

## **STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS RESULTING FROM THE 12<sup>TH</sup> EUMETSAT USER FORUM IN AFRICA – V1 – MARCH 2018**

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

The 12<sup>th</sup> EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa was held in Kigali, Rwanda from 12 to 16 September 2016 formulated twenty-nine (29) recommendations. This document provides the status of implementation of these recommendations. Final status will be presented at the 13<sup>th</sup> EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa, which will take place from 24 to 28 September 2018 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. This document is based on the information available to EUMETSAT in February 2018. Each recommendation is referred to one of the session of the forthcoming Forum, which will allow the participants to further address the topic of the recommendation.

### **2 OVERVIEW OF THE STATUS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

The 29 recommendations were regrouped under six different themes:

1. EUMETSAT programme - recommendations #1 to #4
2. PUMA 2015, Data and RAIDEG - recommendations #5 and #10
3. Climate and SAWIDRA- recommendations #11 to #14
4. MESA and GMES&Africa - recommendations #15 to #19
5. Training activities - recommendations #20 to #24
6. Space and Earth Observation - recommendations #25 to #27
7. Other - recommendations #28 to #29

This paragraph presents a summary of the progress made under each theme.

#### ***1. EUMETSAT programmes - recommendations # 1 to #4***

The recommendations focus on the preparation for Meteosat Third Generation, whose first satellite is planned to be launched in 2021. Planning (roadmap) for a smooth transition from MSG to MTG is currently being set-up, and it will be necessary that the African meteorological community mobilise the necessary resources to implement this transition. Converging on a transition approach towards MTG and identifying necessary resources will be one of the priorities of the 13<sup>th</sup> EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa.

#### ***2. PUMA 2015 station, Data and RAIDEG - recommendations #5 and #10***

The deployment of all PUMA 2015 stations, in the framework of the MESA programme, was successfully completed in September 2016 and thus most of the recommendations have now been implemented. Approach for the future upgrade of the PUMA stations for visualisation of new products recently added to EUMETCast-Africa will be discussed at the 13<sup>th</sup> EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa.

#### ***3. Climate and SAWIDRA- recommendations #11 to #14***

All recommendations related to the SAWIDRA programme have been implemented, and the contract for the five SAWIDRA projects (one continental and four regional) are in place. Recommendation on the Climate programme was also taken into account by the new intra-ACP Climate Service and related applications programme, as well as many other projects and initiatives pertaining to the implementation of the GFCS at national level.

#### **4. MESA and GMES&Africa - recommendations #15 to #19**

The MESA programme ended in September 2017 and the GMES&Africa Support programme, which started in January 2017 took over. All recommendation regarding the transition between these two programmes and activities to be implemented in GMES&Africa have been implemented. An official hand-over ceremony between MESA and GMES&Africa took place in October 2017.

#### **5. Training activities - recommendations #20 to #24**

Efforts to implement the recommendations regarding on-line and integrated training are on-going. Most of the EUMETSAT-organised training sessions are now conceived with an on-line phase and are focused on application areas (e.g. nowcasting, marine, climate) integrating various data sets and partners. The recommendation to put in place a training programme (master level) in the area of NWP is still open.

#### **6. Space and Earth Observation - recommendations #25 to #27**

Following the adoption of the African Space Policy and Strategy at the AU Summit in 2016, all space-related activities in Africa are now governed by this policy and strategy. The recommendations of the last forum on Space and Earth observation was therefore brought to the attention of AUC and are dealt with within this new continental framework.

### **3 SYNTHESIS**

The following pages provide a detailed status of the recommendations based on the information available to EUMETSAT in February 2018. The various partners are kindly invited to provide additional information to EUMETSAT (email to [ufa@eumetsat.int](mailto:ufa@eumetsat.int)) on the status of the recommendations, to which they contribute. The detailed status of the recommendations will be regularly updated before the 13<sup>th</sup> EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa and presented during the introductory session.

