



PORTUGAL 2007

## The Lisbon Declaration on “GMES for Africa” and regional capabilities

Lisbon, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Taking into account that

- the European Space Policy<sup>1</sup>, 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 Countries,
- 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 as well as with G8 recommendations made in July 2005 to strengthen the global climate observing system<sup>2</sup>,
- GMES will be a contribution of the European Commission to the EU Strategy for Africa, through the development of the *African Monitoring of the Environment for Sustainable Development* (AMESD) initiative<sup>3</sup>, among other projects and activities,
- GMES will be the main European contribution to the global 10-year implementation plan for the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS)<sup>4</sup> and the need to coordinate actions between GMES and,

having in mind

- the European strategies for international cooperation and support to the development of African countries<sup>5</sup>, especially with respect to attaining the Millennium Development Goals as well as the Agenda 21, and
- the joint Africa-EU strategic partnership, taking into account African development policy priorities, and its Action Plan for the period 2008-2010 in areas such as Peace and Security, Climate Change and Energy, Science, Information Society and Space, where GMES can play a significant role,

acknowledging

- the Maputo Declaration signed October 2006 by the African Union, the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) and five Economic Regional Communities

<sup>1</sup> COM(2007) 212, “European Space Policy”, April 2007

<sup>2</sup> COM (2004) 65 final, “Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES): Establishing a GMES capacity by 2008 - (Action Plan (2004-2008))”

<sup>3</sup> COM(2005) 565 final, “Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES): From Concept to Reality”

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

<sup>5</sup> COM(2005) 489 final, “EU Strategy for Africa: Towards a Euro-African pact to accelerate Africa’s Development”, October 2005; COM(2006) 376 final - Interconnecting Africa : the EU-Africa Partnership on Infrastructure; Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August – 4 September 2002, (United Nations publication, No. E.03.II.A.1)

in Africa for calling upon the European Union to plan an extension of its GMES European initiative to Africa and other ACP countries<sup>6</sup>,

recognising

- the potential of past and present programmes, projects and initiatives for supplying and maintaining EO-based services and capacities in Africa<sup>7</sup>,

being aware of

- the need to fully involve Africa and the African users and stakeholders in a long-term dialogue with Europe and European counterparts aiming at increasing awareness, both on the potential of EO-based applications and on the actual requirements of African users, for the benefit of AU/EU joint policies,
- the need to coordinate actions to increase synergies among stakeholders and reach the potential to enhance complementarities and avoid unnecessary duplications, particularly in view of the need to promote the development of local and regional capabilities in Africa for the sustainable access and exploitation of EO-based applications, especially through GMES services,

the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the EU and the organisations and governmental European and African bodies involved at today's event (and listed at the end of this text), declare their commitment to work together along the Lisbon Process on *GMES for Africa and the development of regional capabilities* to draft a AU/EU implementation *Action Plan for the provision of GMES services to the African users and the development of regional capabilities* by the end of 2008, with the full involvement of the relevant AU and EU user communities and in line with the principles governing AU/EU strategic partnerships.

#### **Participating Organisations and Governmental bodies**

- Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union (Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education)
- Germany (Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs), previous Presidency of the Council of the European Union
- Republic of Slovenia (Environmental Agency of the Republic of Slovenia), future Presidency of the Council of the European Union
- France (Ministry of Science and Technology), future Presidency of the Council of the European Union
- Czech Republic (Czech Space Office), future Presidency of the Council of the European Union
- European Commission
- African Union commission
- African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States Secretariat
- 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)

*Declared in Lisbon, 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2007*

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<sup>6</sup> "Maputo Declaration - in support of the "African GMES" Initiative", October 2006 – 7th EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa

<sup>7</sup> 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.