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**THE THIRD AFRICAN CONFERENCE ON THE APPLICATION
OF SPACE SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGIES
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

(Item proposed by the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria)

2010
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THE THIRD AFRICAN CONFERENCE ON THE APPLICATION OF SPACE SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
(Item proposed by the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria)

1. The Third African Leadership Conference on Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Development was held in Algiers, Algeria from 7 to 9 December 2009. It should be noted that the first session of this Conference took place in Abuja, Nigeria, in 2005, and the second in Pretoria, South Africa, in 2007.
2. The theme of this Third Session was: «**Building African Partnerships in Space**». On this occasion, Algeria, South Africa, Nigeria and Kenya signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the establishment of an African Resources Management Satellite Constellation (ARMC).
3. The signing of this MoU is in line with the policy for the development of the sector adopted by Decision **Assembly/AU/Dec.161 (VIII)**, on the Report of the Extraordinary Conference of Ministers of Science and Technology as well as the Addis Ababa Declaration on Science, Technology and Scientific Research for Development, **Assembly/AU/Decl.S (VIII)**, adopted during the deliberations of the 8th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in January/February 2007.
4. The main objective of the MoU is first to enable each of the State Parties to have access to technical and scientific information, particularly space images collected by their satellites, and more generally, all Member States of the African Union. To this end, the harmonization of the technical specifications of the space systems for efficient and shared utilization of information in all fields, provided by the satellites of each country, is a necessity.
5. The images thus obtained will serve to substantially improve performance, particularly in the agricultural and hydraulic sectors in Africa and in combating natural disasters. It will also allow for better management of the Continent's resources towards the economic development of African countries.
6. Inspired by this vision focusing completely on the future, the President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, His Excellency Abdelaziz BOUTEFLIKA, in a message to participants, defined the stakes and objectives of the Conference and its purpose, namely intra-African consultations on the means of strengthening cooperation in the area of integration of space tools in the sustainable development of the Continent.
7. The President of the Republic recalled in this regard, that Algeria's vision in

recent years has been geared towards this dynamic and that its first Earth Observation Satellite, «ALSAT-1», began, from 2003, to participate in the international satellite constellation, towards the prevention of natural disasters at national, regional and world levels.

8. The implementation of the Algerian Space Programme – Horizon 2020, from this perspective, comes under the framework of international space conventions and treaties, the coordination of which is the responsibility of the United Nations Committee for the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), to which Algeria acceded as a permanent member in 2002, thanks to efforts deployed at all levels for space activity focusing entirely on sustainable development for the welfare of the populations, and the prevention of natural disasters and the management of the effects thereof.

9. With regard to Africa's sustainable development process, President BOUTEFLIKA underscored the need to use scientific and technological tools that give all the actors concerned optimum visibility. Furthermore, the mobilization of resources for its implementation and the evaluation of the results obtained are also necessary.

10. In conclusion, His Excellency Abdelaziz BOUTEFLIKA emphasized that the introduction of space science and technology towards Africa's sustainable development and the strengthening of satellite telecommunications are key factors for the harmonious realization of the objectives of knowledge and rational management of natural resources, and the rapprochement of African States and peoples.

11. At a practical level and so as not to consider only a single aspect of its numerous applications, the Algerian ALSAT-1 satellite transmitted to the Arzew receiving and control station, in the West of the country, some 1800 images which made it possible to map sensitivity to desertification through remote sensing, which covered over 20 million hectares in Africa.

12. More generally, the sustained efforts of Algeria in the area of control of space technologies for development will soon be marked by the launching of a second Algerian satellite , « ALSAT-2», which will be sent into orbit during the first quarter of 2010. This launching will constitute a new phase in the implementation of the Algerian Space Programme – Horizon 2020, to establish a mini earth observation constellation intended to supplement the activities of the «ALSAT-1» satellite.

13. In the longer term, the National Space Programme will endow Algeria with other systems to ensure virtually total and permanent coverage of the country's concerns in terms of earth observation and provide also for the designing and establishment of a space telecommunications system, ALCOMSAT-1.

14. At another level, the holding in Algiers of the Third Session of the African Leadership Conference on Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Development provided an opportunity for the signing of the Agreement on the opening of a Regional Support Office of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER).

15. Through the opening of this Regional Office, the UN Space-based Platform aims to support the development efforts of African countries in the economic, social and cultural domains. Furthermore, the peaceful applications of space technologies will allow for greater prevention and better management of natural disasters in Africa, particularly in the Sahel and Sahara regions.

16. Africa, and more extensively, the international community, has entrusted Algeria, thanks to this bold programme, supplemented by the recent signing of the two agreements, with a complex, difficult but noble mission. Algeria, with all the other actors, particularly Africans, will take on the responsibility for the benefit of the Continent as a whole.

17. In this regard, the African Union Commission (AUC) should strongly encourage other Member States to join in this promising initiative in order to extend the advantages of cooperation in this area, for the sustainable development of the Continent.

“We are determined to deal once and for all with the scourge of conflicts and violence on our continent, acknowledging our shortcomings and errors, committing our resources and our best people, and missing no opportunity to push forward the agenda of conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction. We, as leaders, simply cannot bequeath the burden of conflicts to the next generation of Africans.” (Paragraph 9 of the Tripoli Declaration of 31 August 2009).

2010

The third African conference on the application of space sciences and technologies for sustainable development (Item proposed by The People's Democratic Republic Of Algeria)

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