The current status shows that numerous recommendation have been taken into account by the various partners:

- 16 recommendations are CLOSED (i.e. implemented)
- 10 recommendations are ON-GOING (i.e. activities towards implementation are on-going)
- 3 recommendations are OPEN (no activities undertaken or reported yet)

The table below summarises the status of all recommendation and relates them to the various sessions of the 13<sup>th</sup> EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa (UFA).

13 <sup>th</sup> UFA sessions	Session title	Status of recommendation		
		Closed	On-going	Open
Session 1	EUMETSAT programme	#5	#6	
Session 2	Africa programme and policies	#7, #8, #9, #15, #16, #17, #18, #29	#10, #25, #26	#27
Session 3	MTG Africa		#1, #2	#3, #4
Session 4	Climate monitoring & services	#13, #14,	#19	
Session 5	Training, research and data	#23, #24, #28	#20, #21, #22	
Session 6	Disaster Risk Reduction	#11, #12		

## **1. EUMETSAT programme – recommendations #1 to #4**

### **Recommendation #1 Roadmap for MTG Africa**

The Forum noted and discussed the results of the MTG Africa Preliminary Study (MAPS). The Forum recommended EUMETSAT, in close coordination with the RAIDEG, to:

- Consolidate the results of MAPS, notably the definition of the "African data sets" and "transition scenario" in line with the discussion held during the MTG Africa session of the Forum, in order to optimise both temporal and spatial resolutions of MTG data, within the current identified bandwidth allocation;
- Present at the next EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa a roadmap for the transition from MSG to MTG, highlighting the actions to be taken at NMHS level to prepare for and implement the transition. This roadmap shall also include user preparedness activities (inc. training on MTG data and products which will be disseminated on EUMETCast Africa).

**Status: ON-GOING**

**reference 13UFA - SESSION #3**

**Partners involved: EUMETSAT and RAIDEG**

- Status of preparation of MTG was presented during the 2018 annual session of the RAIDEG in November 2017 in Geneva
- Draft roadmap is currently being prepared and will be discussed during the next RAIDEG session and presented at the 13<sup>th</sup> EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa

### **Recommendation #2 MTG Africa and AMCOMET**

The Forum recommended AMCOMET Secretariat and AMCOMET Space Task Team, as part of their respective mandate to take into account the increase in capacity required for Africa to fully benefit from MTG (i.e. training, user station, EUMETCast bandwidth for data access) and to consider the MTG Africa roadmap that will be proposed by EUMETSAT and RAIDEG (see previous recommendation).

**Status: ON-GOING**

**reference 13UFA - SESSION #3**

**Partners involved: AMCOMET**

- The outcome of the 12th EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa was presented to the AMCOMET Bureau Meeting, at the occasion of the "AMCOMET Africa Hydromet Forum" held in Addis Ababa in September 2017;
- This recommendation will be brought to the attention of the AMCOMET Task Force on the African Space Programme at its next meeting in 2018 and to the Fourth Session of AMCOMET expected to take place in Q1 2019.

**Recommendation #3****MTG Africa – Resources mobilisation**

The Forum noted the bandwidth limitations and the efforts made by EUMETSAT to guarantee the continuity of an optimum satellite geostationary service to Africa.

The Forum recommended:

- to the NMHS to mobilise resources for upgrade of their user stations (e.g. PUMA), the related infrastructure (e.g. processing chains) and the EUMETCast bandwidth, all required to access broader data sets and make best use of MTG data when available;
- to AMCOMET and AUC to support the NMHS in their resources mobilisation to prepare for the reception of MTG data in Africa;
- to EU and ACP Secretariat to include the relevant components in future EC-funded projects such as GMES&Africa or GFCS ACP.

**Status: OPEN****reference 13UFA - SESSION #3****Partners involved: NMHS –AMCOMET – AUC – ACP Secretariat**

No concrete actions reported yet towards the implementation of this recommendation. This will be further discussed during the 13<sup>th</sup> EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa.

**Recommendation #4****MTG and North Africa**

The Forum recommended EUMETSAT to support NMHSs of North Africa to be ready for the acquisition of MTG data, products and services in a timeframe simultaneous to that of the European NMHSs by creating links between NMHSs North Africa and the preparatory programme focused on European NMHSs (MTG-Up).

