

24th SYMPOSIUM ON SPACE POLICY, REGULATIONS AND ECONOMICS (E3)
National and International Space Policies and Programmes for African Development (1)

Author: Ms. Agnieszka Lukaszczyk
Secure World Foundation, Belgium, agnieszka.lukaszczyk@ec.europa.eu

SPACE POLICY - WHAT IS IT AND WHY EMERGING SPACE STATES NEED IT?

Abstract

In the past decade space faring States increased from 27 to 39 and there are more on the horizon who are aspiring to become players in the space arena. Space activities are no longer exclusive to the big players (USA, Russia, China), as it has become apparent that space technology can benefit the human kind in various areas such as health care, education, disaster management, food security, water management, navigation just to name a few. All regions of the world, including Africa, use space application to positively impact life of its citizens; however, to avoid ad hoc activities and assure responsible utilizations of the outer space proper policies and regulations need to be put in place.

This paper outlines the current situation in the space sector examining the current actors: States and the private sector and their relationship to one another. It will also look at the current international regime including the space treaties, various national space policies and strategies. Most importantly it will demonstrate that in order to assure the long term sustainability of the outer space and most benefits of space technologies to humanity, States must work towards the development of national space policies.