



# Update on the African Outer Space Programme

EUMETSAT User  
Forum in Africa

Cotonou, Benin  
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H.E. Dr Tidiane Ouattara

President

Space Council of the African Space Agency

African Union

# THE AFRICAN OUTER SPACE PROGRAM: A **FLAGSHIP** OF THE AFRICAN UNION

*For an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena*



# AFRICAN SPACE POLICY AND STRATEGY



- Well-coordinated and integrated African space Programme that is responsive to the social, economic, political and environmental needs of the continent, as well as being globally competitive.
- Regulatory framework that supports an African space Programme and ensures that Africa is a responsible and peaceful user of outer space.
- Space-derived products and services used for decision-making and addressing the economic, political, social and environmental challenges.
- An indigenous space capability, both in the private and public sectors, that defines a coordinated, effective and innovative African-led space Programme

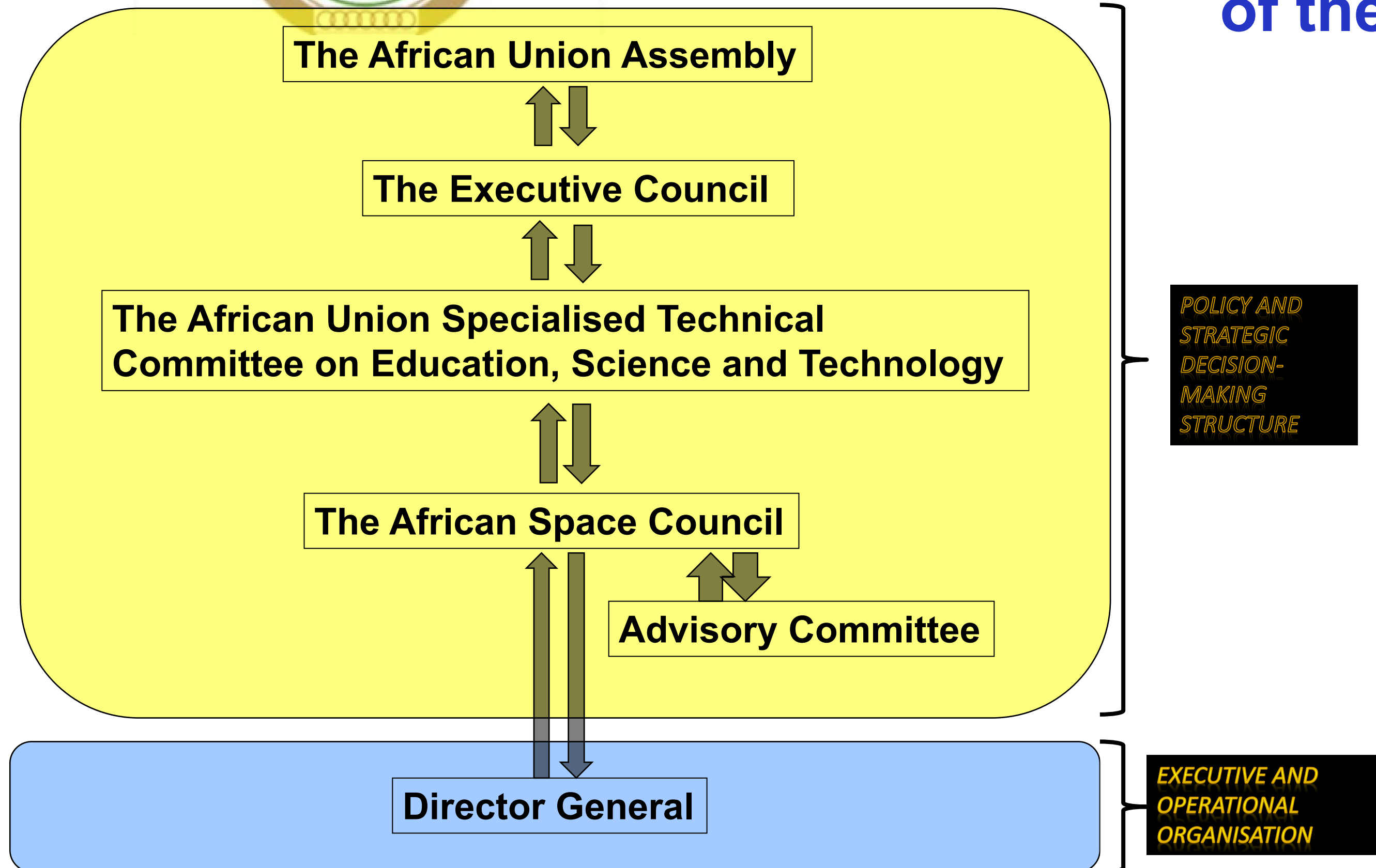
# I. ACHIEVEMENTS ON THE GOVERNANCE

## **THE AFRICAN SPACE AGENCY**

- African Space Council elected on February 15, 2024
- Operationalization of the African Space Agency



