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THE AFRICAN SPACE POLICY: TOWARDS CREATING PROGRAMMATIC SYNERGIES AND  
COMPLEMENTARITIES TO FOSTER AFRICA DEVELOPMENT

**Abstract**

Africa is a continent that has been ravaged by poverty, natural disasters and lack of technological development. Even though it is blessed with a lot of natural resources, the continent for a long time lacked mechanisms for resource mobilisation and a significant industrial sector. The agricultural sector which is supposed to form a significant portion of the continent's economies cannot cater for its citizens. Its inclusive economic growth and social development is, therefore, continually being hindered. Now, the Continent has come to realise that space science and technology, which most of its countries have failed to embrace with all seriousness, provides an ideal platform to support all facets of development; and that space and its different are effective tools for solving most of the problems that have ravaged the continent. Although, some countries in Africa have developed capabilities in space science and technology, and even have established space institutions, majority of the countries are lacking behind. There is also lack of continental space programmes like those found in Europe and other continents. Today, the continent has realised the need for adoption of a policy framework that will guide the implementation of a continental space programme to enable the continent to develop and exploit its space resources in a more coordinated and systematic manner with the overarching objective of contributing to its socio-economic development. This paper discuss in detail the main thrust of the African Space Policy.