**Status: OPEN****reference 13UFA - SESSION #3****Partners involved: EUMETSAT**

This recommendation has not been implemented yet. Considering the state of progress, EUMETSAT is envisaging to have a dedicated meeting with NMHS of North Africa in the months following the 13<sup>th</sup> UFA, once some MTG programmatic aspects have been consolidated. The planning for such a meeting will be discussed during the 13<sup>th</sup> EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa.

**2. PUMA 2015 station, Data and RAIDEG - recommendations #5 and #10****Recommendation #5****MET-8 image display on PUMA 2015**

The Forum noted the move of MET-8 over the Indian Ocean (41.5 degree East), which will provide improved services over a large part of Africa. It recommended EUMETSAT and AUC (MESA) to ensure that the PUMA 2015 stations will be able to display the MET-8 images over the Indian Ocean.

**Status: CLOSED****reference 13UFA - SESSION #1****Partners involved: EUMETSAT - AUC**

A software upgrade was disseminated in order to ensure display of MET-8 images over the Indian Ocean. (The display of MET-8 meteorological products requires a new software update)

**Recommendation #6****PUMA 2015 upgrade for new products**

The Forum noted the improvement provided by the PUMA 2015 station with respect to the PUMA 2010. It noted also that products provided through EUMETCast are continuously enhanced. The Forum also noted that some of the new products are not processed neither displayed by the PUMA 2015 station. The Forum therefore recommended AUC to explore timely upgrade of the PUMA 2015 stations, in order to integrate the new products or to improve the production tools for forecasters, through the MESA project, or, if not feasible, through the follow-on GMES&Africa project.

**Status: ON-GOING****reference 13UFA - SESSION #1****Partners involved: EUMETSAT, AUC**

A PUMA software upgrade was delivered in September 2017 and provided some improvement with the visualisation of additional data and products (inc. model outputs). EUMETSAT continues to discuss with RAIDEG on possible further improvements, and will investigate the possibility to have a new SW update in the course of 2019.

**Recommendation #7****Deployment of PUMA 2015 stations**

Noting the difficulties in some countries with regard to custom formalities for the importation of new PUMA 2015 stations, despite the renewed efforts of the national beneficiaries, the Forum recommended MESA programme (AUC and RICs) to contact again the concerned countries to remind them about the Cotonou agreement ruling the import rules, insisting on the importance of the station for those countries.

**Status: CLOSED****reference 13UFA - SESSION #1****Partners involved: AUC**

All PUMA 2015 stations were deployed by September 2017.

**Recommendation #8****PUMA 2015 displayed information**

The Forum recommended AUC to ensure that the contractor in charge of deployment of the PUMA 2015 stations verifies that all contractual products/data can be displayed immediately as of first day of installation.

In addition, the Forum recommended NMHS to strengthen their communication network to ensure that data received through the PUMA 2015 stations are also made available to other national institutions.

<b>Status: CLOSED</b>	<b>reference 13UFA - SESSION #1</b>
<b>Partners involved: AUC, NMHS</b>	
All PUMA 2015 stations deployed can display the data and products that were planned as part of the contract.	

### **Recommendation #9**

#### **Togo Antenna**

The Forum recommended AGRHYMET to support the NMHS of Togo to acquire and install a new antenna and LNB that will allow their new PUMA 2015 station to receive EUMETCast data.

<b>Status: CLOSED</b>	<b>reference 13UFA - SESSION #1</b>
<b>Partners involved: AGRHYMET, NMHS Togo</b>	
The NMHS of Togo has locally procured an antenna to feed their PUMA 2015 and MESA stations with data and products disseminated through EUMETCast-Africa.	

