



PORTUGAL 2007

The Lisbon Declaration on “GMES and Africa”

Lisbon, December 7th, 2007

The Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union (EU) and the organisations and governmental European and African bodies and entities involved at today's event (and listed at the end of this text),

considering that

- the (Draft) Joint EU-Africa Strategy¹ recognises that environmental degradation and climate change undermine sustainable development and represent threats to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); the EU is therefore committed to support Africa's capacity building efforts in the sustainable management of natural resources, including on weather observation, climate monitoring and early warning systems, as well as helping to tackle illegal logging and associated trade; the referred Strategy recognises also that in order to achieve the MDGs, a special global effort to build scientific and technological capacities in Africa is required, and thus, inadequate technical capacity of Africa will be upgraded inter alia through specialised networks at regional and sub-regional levels, focussing on identified priorities so as to underpin economic growth and sustainable development of the African continent,
- the European Space Policy, recently adopted by the European Commission and the European Space Agency, refers to the role space technologies play in contributing to EU external policies, particularly on sustainable development, international cooperation, stability and humanitarian aid, with particular emphasis on Africa and European Neighbourhood Countries²,
- the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) European initiative – aiming to provide, on a sustained basis, reliable and timely services related to environmental and security issues in support of public policy makers' needs – has a global reach and can contribute to the international efforts consistent with the Johannesburg 2002 Action Plan, the Mauritius Strategy for small island developing States (SIDS)³ as well as with G8 recommendations made in July 2005 to strengthen the global climate observing system⁴, and
- GMES will be the main European contribution to the global 10-year implementation plan for the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) and the need to coordinate actions between GMES and GEOSS, as well as other Earth Observation initiatives,

recalling

- The principles and objectives of the European Consensus on Development and in particular the eradication of poverty in the context of sustainable development, including pursuit of the MDGs,

¹ “The Africa-EU Strategic Partnership - A Joint Africa-EU Strategy” - Draft presented to the Africa-EU Ministerial Troika meeting of 31 October 2007

² COM(2007) 212, “European Space Policy”, April 2007

³ A/CONF.207/CRP.7 – “Mauritius Strategy for the further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States”, Port Louis, Mauritius, 13 January 2005

⁴ COM (2004) 65 final, “Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES): Establishing a GMES capacity by 2008 - (Action Plan (2004-2008))”

acknowledging

- the Maputo Declaration signed in October 2006 by the Commission of the African Union, the Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States and five Regional Economic Communities of Sub-Saharan Africa (CEMAC, ECOWAS, IOC, IGAD, SADC) for calling upon the EU to plan an extension of its GMES European initiative to Africa and other ACP countries, in order to make available to African decision makers all the data and tools needed for an operational implementation of policies targeting the sustainable management of the African environment⁵,

recognising

- the potential of past and present programmes, projects and initiatives for supplying and maintaining EO-based services and capacities in Africa⁶,
- the need for sustainable and predictable financing of operational and logistical support for the African Union Member States to enhance their capabilities to participate actively in Earth Observation initiative.

being aware of

- the need to ensure that African decision makers, users and stakeholders drive a long-term dialogue with Europe and European counterparts inter alia aiming at identifying the real African requirements, for EO-based applications for the benefit of AU/EU joint strategies,
- the need to consider African needs in the definition and implementation of GMES services, and in the development of local capabilities for the access and exploitation of EO-based services in Africa, including GMES,
- the importance of ensuring the availability of affordable, accessible and inter-operable data from Earth Observation satellites in the interest of African development and the need for building capacity and sharing of data from ground-based observations, satellite remote sensing and other sources among all countries,
- the necessity to strengthen existing African centres of leadership and excellence, inter alia by identifying leaders and research teams, providing them with autonomy, stability, modern equipment, and access to information technologies and international peer groups, and
- the need to coordinate actions to increase synergies among stakeholders and reach the potential to enhance complementarities and avoid unnecessary duplications,
- the need to support the effort of the African Union to address the challenges of poverty eradication and climate change through the use of appropriate space technology including GMES

declare

their commitment to work together, within the Joint Africa-EU Strategy and first Action Plan (2008-2010)⁷ to be adopted at the EU-Africa Summit in Lisbon on 8-9 December 2007, along the *Lisbon Process on GMES and Africa*, annexed to this declaration, with the full involvement of the relevant African, European and ACP stakeholders and user communities, in line with the principles governing AU/EU strategic partnerships.

Participating Organisations and Governmental bodies

- Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union
- European Commission services
- Commission of the African Union

⁵ "Maputo Declaration - in support of the "African GMES" Initiative", October 2006 – 7th EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa

⁶ such as PUMA, AMESD, the ACP Observatory, EC's research projects, TIGER, and others conducted by international organisations such as UN, UNESCO, NGOs and African organisations.

⁷ under priority action 3, "enhance cooperation on space applications and technology" of the 8th Africa-EU Partnership

- Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States
- European Space Agency
- European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites
- Economic Commission of the West Africa States (ECOWAS)
- Intergovernmental Authority on Development of East Africa (IGAD)
- Monetary and Economic Community of Central Africa (CEMAC)
- Southern African Development Community (SADC)
- Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)

Supported by

- Previous Presidency of the Council of the European Union – Germany
- Future Presidencies of the Council of the European Union – Slovenia, France and Czech Republic⁸

Declared in Lisbon, 7th of December 2007

⁸ Czech Space Office