions inherent in remote sensing in the alleviation of compounding environmental factors related to such epidemics;

Hereby declare and call on the African Union and African Governments to:

1. Support adoption of the Pan African Space Policy and Strategy, and to provide resources for its rapid implementation.
2. Engage African Space Agencies and Remote Sensing Organisations in the development and implementation of the Pan African Space Policy and Strategy.
3. Enhance development of national space policies and strategies flowing from and in alignment with the Pan African Space Policy.
4. Support a *Coordination Office On Space Affairs* at the African regional inter-governmental level, comprising representatives of all space agencies, regional organisations such as AARSE, and other African stakeholders;
5. Support the *Space Coordination Office* to represent Africa's space science and technology capability in relation to existing and future international programs and partnerships;
6. Support the development of an African space policy and programmes towards the establishment of an *African Space Agency*;
7. Stimulate African dialogue on space as a front-runner for innovation, technology development and job creation.
8. Build and invest in African capacity, in both human resources and technology, for example by supporting the implementation of the already approved African Union plan for a *Space Science Hub* of the Pan-African University.



AARSE
AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF REMOTE SENSING OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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9. Encourage and support African universities and other institutions of higher education through adequate funding for fundamental and applied research and teaching in Earth Observation and geoinformation sciences.
10. Continue African Union coordination and support at all levels of GEO and GEOSS and the implementation of AfriGEOSS to bridge the digital divide and to build an Africa-wide knowledge-based economy using the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) networks and emerging GEOSS infrastructure, and the African Resource Management Constellation (ARMC).
11. Enhance opportunities for public-private partnership in space related activities and service delivery based on space-derived data.
12. Increase local investments to complement external investments to ensure sustainability of Earth Observation in Africa.
13. Grant recognition to specialised institutions at national and continental level in geoinformation and Earth Observation, notably the South African National Space Agency (SANSA), the Regional Centre for Training in Aerospace Surveys (RECTAS), Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD), the UNOOSA Regional Centres in Africa, as vehicles for enhancing the development of space science and technology for societal benefit.
14. Support new initiatives for building African-led broad-based cooperation, such as the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security – GMES-Africa programme;
15. Inspire Africa's youth through space based education and outreach programs;
16. Support through Earth Observation, where applicable, efforts to mitigate the Ebola epidemic.