### **Recommendation #10**

#### **RAIDEG focal points**

Noting the formal adoption by the WMO Regional Association of RAIDEG to coordinate regional data requirements<sup>1</sup>, the Forum recommended RA-I Permanent Representatives with WMO to nominate Focal points, as already invited by the Regional Association I President, to interact with their RAIDEG regional representative in order to better address the African community user's needs. In particular, Focal points will be asked to comment on the access and utilisation of data currently disseminated to and within Africa, on any training requirements and recommendations to WMO regional association I, and on programme implementation structure. This should be done by December 2016 to enable RAIDEG to consult regions prior to the next RAIDEG meeting.

The Forum further recommended AUC and RAIDEG to ensure that data needs of the MESA RICs and future GMES&Africa RICs, are also identified during the RAIDEG processes.

<b>Status: ON-GOING</b>	<b>reference 13UFA - SESSION #1</b>
<b>Partners involved: RAIDEG, WMO RA-I</b>	
Only a few NMHS have officially nominated their point of contact for the RAIDEG. The 13 <sup>th</sup> EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa will be the opportunity to remind all NMHS that their needs for additional/new data&products for meteorological purpose shall be channelled through the RAIDEG.	
Furthermore, the African Union and the European Commission have organised a workshop in Accra, Ghana in February 2018 to discuss the data needs of the new GMES&Africa RICs.	

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/sat/ra1-expertgroup-intro.php>

### **3. Climate and SAWIDRA**

#### **Recommendation #11**

##### **Implementation of SAWIDRA**

The Forum noted the delays taking place in the formalisation of the agreements for the implementation of the SAWIDRA continental and regional projects. The Forum recommended AfDB and AUC to expedite the signature of the contracts with the SAWIDRA implementation centres: ACMAD, ICPAC, AGRHYMET, SADC-CSC and ECCAS (for the SAWIDRA Central Africa). The Forum further recommended ECCAS to focus the SAWIDRA resources exclusively on project-related activities, aiming at increasing technical capacities within the centre and delivering information and services to the Member States, through their NMHSs.

**Status: CLOSED**

**reference 13UFA - SESSION #6**

**Partners involved: AfDB**

All SAWIDRA projects have started. Status of the projects will be reported during the 13<sup>th</sup> EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa.

#### **Recommendation #12**

##### **Climate Regional Centre – Central Africa and SAWIDRA**

The Forum noted the Kigali Declaration in support to the Climatic Application and Prediction Centre for Central Africa (CAPC-AC), signed on the eve of the 12<sup>th</sup> EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa, recommended to the Forum participants, notably those from the ECCAS and CEMAC member states to bring this declaration to the attention of their Ministers in charge of meteorology.

The Forum acknowledged the efforts of ECCAS in setting up the CAPC-AC and further calls upon ECCAS and its Member states to continue providing the necessary human and financial resources for the operationalisation of the centre.

The Forum requests the Africa Development Bank and other partners to enhance their support to ECCAS to make so that the centre becomes operational as soon as possible.

**Status: CLOSED**

**reference 13UFA - SESSION #4**

**Partners involved: AfDB, ECCAS**

The ministers in charge of Meteorology of the ECCAS member states met in October 2017 in Congo-Brazzaville and took important decisions for the operationalisation of the CAPC-AC, notably the approval of the rules and procedures of the Centre, as well as the procedure to designate its Executive Secretary and its deputy.

**Recommendation #13****Benefits of climate services**

The Forum took note that the NMHSs and service providers in the context of MESA start to take steps in working on measuring the socio-economic benefits of different services they are providing including through the availability of new Earth observation products.

The Forum recommended EUMETSAT to invite at the next upcoming Forum countries that have implemented climate services for any specific application, to share their experience in the implementation process and to describe the impacts on the respective service beneficiaries.

**Status: CLOSED****reference 13UFA - SESSION #4****Partners involved: EUMETSAT**

The programme of the 13<sup>th</sup> EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa includes a full session on Climate Services. The NMHS that have already implemented climate services will have the opportunity to present their experience and implementation process, and to describe the impact of these services.

**Recommendation #14****Climate related projects**

The Forum recommended that climate related projects should support the implementation of regional and global targets, such as the integrated African Strategy on Meteorology (Climate and weather services), the Paris agreement, the African regional strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and its programme of action, the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction, the draft Africa Climate Change strategy, the High level work programme on Climate Action in Africa, and the SDGs and agenda 2063.

