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THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED AFRICAN SPACE AGENCY'S ROLE IN ENSURING AFRICA'S
RESPONSIBILITY TO SPACE SUSTAINABILITY**Abstract**

With the enactment of the African Space Agency Act (AfSA) and operationalization of the African Space Agency, Africa now has a central coordinating institution to direct and facilitate continent-wide space behaviour. In this regard, the newly-operationalized space agency is well-positioned to develop and facilitate Africa's direction with regard to Space sustainability.

As a result, this paper will examine the role the African Space Agency can play in ensuring Africa's responsibility in its space affairs. It will draw inspiration from careful analyses of how other space agencies are developing, sustaining and enforcing sustainable space practices, including the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the European Space Agency (ESA), the Japanese Space Exploration Agency (JAXA) and others.

The paper will also explain why the notion of Space sustainability is particularly important for Africa, establishing a basis for the need to ensure global and African adherence to space sustainability. Unlike most developed countries where space sustainability is a call to action, for Africa, space sustainability is both a call to action and an important safeguard in achieving its primary space objective of leveraging space to improve the socioeconomic conditions of African citizens.