

**The 9th International Conference of the African Association of Remote Sensing
of the Environment (AARSE) on:
*Earth Observation and Geoinformation Sciences for Environment and Development in Africa:
Global Vision and Local Action Synergy***

The El Jadida Declaration (2nd November 2012)

Delegates from 45 countries present at the 9th International AARSE Conference held at El Jadida, Morocco from 29th October to 2nd November 2012:

- Recognising the role of Earth Observation in developing accurate geospatial datasets, information and knowledge to support the efforts of nations in achieving their development agenda;
- Noting the importance of Earth Observation and Geospatial Science and Technology products and services in attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) objectives, African Union (AU) priorities, and other key national development and poverty alleviation strategies;
- Recognising the importance of Africa's participation and contribution to the implementation of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) and noting an increase in a number of African countries and organisations participating in GEO;
- Noting that Africa is making major strides in space science and technology development with several countries such as Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Nigeria, and South Africa developing successful space programs, including acquiring their own Earth Observation satellites;
- Recognising the meetings and resolutions of the biennial African Space Leadership Conference (ALC) on Space Science and Technology;
- Welcoming the input from international scientific societies including the IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society (IEEE GRSS) and the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) that support the building of the science base in Africa;
- Recognising the progress made on the African Resource Management (ARM) satellite constellation by the current members of the constellation;
- Recognising the need to establish an African space coordinating mechanism to ensure that Africa's interests are represented in international space programs collaboration and partnerships; and to develop a coherent policy and strategy for utilising space technology for development;
- Recognising the work of AARSE and the Environmental Information System Africa (EIS Africa) over the past 20 years as major points of contact and facilitators of Earth Observation and Geospatial Information activities in Africa;
- Recognising the role and contribution of the African Union and the United Nations Agencies such as the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UN-ECA) and building on previous declarations and multilateral coordination initiatives in space science and technology for sustainable development in Africa such as the UNESCO/AARSE/AU High-Level Scientific Workshop in 2007;
- Recognising the importance of the protection of marine and coastal environments of Africa and the progress made by the UNESCO Global Ocean Observation System (GOOS) programme in Africa;
- Recognising the importance and success of continued long term collaboration between European Space Agency and African scientists within the TIGER initiative on Earth Observation techniques related to water resources management; and
- Recognising the importance of land demarcation and surveying as the foundation of sound governance.