**Status: CLOSED****reference 13UFA - SESSION #4****Partners involved: EUMETSAT**

In November 2017, the European Development Fund Committee approved a new “intra-ACP climate services and related application” programme aiming at supporting the implementation of Climate services and related applications, at regional level and national level, in support to the Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology and the SDGs. The operational implementation of this programme should start in 2019.

Furthermore, several projects are being discussed in various fora. The WMO and the World Bank organised the second Development Partner Roundtable on 21-22 March 2018 in Geneva, during which several programmes pertaining to support the implementation of regional and global targets were reported or presented.



#### **4. MESA and GMES&Africa**

##### **Recommendation #15**

##### **Transition between MESA and GMES & Africa**

The Forum recommended AUC and EC to expedite the signature of the G&A agreement to ensure a smooth transition between the MESA and the GMES&Africa project, without gaps at regional level. The Forum also recommended AUC to expedite the setting up of the G&A regional Grants, and to ensure that the MESA achievements are consolidated, that the networks already developed are strengthened and that they build on existing capacities and further strengthen the existing African expertise, institutional memory, systems organisation, etc., essential to a successful start and implementation of the GMES&Africa, and long term sustainability.

The Forum also recommended the AUC, in charge of implementing GMES&Africa, to ensure that all relevant AU departments are involved in the implementation and coordination of GMES&Africa, depending of the thematic areas.

Forum noted that G&S does not include weather and climate services. The Forum recommended to EC and ACP Secretariat to ensure that the MESA Climate Services achievement are consolidated and further strengthened as part of the GFCS ACP project to be formulated in the coming months.

**Status: CLOSED**

**reference 13UFA - SESSION #2**

**Partners involved: AUC, EC**

The GMES&Africa agreement between the African Union Commission and the European Commission was signed at the end of 2016. The call for Grant proposals was issued at the beginning of 2017, and a Grant Award Ceremony was organised in Abidjan in November 2017 during the EU-African Summit.

An official Hand Over ceremony was held in October 2017 at the African Union Commission Headquarter in Addis Ababa between the MESA and GMES&Africa teams. This ceremony marked the successful implementation of the transfer plan between MESA and GMES&Africa.

Finally, the new European Development Fund (EDF) intra-ACP Programme on Climate Services and related applications has made provision for the continuation and strengthening of the Climate services developed during MESA.

**Recommendation #16****NMHSs involvement into MESA National Networks**

The Forum recommended the MESA RICs to consolidate the MESA national networks including optimal integration of NMHSs' technical, weather and climate expertise; so that countries are in a position to sustain these MESA national networks once the MESA project is finished.

**Status: CLOSED****reference 13UFA - SESSION #2****Partners involved: MESA RIC**

The MESA project was concluded in September 2017, and RICs have supported the implementation or strengthening of national networks. It is now up to each country to pursue the MESA effort and sustain this national network, in order to ensure an optimal use of the EO capacities in their region in support to the various national policies.

**Recommendation #17****In-situ data for validation of EO products**

The Forum recommended future projects to take into account the needs in validation of satellite products/services, in particular the in-situ equipments required for this validation.

**Status: CLOSED****reference 13UFA - SESSION #2****Partners involved: N/A**

The needs to validate EO products with in-situ measurements is a well-known concern. Several projects (GMES&Africa, intra-ACP Climate Services) have taken this aspect into consideration. In the case of GMES&Africa, it was left to each RIC to include (or not) in-situ measurements as part of their Grant proposal. In the case of intra-ACP CS, strengthening the in-situ component is part of the expected results.

**Recommendation #18****Regional and National Services**

The Forum recommended to projects such as MESA and SAWIDRA to fully take into account the national mandate of the NMHS notably in the area of issuing warnings. It therefore recommended to project implementation centres, with the support of AUC and AMCOMET, to involve NMHS in the project activities in order to ensure projects impact at national level, and to properly define boundaries between regional activities and national mandates.

