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Regional cooperation in space: policies, governance and legal tools (1)

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WHY REGIONAL COOPERATION IN SPACE ACTIVITIES IS PROPOSED FOR AFRICAN
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Abstract

African space activities are no longer in nascent state and in fact various countries unconsciously possess significant potential in space. In order to realize such latent capacities, it would be imperative to take stock of the heritage that the continent bears. Noting that many African economies are in the verge of transition, justifying such a costly and yet a lucrative venture as space industry in individual countries, could be an uphill task. The best approach to the issue would be concerting the currently fragmented efforts leveraging on intra-continental cooperation in order to not only attain a wider regional goal, but also to proportionately save on cost as a result of merging the economies of scale. As though in a similar vein, African Union Member States recently adopted the African Space Policy and Strategy seeking to guide and coordinate utilization and peaceful use of outer space by harmonizing various piecemeal initiatives to achieve a more focused objective. This paper seeks to drive a case that will justify why regional cooperation in space initiatives by African countries is still the viable option that could actually evolve to be the best practice.