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TH USER FORUM IN AFRICA
ÈME FORUM DES USAGERS EN AFRIQUE



FIRST INFORMATION PACKAGE

**17th EUMETSAT USER FORUM
IN AFRICA**
5-9 October 2026
Eswatini



KINGDOM OF ESWATINI
MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS





WELCOME

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

We are pleased to enclose the first Information Package for the Plenary Sessions of the 17th EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa, which provides information about the Forum, its preliminary programme and the registration process for participants.

The 17th EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa is organised in collaboration with the **Eswatini Meteorological Service**.

As in the past, the Forum will be an opportunity for constructive exchanges with our users. For this purpose, we warmly encourage you to indicate to us your intention to contribute, firstly, by registering as soon as possible, and at the latest **by 30 June 2026**, and secondly by taking advantage of the various means that are offered for you to intervene:

- Call for contributions (presentations and posters) for various sessions of the Forum
- Demonstration of your project, software, or products in the exhibition part
- Participations to the working groups that will take place in several sessions

A second Information Package will be sent to registered participants in July 2026. It will include updates on practical information as well as the final detailed programme.

The Technical Sessions of the 17th EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa will take place online on 10-11 June 2026. A separate information note will be provided for these technical sessions.

Furthermore, the dedicated Forum website will be updated regularly with practical information (e.g. hotel, visa, etc.). Please visit the website <http://ufa.eumetsat.int> for the most up-to-date information.

We look forward to seeing you in Eswatini for the 17th EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa!

The 17th UFA Organising Committee

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CONTENT

This document provides information related to the Plenary Sessions of the 17th EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa that will take place from 5 to 9 October 2026 in Eswatini.

It includes information on:

- how to register for the 17th EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa – Plenary Sessions;
- the eligibility criteria and the process for receiving financial support;
- conferences services, including accommodation, lunches, and dinners)
- how to obtain your entry visa; as well as information related to required vaccinations;
- a preliminary programme;
- a description of the exhibition area;
- a call for contributions (presentations and posters) related to various sessions of the Forum and its submission form.

All the information is also available on the 17th EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa website: <http://ufa.eumetsat.int>.



Overall presentation

The purpose of the EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa is to sustain the well-established dialogue between EUMETSAT and the African user community, in particular the National Meteorological Services and their regional centres.

The overall objective is to facilitate the access and use of data from EUMETSAT's operated satellites (incl. Meteosat, Metop, and Sentinels) to support decision making across various socio-economic sectors.

The Forum provides the opportunity to exchange on various project and initiatives, identify actions that could be taken by EUMETSAT and its partners to better meet the requirements of the African users, and support the implementation of the Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology (Weather and Climate Services).

The 17th EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa focuses on:

- The online technical sessions on 10-11 June 2026 target weather forecasters and climatologists using satellite data. It will discuss the new PUMA and ClimSA stations as well as the initial implementation of the AMSAF (African Meteorological Satellite Application Facility) in support to African Early Warning systems.
- The plenary sessions on 5-9 October 2026 will bring together representatives from the NMHS, Regional centres, policy institutions as well as European and international partners, to discuss ongoing and potential new initiatives in key strategic areas. The discussion will revolve around the use of Meteosat Third Generation, the establishment of the AMSAF and satellite's data contribution to Early Warning systems. It will also include a session dedicated to the EU-funded Global Gateway "Strengthening Early Warning in Africa" (SEWA) project, jointly implemented by EUMETSAT, ECWMF and the African Union Commission. Participants to the Forum will also delve into the satellite's contribution to other priorities of the Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology and Agenda 2063, including Agrometeorology, Hydrology, Air Quality, and Blue Economy.

Registration for the Forum

If you wish to attend the 17th EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa, you are invited to register online at <https://ufa.eumetsat.int/Registration>. Please complete your registration by **30 June 2026**.

If you experience any difficulties with the online registration process, please contact the Organising Committee for assistance: ufa@eumetsat.int.