The Forum recommended NMHS to ensure that support from these projects to setting-up or strengthening national warning systems are sustained at national level.

The Forum also recommended the intra-ACP project Disaster Resilience for sub-Saharan Africa (coordinated by AUC) to ensure, in close coordination with SADC, that Comores can benefit from the SAWIDRA project.

**Status: CLOSED****reference 13UFA - SESSION #6****Partners involved: MESA, SAWIDRA**

The regional centres will report at the Forum about the implementation of the SAWIDRA project (MESA is closed), and explain in which way the NMHS are involved and will benefit from the implementation of these projects.

**Recommendation #19****Development tools for climate data sets**

The Forum recommends that future projects, such as GFCS ACP, related to Africa Climate services includes the development of tools to better distribute, disseminate, receive and interpret climate data sets.

**Status: ON-GOING****reference 13UFA - SESSION #2****Partners involved: N/A**

The intra-ACP programme on Climate services and related applications include an expected result on access to climate data, and one on the processing and distribution. Implementation details are currently being discussed among the various partners involved in this programme.

**5. Training activities****Recommendation #20****On-line training**

The Forum noted that the satellite online training tends to be aimed at a higher level of skill than what most participants have. The Forum recommended EUMETSAT and training partners to consider how to bridge this learning gap. This might include training local experts to support people to bridge the gap.

**Status: ON-GOING****reference 13UFA - SESSION #5****Partners involved: EUMETSAT**

This recommendation will be fully taken into account during the annual ASMET meeting in March 2018. Outcomes will be presented/discussed at the next Forum.

**Recommendation #21****Integrated training**

Noting that (i) data sets are used in combination in the forecasting process; (ii) the requirement for more training on NWP and (iii) the existing training programs such as those facilitated by collaborating NMHSs, VLab and SWFDP, the Forum recommended WMO Secretariat to facilitate a process to enable the relevant parties to engage with each other and move to more integrated training, which must be practically focused.

**Status: ON-GOING****reference 13UFA - SESSION #5****Partners involved: WMO**

The integrated training is discussed during the ASMET annual meeting in March 2018, notably in the preparation of the course on integrated use of NWP and Satellite information in forecasting Convection and Fog. The need for an integrated approach is now systematically taken into account in EUMETSAT training courses.

**Recommendation #22****Specialised training for NWP**

The Forum noted that the new technologies implemented within initiatives for the use of EPS meteorological satellite data in support to the production of numerical weather prevision (NWP), e.g. the SAWIDRA project, require a substantial update of African expertise. The Forum recommended AMCOMET, WMO and AUC in the framework of their own mandate of capacity building to rapidly put in place a specialised training programme (e.g. masters) involving African training centres, in close relationship with relevant international partners.

**Status: ON-GOING****reference 13UFA - SESSION #5****Partners involved: WMO**

A concept note was prepared on this specialised training programme. But there is currently a lack of support to implement such a specialised training programme.

**Recommendation #23****Copernicus Marine Products training**

The Forum noted the interest in the Copernicus marine data, and recommended EUMETSAT to facilitate access to Copernicus marine data and to provide training in the use of Copernicus marine products in both the English and French languages.

**Status: CLOSED****reference 13UFA - SESSION #5****Partners involved: EUMETSAT**

The access to Copernicus Marine data was facilitated through the dissemination of Sentinel-3 marine products through EUMETCast-Africa. Furthermore, a marine training session was organised in 2017 in Ghana in English language. Such training will be repeated annually.

**Recommendation #24**  
**Climate SAF training**

The Forum noted the interest in Climate SAF and recommended to EUMETSAT, in close collaboration with the Regional training centres and Regional climate centres, to provide training in the use of climate products in both the English and French languages.

**Status: CLOSED****reference 13UFA - SESSION #5****Partners involved: EUMETSAT**

A training on the Climate SAF data was organised in 2017 in Pretoria, South Africa, with participants from various countries in Africa. Such training will be repeated in the future, and might be also supported through the intra-ACP Climate Service programme.