# The African Space Agency is an ORGAN of the African Union





**PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL**

**CHAIRPERSON OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL**

**DIRECTOR GENERAL**

**Monitoring & Evaluation**

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL**

Space Systems IT

General IT Support

Legal Affairs

Facility Management

Security

**Directorate of Corporate Service**

**Human Resources**

**Finance**

**Procurement**

**Directorate of Policy & External Relations**

Strategic planning, Cooperation, partnership & Liaison

Policy & Strategy

Communication & Outreach

**Directorate of Space Applications**

Earth Observation Program

Satellite Communication Program

Navigation & Positioning Program

Astronomy, Space Exploration & Outer Space Science Program

**Directorate of Space Operation & technology**

Safety, Mission Planning & Assurance

Systems, Robotics, Space Infrastructure Management

Assembly, Integration & Testing

**Directorate of Innovation, Research & Development**

Space industry & Business Development

Capacity, Learning & Skills development

Knowledge Management

**AUC Internal Audit**

Audit

# Elected African Space Council members



**Dr Tidiane  
Ouattara**

(Cote d'Ivoire)  
(President)



**Thandikile  
Chisala  
Mbvundula**

(Malawi)  
(vice president)

10  
MEMBERS  
including the  
President and  
the Vice  
President.



**Dr Lisho  
Mundia**

(Namibia)



**Amal  
Layachi**

(Morocco)



**Dr Rakiya  
Babamaaji**

(Nigeria)



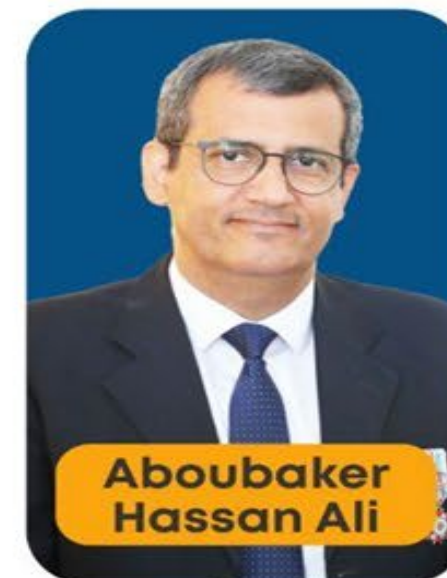
**Fernand Guy Isséri**

(Cameroon)



**Dr Éliane  
Ubalijoro**

(Rwanda)



**Aboubaker  
Hassan Ali**

(Djibouti)



**Amin  
Mestar**

(Algeria)

Remaining  
woman member  
from Central  
Africa in  
February 2025.

The African Space Council shall function as **the governance and supervisory body of AfSA**, mandated to ensure alignment between the Agency's activities and AU's broader policy objectives. As provided in the AfSA Statute, **the Council will be responsible for approving strategic plans, budgets, policies, and regulations, establishing the Advisory Committee and appointing the Director General** thereby fortifying AfSA's contributions to AU Agenda 2063.

# Non-Elected Members of the African Space Council members

**The following Representatives of the Commission shall be Members of the Council with no voting rights**

- i. Commissioner for Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (ESTI) or his/her representative;
- ii. Commissioner of Infrastructure and Energy or his/her representative;
- iii. Commissioner of Peace and Security or his/her representative;
- iv. Commissioner of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Environment (ARBE) or his/her representative;
- v. Two (2) Representatives of the Bureau of the Chairperson (Director of Communications and the Legal Counsel of the African Union).

**N.B.: The Director General of AfSA shall serve as the Secretary of the Council.**

## **INVITEE BUT NOT MEMBER**

The Chairperson of the Advisory Committee shall be invited to attend the African Space Council meetings.