Financial support for participants

In order to facilitate the widest possible attendance, EUMETSAT is prepared to financially support the participation of one attendee per African country (WMO Regional Association I), to be officially designated by the country's Permanent Representative with WMO, and one attendee per invited regional organisation. Financial support is also possible for persons whose contribution to specific sessions or to poster exhibition.

To apply for this financial support, the Permanent Representatives with WMO or the Heads of the regional organisations are invited to submit a signed and officially stamped written request indicating name, function, and full contact details of the nominated person, to:

The Organising Committee of the 17th EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa
EUMETSAT
Eumetsat Allee 1
64295 Darmstadt
Germany

A scanned copy of the sponsorship request should be uploaded via the UFA registration page under the "Sponsorship" tab: <https://ufa.eumetsat.int/>.

The nominated person should be an officer of the National Meteorological Service or of another national institution cooperating with it, provided that they have the appropriate background to contribute to the Forum discussions and to benefit from participation. Ideally, the nominee should be actively involved in EUMETSAT or meteorological satellite-related activities as part of their regular duties.

For participants approved for financial support, and within the limits of the available budget, EUMETSAT will arrange and directly cover economy-class travel tickets. EUMETSAT will also provide accommodation (including breakfast), daily lunch and three dinners and cover the cost visa costs and airport transfers in Eswatini to and from the hotel. In addition, a daily subsistence allowance will be provided to contribute towards meals and incidental expenses outside the forum programme.

Requests for financial support should be submitted no later than **30 June 2026**.

Conference Venue

The Forum will take place at the **eSibayeni Lodge** (Airport Road, Matsapha, Eswatini, M202).

eSibayeni Lodge is located between Manzini and Mbabane, offering easy access from King Mswati III International Airport. The venue provides a large conference complex with extensive accommodation capacity, making it well suited to host both plenary sessions and side meetings in a single location.





Accommodation

• Accommodation for sponsored participants

Sponsored participants will be accommodated at the eSibayeni Lodge. EUMETSAT will cover the cost of hotel accommodation, including the room, breakfast, wireless internet access, as well as applicable tourist and municipal taxes. Local transport between the airport and the hotel, and between the hotel and the conference venue (where applicable), will also be provided.

Participants will be responsible for all other personal expenses, such as bar and minibar consumption, laundry, telephone, fax, and any additional meals.

EUMETSAT will arrange the hotel reservations for all sponsored participants.

• Accommodation for non-sponsored participants

It is recommended that non-sponsored participants book their accommodation at the eSibayeni Lodge. Participants staying at other hotels will be responsible for making their own arrangements for local transport.

Meals

For all participants (sponsored and non-sponsored), the following lunches and dinners will be provided by EUMETSAT and EMS:

- Lunches from Monday to Friday
- Dinners on Monday (cocktail dinner), Tuesday, and Thursday

Please note that your conference badge, which will be provided upon arrival, must be presented to access the lunches and dinners.

Visa arrangements

Each participant (sponsored or non-sponsored) will be responsible for bearing the costs of their own visa. For sponsored participants, visa costs will be reimbursed by EUMETSAT.

Please consult the official immigration website of the Republic of Eswatini to check whether you require a visa and, if so, which category applies (e.g. Ordinary or Referral visa).

Following registration, the Organising Committee will provide a personalised invitation letter to facilitate the visa application process.



Participants may obtain their visa through one of the following options:

- Visa on arrival: available only for nationals of certain countries (please refer to the official immigration website for eligibility).
- E-visa: applications can be submitted and paid online via the official immigration portal. A visa approval letter is typically issued within 48–96 hours and must be presented at check-in and upon arrival in Eswatini.

For the e-visa application, the following documents are required (PDF format):

- Scanned copy of passport
- Nominative invitation letter from the Organising Committee (provided upon registration confirmation)
- Flight itinerary
- Embassy or Consulate: application submitted in person at the nearest Eswatini diplomatic mission prior to departure.

Should you encounter any difficulties in obtaining a visa, please contact the UFA Secretariat (ufa@eumetsat.int) as early as possible so that support can be provided.

