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EU-AU SPACE PARTNERSHIP AND AGENDA 2030

Abstract

Since its adoption in 2015 by all Member States of the United Nations, the international community has been making efforts to meet the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Goal 17 – Partnerships for the Goals - stresses the need for partnerships among countries and organisations in attaining the SDGs. The partnership between Europe and Africa is one of such partnerships leading to global development.

This paper will present and discuss the space component of the European Union (EU) and African Union (AU) partnership, which was formally initiated in 2000, and how the space partnership is driving efforts towards the SDGs. The EU-AU partnership was formalised in 2007 with the adoption of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES). The partnership is implemented through diverse channels and mechanisms and has evolved over time in scope and focus, including in the space sector. The paper will present a multidimensional mapping of EU-AU space relations and its evolution over the past 20 years.

JAES and its attendant action plans, are updated at the triennial EU-AU Summits. The most recent Summit, the 6th in the series, was held from 17-18 February, 2022 where the heads of states and governments of the member states of the AU and the EU met in Brussels. This paper will also highlight the output of the Summit including the joint vision for a renewed partnership and investment, as well as highlight the potential impacts on regional and global development.