# Advisory Committee

- To provide necessary advice to the Council.
- **The Advisory Committee shall comprise of the following:**
  - i. Five (5) Director Generals of the National Space Agencies of Member States, one (1) from each of the five (5) geographic regions of the African Union based on the principle of rotation and geographic representation, [the selection shall be done at each region and the nominees shall be communicated to the Commission.](#)
  - ii. One representative of the eight (8) RECs recognized by the African Union, for a term of two years on a rotational basis. [The Commission shall lead that process for the selection of RECs.](#)
  - iii. Two (2) experts from the academia admitted through the African Academy of Sciences and whose membership shall be drawn from the five (5) regions of the African Union, based on the principle of rotation and geographic representation.
  - iv. Four (4) Chief Executive Officers of four (4) African private sector entities, each representing one of the four space sectors, namely Earth Observation, Satellite Communication, Navigation, and Space & Astronomy
- **The Director General of AfSA shall serve as a secretary of the Advisory Committee.**
- [The Chairperson of the Advisory committee shall be elected among the five \(5\) Directors Generals of the National Space Agencies of Member states](#), on rotational bases and geographical distribution for a two (2) years term.
- The term of office of the Members of the Advisory Committee shall be three (3) years term renewable once.

# II. ACHIEVEMENTS ON THE PROGRAMMATIC ASPECT OF THE AFRICAN OUTER SPACE PROGRAMME



## Several studies done to build the RATIONAL of the African Space Agency's Sectoral Programmes and activities

- 3 studies on (Earth Observation private sector in Africa, Socio-economic study including Earth Observation, SatCom, Astronomy & Space Science and Academia)

## Capacity Building

- More than 10,000 African experts and young trained through GMES & Africa, hackathon, etc.
- Several Centres, Laboratories and training institutions equipped (RCMRD, OSS, etc.), 12 Earth Data reception stations (E-Stations) installed in 11 countries).

## Awareness and Outreach

- Continental events: AARSE Conference, AfricaGIS, NewSpace Africa Conference
- Africa-USA Space Forum in the margins of Africa-USA Summit, G20 Space Economy Leaders Meeting, etc.

## International Cooperation

- AU-EU Agreements for Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) & Africa phases 1 and 2 and on COPERNICUS Data access. --- AU-EU Space Dialogue – ***New AU-EU Space cooperation programme***
- Agreements signed with Centre National d'Études Spatiales (CNES - France) and EUMETSAT and letter of intent with the European Space Agency for Capacity building (Infrastructure and training - R&D - Technical support for EO data accessing and processing).
- **In progress:** GMES & African phase 3, USA, China, India, Australia, Brazil, etc.