Travel and health insurance

Each participant (sponsored or non-sponsored) is responsible for obtaining their own travel and health insurance to cover their stay in Eswatini.

EUMETSAT will not reimburse any insurance or medical expenses incurred by participants. Participants are therefore kindly requested to make their own arrangements for appropriate travel and health insurance.

Vaccines

No vaccinations are mandatory for entry into Eswatini, **except for Yellow Fever vaccination if arriving from or transiting through a country with risk of transmission**. Participants are advised to consult their healthcare provider for recommended travel vaccinations.



Preliminary programme

The preliminary programme for the 17th EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa plenary sessions brings together an Opening Ceremony, an Introductory session, 9 technical sessions and a technical visit.

As in previous editions, the Forum will offer participants an opportunity to review progress made since the last Forum and to examine upcoming developments in satellite meteorology, weather and climate services and environmental monitoring across the continent.

This 17th edition of the Forum gives particular attention to the initial feedback from the African user community on Meteosat Third Generation products and the PUMA-2025 stations. It will also give room to the activities of the Strengthening Early Warning in Africa (SEWA) project.

After the **Opening ceremony**, the **Introductory session** will include keynotes on the main policy and programme that frame the cooperation between African institutions, EUMETSAT and the European Union. This session will also look back at the recommendations from the 16th EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa.

Session #1 will provide an update on ongoing EUMETSAT programmes, including MTG, MSG, EPS, Jason, EPS-SG and the Satellite Application Facilities. It will place a special focus on improvements in data access, and the training efforts supporting African users as they transition to new services and products.

Session #2 will specifically focus on MTG providing participants with an update on MTG status, dissemination, and user services. It will also feature a report from the RAIDEG Chair.

On the second Day, **Session #3** will present initial feedback and showcases from NMHSs on their experience with MTG data and products as well as with the PUMA-2025 stations, related training activities. This session offers African users an opportunity to share experiences and lessons learned in the transition to MTG.

Session #4 will be dedicated to the “Global Gateway / Strengthening Early Warning in Africa” project bringing together several initiatives that contribute to strengthening multi-hazard preparedness across Africa. Implementation status and plans and interactions among key stakeholders will take place during this session.

On Wednesday, **Session #5** will continue the work initiated in Session #4 through splinter group discussions on the implementation of the SEWA project. Participants will enable a more in-depth discussion of regional priorities, technical assistance and operational needs, in close coordination with RCCs and RSMCs.

On Thursday, **Session #6** will bring together the outcomes of the splinter group discussions , presenting conclusions and main recommendations emerging from **Sessions #4 and #5** of the Forum.

Session #7 will focus on the use of Earth observation for hydrology, with contributions from the EUMETSAT Hydrology-SAF and presentations on the use of satellite altimetry and other datasets to support river basin monitoring, flood monitoring and other water-related services in Africa.

Session #8 will address Atmosphere, Air-quality and GHG monitoring, bringing together initiatives and projects involved in atmospheric composition analysis. Presentations will cover outcomes of the ClimSA programme, products and other showcases in Africa, This session will also include a discussion on the implementation of the Cotonou Declaration on greenhouse-gas and air-quality monitoring, declaration adopted during the 16th EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa.

On Friday, **session #9** will explore the use of satellite-derived climate data and services for agriculture, with contributions from results of the ClimSA programmes as well as presentation of the upcoming ArcX Climate project. It will highlight new climate services for agriculture and related applications in support to food security and agriculture.

Session #10 will examine the growing role of satellite Earth observation in supporting the renewable energy sector, showcasing applications and services that leverage satellite data for solar and wind resource assessment in Africa.

The week will conclude with a session devoted to reviewing and endorsing the recommendations emerging from the Forum.

