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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



CALL FOR IMPLEMENTATION of GMES and Africa

Johannesburg, 24th - 25th October 2013

Delegates from the African Member States, the African Union Commission, the European Commission and specialised organisations present at the GMES and Africa Consolidation-Validation Workshop, held in Johannesburg, South Africa from the 24th to 25th October 2013 hereby:

- **Recognise** the strategic role that Earth Observation (EO) can play in supporting national, regional and continental policies for sustainable socio-economic development, and its importance in providing services and products that will help attainment of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Africa and other socio-economic objectives.
- **Reiterate Africa's Commitment** to the GMES & Africa initiative as a framework to take into account African EO initiatives and activities, and recognise the added value of EO for the sustainable development of the continent.
- **Acknowledge** the strategic importance of the "Maputo Declaration" (2006), the "Lisbon Declaration" (2007) and the "Hammamet High Level Strategic Document" (2010), all calling for increased cooperation between Europe and Africa and in particular the development of the "GMES and Africa" initiative, which is a fundamental element of the JAES.
- **Adopt** the three thematic chapters (marine, water and natural resources) endorsed by the thematic and validation workshops, as they succeed in capturing the priority actions in each of these areas for Africa, and **call upon the AUC** to take the necessary action for **implementation of the initiatives**.
- **Underline** the need for GMES & Africa to build on existing infrastructure and to concentrate on **facilitating access to existing and future European, African and Global EO data**.
- **Request** the AUC to put in place an institutional arrangement, involving RECs for the present coordination of GMES & Africa initiative and EO projects, while developing the final AU governance of the African Space Policy and Strategy to be adopted by AMCOST.
- **Call upon** Member States and RECs to participate in the GMES & Africa Process and to nominate their Focal Points.
- **Further Call upon** the African Union Commission and European Commission to seek the necessary **financial, technical resources and partnerships for the implementation of the priority actions identified** and capacity development.
- **Note the importance** to finalize, validate and set in place implementation mechanisms for the overall GMES and Africa Action Plan through an adequate participatory, multi-stakeholder consultation process.
- **Call upon** the next EU-Africa Summit in 2014, to highlight the long term cooperation on Earth Observation between Europe and Africa, and to encourage and strengthen this cooperation **in the framework of the GMES & Africa initiative which forms part of Africa's contribution to the Group on Earth Observations (GEO)**.



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