**GMES  
AND AFRICA**



## GMES & Africa: The Programme

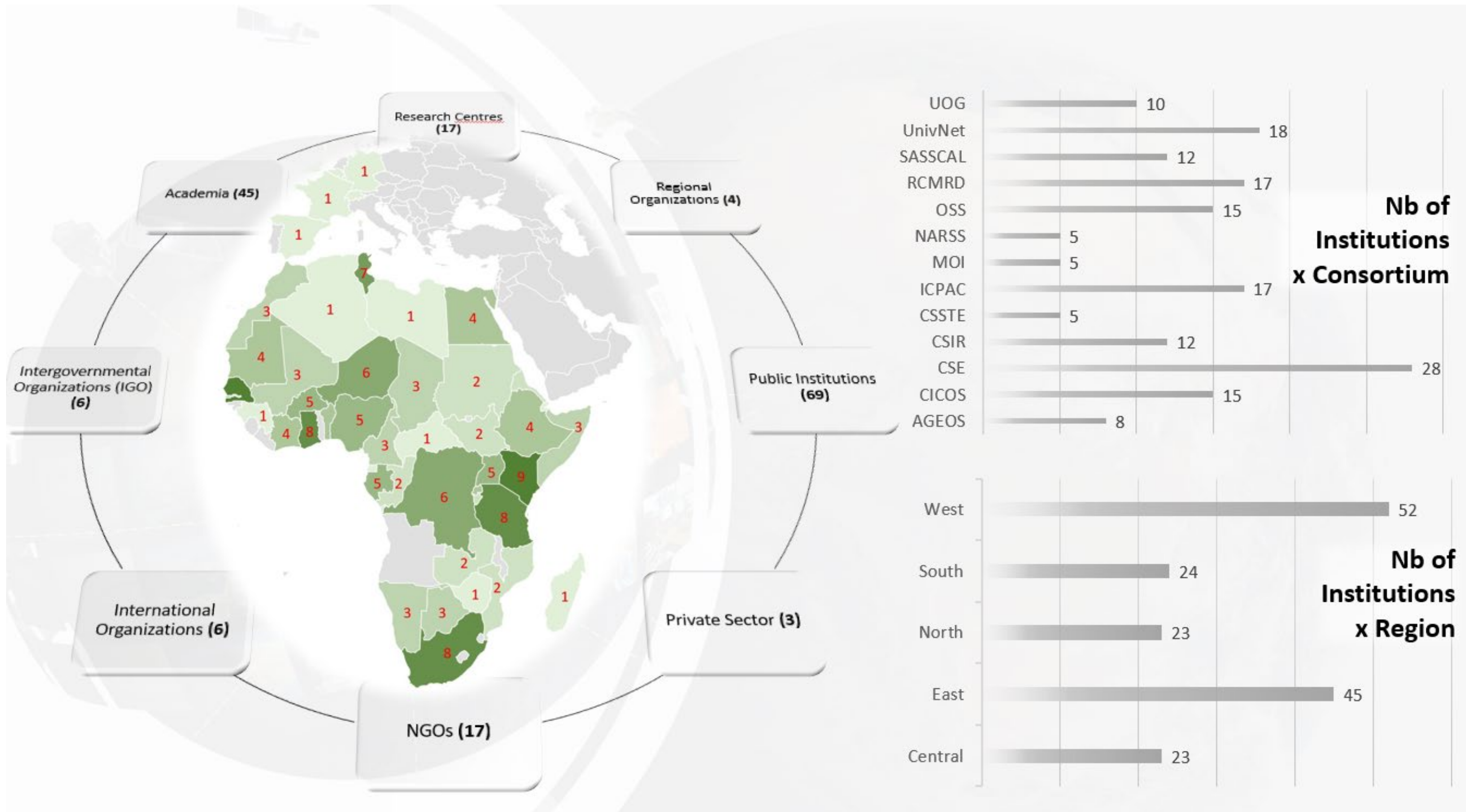
### Impacting Africa :

- Monitoring Oil Pollution
- Potential Fisheries areas
- Monitoring Land Degradation
- Monitoring Wetlands
- Flood – Inundation
- Ocean State Forecasts:
- Saving Lives & Properties
- Navigability
- etc





## GMES & Africa...A Pan African Community



**GMES and Africa :**  
**Phase 1 et Phase 2:**  
**167 Institutions**



# GMES AND AFRICA



## GMES & Africa...A Community of Practice

2/8 GMES Geoportals are dealing with Marine and Coastal

- CSE (Dakar)**  
1 Geoportal  
<http://gdzhao.gmes.cse.sn/>  
(Water & Natural Resources) (Western Africa)
- OSS (Tunis)**  
2 Geo Portals  
<http://misland.oss-online.org>  
<http://misbar.oss-online.org>  
(Water & Natural Resources) (Northern Africa)
- RCMRD (Nairobi)**  
1 Geoportal  
<https://gmesgeoportal.rcmrd.org>  
(Water & Natural Resources) (Eastern Africa)
- UOG-RMC (Accra)**  
1 Geoportal  
<http://geoportal.gmes.ug.edu.gh/>  
(Marine & Coastal) (Western and Northern Africa)
- ICPAC (Nairobi)**  
1 Geoportal  
<http://gmes.icpac.net/data-center>  
(Water & Natural Resources) (Eastern Africa)
- SASSCAL (Windhoek)**  
1 Geoportal  
<http://gmes-geoportal.sasscal.org>  
(Water & Natural Resources) (Southern Africa)
- CSIR (Pretoria)**  
1 Geoportal  
<https://marcosio.org/>  
(Marine & Coastal) (Southern & South-West Indian Ocean Africa)

### Geoportals

**Numbers**

- 4932 participants
- 18899 days of training
- 100 training delivered
- 46 scholars (Masters)

**Tools**

- 1 distance learning platform (hosted by AUC)

**Network**

- Francophone and Anglophone Universities

**Documents**

- Training Strategy
- Training Catalogue (Identification of needs)
- Mapping of ex...

Training main achievements

### Digital Learning Platform (DLP)



### Women in GMES



### GMES Network for flood and Wetland



### GMES Network of Academia



### Incubator / Accelerator

# MERCI



**African Space Agency**  
**AFRICAN UNION**  
**Cairo, Egypt**