**6. Space and Earth Observation****Recommendation #25****African Space Strategy Implementation Plan and existing initiatives**

The Forum recommended to the AU Space Working Group and the AMCOMET Space Task Team to take into account, during the drafting and implementation of the African Space Strategy Implementation Plan, existing initiatives and projects such as RAIDEG, AfriGEOSS, MESA, GMES&Africa and SAWIDRA, in order to ensure technological and thematic coherence, in particular in the area of meteorology and climate, optimise mutual benefits and synergies and ensure contribution of Earth observation to development goals.

The Forum recommended that the plan ensure synergies between Earth observation initiatives and other continental priorities and programme (e.g. food security and PIDA).

**Status: ON-GOING****reference 13UFA - SESSION #2****Partners involved: AUC**

Following the approval of the African Space Policy and Strategy, African countries are discussing the Implementation Plan of the Space Strategy. This recommendation was brought to the attention of the African Union Commission, who acts as Secretariat of the African Space Working Group.

**Recommendation #26****EO data acquisition, dissemination and sharing**

The Forum recommended AUC, AMCOMET, WMO and GEO, in the framework of the African Space Policy and Strategy, to come up with a continental policy for the acquisition, dissemination and sharing of EO data and other in-situ relevant data.

**Status: ON-GOING****reference 13UFA - SESSION #2****Partners involved: AUC, AMCOMET, WMO and GEO**

Acquisition, dissemination and sharing of EO data is the subject of various seminars and meetings organised by different institutions. For example, the GMES&Africa programme has discussed these aspects during a workshop in Accra, Ghana in February 2018. This topic is also a recurring agenda item of the annual AfriGEOSS Workshop.

**Recommendation #27****Development of African-made added-value products**

The Forum noted that the current and the future EUMETSAT programmes (e.g. MTG, EPS-SG, etc.) would provide continuous satellite data coverage of African until 2040. This long-term perspective is also an opportunity for the user community in Africa to invest in the development of African-made derived added-value products, which will benefit all African countries. Such development should be made building on existing African regional and national capacities, in line with the Integrated African strategy on Meteorology and the African Space Policy and Strategy. The Forum therefore recommended AMCOMET Secretariat, its Space Task Team and AUC to further explore this possibility and report at the next EUMETSAT user Forum in Africa.

**Status: OPEN****reference 13UFA - SESSION #2****Partners involved: AMCOMET, Space Task team**

Although projects such as GMES&Africa encourage the development of African-made added-value products in the area of Marine and Coastal environment monitoring, Natural Resources and Water management, based on available Earth observation infrastructure (satellite missions), the AMCOMET Task Force on the African Space Programme has not yet addressed this recommendation.

## **7. Other**

### **Recommendation #28 Participations to Fora**

The Forum recommended EUMETSAT, with the support of RIC and PR with WMO, to encourage Universities, other institutions, and users to take part in the next EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa and other relevant Forum (e.g. the MESA Forum) in order for them to share their experiences and requirements in using EO products.

**Status: CLOSED** **reference 13UFA - SESSION #5**  
**Partners involved: EUMETSAT**

The theme “Research” has been explicitly introduced in the sessions of the 13<sup>th</sup> EUMETSAT user Forum and the call for papers and presentations will be largely distributed. EUMETSAT will welcome proposal from Universities and research institutions for presentations at the Forum.

### **Recommendation #29 Hydromet Africa programme**

Noting the opportunity provided by the Africa Hydromet Programme Framework, signed in June 2015 during WMO Congress-17 between the World Bank, African Development Bank and the WMO; the Forum recommended that the partnership make the necessary consultations to ensure that the needs of NMHSs and RCC are taken into consideration.

**Status: CLOSED** **reference 13UFA - SESSION #5**  
**Partners involved: WB, AfDB, and WMO**

Several African NMHS participated to the Development Partners Roundtable organised by WMO and the World Bank on 21-22 March 2018 in Geneva, during which they were in a position to express their needs. ACMAD was also present and could describe the need of the RCC during this meeting.