

IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Enabling the Future - Developing the Space Workforce (5)

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FILLING THE GAPS IN SPACE LEADERSHIP IN AFRICA

Abstract

The African Outer Space Programme is one of the flagship programmes of Agenda 2063 – Africa’s long-term framework for socio-economic development. As part of efforts to formalise the programme, the African Union (AU) established a Space Working Group in 2012, to draft the African Space Policy and Strategy. The African Heads of States and Governments adopted the documents in 2016, and thereafter established the African Space Agency (AfSA) in 2018. However, while developing these documents, it became apparent that there is a huge gap in the knowledge of space policy, strategy and law, in Africa. To fill these gaps, the African Space Leadership Institute (ASLI) was established in July 2022. This paper discusses the programmes and initiatives of ASLI, Africa’s first space-focused think tank. The mission of ASLI is to develop Africa’s capabilities and capacity in space policy, strategy, law, governance, and leadership in the African space landscape. Its educational and training programmes are aimed at developing the non-engineering knowledge and skills of Africa’s current leaders as well as developing future space leaders for the continent. This paper will outline the important work undertaken by ASLI on the African continent.