A technical visit is scheduled during the Forum on Wednesday afternoon, with further logistical details to be shared with participants.

| | Monday 5 th October | Tuesday 6 th October | Wednesday 7 th October | Thursday 8 th October | Friday 9 th October |
|---------------|--|--|--|---|--|
| 08:30 - 10:00 | Registration of participants Opening Ceremony | Session #3: MTG: Initial User Feedback | Session #5: Strengthening Early Warning in Africa - Splinter - Group discussions | Session #6: Space for Early Warning in Africa - Wrap up Session #7: Hydrology and water management | Session #9: Climate and Agrometeorology Session #10: Renewable energy |
| 10:30 - 12:30 | Introductory session - Keynotes - Review of EUFA-16 recommendations | | | | |
| 12:30 - 14:00 | Lunch | Lunch | Lunch | Lunch | Lunch |
| 14:00 - 18:00 | Session #1: EUMETSAT programmes Session #2: Meteosat Third Generation | Session #4: (ctn'd) Strengthening Early Warning in Africa | Technical visit | Session #8: Air Quality and Green House Gas monitoring | Session #: Review of the recommendations Closing Ceremony |
| 19h00 | Cocktail | | | EUMETSAT Gala Dinner | |



Call for Contributions

- **Oral presentations**

Participants to the 17th EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa are invited to contribute to the Forum by sharing their experience, success stories, and research results.

As in previous Forum editions, several sessions will welcome contributions from African institutions, in particular **sessions #3 to #10** are an opportunity for users in Africa to demonstrate the applications of satellite data in their daily activities

Participants are invited to submit an abstract of their proposed contribution to the Organising Committee (ufa@eumetsat.int, subject "contribution"). Best proposed contributions will be selected for a plenary presentation (slides) or for a poster exhibition. Sponsorship to support participation of authors from Africa can be also offered.

- **Poster presentations**

In addition to the various sessions, a poster exhibition and a live demonstration of data, products, and software is planned to take place in the framework of the 17th EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa.

Participants interested in presenting posters or contributions related to the themes of the Forum are invited to display their materials in this area.

Posters are encouraged to showcase how EUMETSAT and other satellite data are used in Africa, in particular (but not exclusively) within the thematic areas of the Forum sessions. The poster presentations will be available throughout the week of the Forum. Coffee breaks and lunches will provide opportunities for participants to visit the exhibition and for authors to present and discuss their work.

- **Demonstration area**

EUMETSAT will organise a demonstration area where entities can showcase products and/or services related to the use of Earth Observation (EO) in Africa and associated applications.

If you are a data provider or application developer and are interested in presenting your products or applications in the demonstration area, you are kindly invited to contact the Organising Committee as soon as possible in order to allow for appropriate arrangements.

Selection Procedure and Timeline

The Selection Committee will review all submitted abstracts for posters and oral presentations in the thematic sessions. The evaluation will be based on scientific relevance, alignment with the session themes, and geographical balance of contributions.

As the duration of the thematic sessions is limited, only a restricted number of oral presentations can be accepted. Proposals not selected for oral presentation will automatically be considered for the poster exhibition.

All authors will be informed of the outcome of the selection process by mid-July 2026. Selected contributors will receive further guidance on the preparation of their poster or presentation.

How to Submit a Presentation or Poster

To submit a proposal for a presentation or poster, participants are invited to complete the dedicated submission form (attached or available on the 17th EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa website).

The completed form should be returned to the Forum Secretariat by 30 June 2026, either by email at ufa@eumetsat.int or via the submission platform. An acknowledgement of receipt will be sent by the Organising Team.

SUBMISSION FORM



SUBMISSION FORM

* Rules and procedures are available at <https://ufa.eumetsat.int/CallForPapers>

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Family Name: | First Name: |
| Organisation/Institution: | |
| Address: | |
| Title/Position: | Telephone: |
| Email: | |
| Preferred presentation mode (choose one): Oral presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Poster presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Presentation/Poster title: | |
| Abstract (300 words maximum): | |
| Session (choose one) : <input type="checkbox"/> Session #3: Experience with MTG data and products as well as with the PUMA-2025 stations, related training activities <input type="checkbox"/> Session #10: Role of satellite Earth observation in supporting the renewable energy sector, showcasing applications and services that leverage satellite data for solar and wind resource assessment in Africa. <input type="checkbox"/> Other | |
| Co-authors (family name, given name, organisation/institution): | |