



**AARSE**  
AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF REMOTE SENSING OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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## **AARSE Johannesburg Declaration** **31<sup>st</sup> October 2014**

Delegates from thirty-three countries present at the **10<sup>th</sup> International AARSE Conference on *Space Technologies for Societal Benefits in Africa***, held at Johannesburg, South Africa from 27<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> 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;
- 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;