

## **African stakeholder & partnership panel**

Panel co-chairs: Maurice Borgeaud (ESA) and Alan Belward (JRC)

Africa's scale as the Earth second largest continent, enormous natural resources, with a high population dynamic and specific exposure to climate change demands for continuous geospatial monitoring. The panel will discuss the different social and scientific challenges which satellite Earth Observation can address of specific importance to Africa ranging from food and water scarcity, biodiversity, natural resources to conflicts and causes of migration. The adoption of the Africa Space Policy and Strategy by the African Heads of State in 2016 marks a new chapter in space research and technology and the evolution of the space sector in Africa. In this context of the "GMES and Africa" process taken by the AUC together key African stakeholders with EU support is a big step forward to establish Earth Observation services in Africa making optimal use and making the most of the Copernicus programme.

The objectives of the panel are:

- To recognize the needs of geospatial and Earth observation derived information for policies in the AU and to discuss the use of Earth Observation data over Africa in policies in light of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 2063 Agenda of the African Union.
- To identify and discuss opportunities, challenges and solutions to facilitate the full user uptake and potential of Earth Observation in Africa including the latest technology such as cloud computing and integration with in-situ observation networks.
- To identify possibilities for enhancing the outreach to African users, including the development of applications downstream by private sector.
- To understand needs for capacity development for developing and transferring EO knowledge to African universities and institutions –e.g. with massive open online courses, training of trainers, academic curricula.

Panel members:

- Tidiane Ouattara, Space Science Expert and GMES & Africa Program Coordinator, African Union Commission
- Leonard Mizzi, head of unit for Rural development, Food Security and Nutrition at DG DEVCO, European Commission
- Emmanuel Nkurunziza, Director General at the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD)
- Gina Bonne, Officer in Charge - Environment and Climate Change Department at Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)
- Andiswa Mlisa, Managing Director Earth Observation at South African National Space Agency (SANSA)
- Andre Nonguierma, Chief of GISS section at UN Economic Commission of Africa (UNECA)
- Pierre Sibiry Traore, Director of Research and Development at Manobi
- Mohammed Bila, Expert Modeler at the Lake Chad Basin Commission
- Gerald Forkuor, Scientist at UNU-INRA (United Nations University –Institute for Natural Resource in Africa) and WASCAL

Panel agenda:

- Introduction by panel co-chairs: ESA, JRC
- 3 Lightening talks: UNECA, LCBC, UNU-IRA
- Moderated Panel Discussion: AUC, DG-DEVCO, IOC, MANOBI, RCMRD, SANSA, UNECA
- Open Discussion with the Audience: Full panel (facilitated with sli.do)
- Conclusion